Gates Cambridge Scholarship: Documents Checklist

Full cost award for a full time Masters or PhD at Cambridge. About 70 awards a year. International deadline 8 December 2026 or 6 January 2027, by course. Official information checked 13 November 2026.

Tick each item off as you prepare it:

- [ ] Full academic transcripts and degree certificates, HEC attested for Pakistani degrees
- [ ] CV
- [ ] Two academic references, plus a separate Gates Cambridge reference of up to 4,000 characters
- [ ] Four written statements answering the Gates Cambridge criteria questions, within the character limits
- [ ] Research proposal, for PhD applicants, if the course does not already require one
- [ ] English language test results, if your course requires them
- [ ] College choice made in the application form
- [ ] Application fee paid, unless you qualify for a waiver

Key facts to remember:

Deadline is your course funding deadline: 8 December 2026 or 6 January 2027. Check the Course Directory.

Four answers: academic excellence about 200 words (1,400 characters), why this course about 200 words (1,400 characters), commitment to improving lives about 300 words (2,100 characters), leadership about 300 words (2,100 characters).

Maintenance allowance GBP 23,152 for 12 months at the 2026-27 rate. PhD scholars get up to 4 years.

All applicants notified by 8 March 2027. Interviews 22 and 23 March 2027. Offers by early April. Accept within 72 hours.

Bench fees and scientific equipment are NOT covered. No funding for a partner.

Official links:

How to apply: https://www.gatescambridge.org/apply/how-to-apply/

Timeline: https://www.gatescambridge.org/apply/timeline/

What it covers: https://www.gatescambridge.org/programme/the-scholarship

Course Directory: https://www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses

Source: scholarship.ac.pk - check the official programme page before you apply.