

£10,000 scholarships for Master's degree students

Dear Tutors and Admissions Officers,

The OR Society is offering a Master's degree scholarship of up to £10,000 for the 2025/2026 academic year to help with the tuition fees of UK national students interested in operational research (OR). The aim of the scholarship is to facilitate the study of an OR-related Master's degree for a student who would not otherwise be able to pursue this. We invite you to promote and encourage appropriate students to apply for this scheme.

As the applicants must be acceptable to their universities of choice, we would like the postgraduate admissions officers for the OR (or related) Master's degrees to complete the application forms with the students and submit them to The OR Society. The scholarship candidates will be assessed on their academic records, previous experiences and achievements and their supporting statements, which should provide information about their background and articulate their interests in OR and reasons for applying.

In previous years the information provided by admissions officers has been invaluable when deciding between two candidates of similar calibre. Although it is not required, it can make a real difference to the students' applications when admissions officers can provide a personal statement about the applicant in addition to confirming they meet the scholarship criteria.

The university will be responsible for selecting the most suitable candidates from their applicants. The OR Society is fully committed to promoting diversity and the scholarships are available to any individual to help fulfil their potential, irrespective of their background or circumstances.

The deadline for applications is 28 February 2025 and we hope to notify successful candidates at the end of March. The successful candidate(s) will be encouraged to become a local ambassador for The OR Society, helping to promote OR and raise awareness of the society. Where one exists, they will be encouraged to do this as part of the Student OR Club. We will invite the successful candidate(s) to submit articles about their experiences to our monthly newsletter over the course of their studies and beyond, if they stay in OR.

We hope that universities will support this exciting and important initiative. Our ambitions are that the scholarships will support the pipeline of students going into OR careers; that these scholarships will be seen as prestigious and be sought after; and that The OR Society will continue to fund a scholarship scheme when finances allow.

For more information, please contact

Janet Williams – Chair of Scholarships Panel

Chiara Carparelli – Education Manager scholarships@theorsociety.com

Application for The OR Society master's degree scholarship funding

Thank you for your interest in our Master's Scholarships. Please complete sections 1 and 2 of this application, then ask your course or admissions tutor to complete section 3 and return the application to scholarships@theorsociety.com.

The judges will review your academic record and personal statement, with the statement provided by your admissions tutor. It is important that your personal statement includes the key points we highlight on page three.

Please review the following information carefully. The OR Society works to support students and raise awareness of OR among students through several outreach efforts, such as our OR in Education outreach programme, our free student membership, Careers Open Day and this scholarship. We ask that the recipient(s) of this scholarship join us in this work. In particular, we ask that recipients of the scholarship:

- Join the OR Society as a free student member
- Write three 500 word articles for our magazine, InsideOR. The articles will be spread throughout the academic year. The first article is typically an introduction to the scholarship recipient and what the scholarship means to them, the second an update on how their studies are progressing and the third a final update on their studies and future plans.
- Work with our Education Manager to promote The OR Society to students at their university. This could include helping us to promote student membership of The OR Society or promoting our free careers fair, Careers Open Day.
- Speak at an OR Society event after their graduation. This short talk will depend on the recipient's availability and may take place at Careers Open Day or the New2OR conference. The talk topic will depend on the event but will typically involve promoting the Master's Scholarship and discussing the recipient's experiences in OR. Travel expenses for in-person events may be paid by The OR Society.

Please do not apply unless you are happy to carry out the duties listed above should you win. If you have any questions, please contact scholarships@theorsociety.com

Thank you for your interest, we wish you luck with your application.

Student information

Name	
Address	
Email address	
Telephone number	

Academic record and other achievements

Degree title	
Degree classification (or expected if still studying)	
Other awards and achievements	

Academic course applied for

University	
Master's degree title	
Is the degree full time or part time?	

How did you hear about the scholarship?

- Admissions officer
- Poster
- Other (please specify)

Student's supporting statement

Please write a statement of up to 500 words covering the key criteria below.

- Clearly articulate your interest in operational research and your reasons for applying for this scholarship
- Explain why you require this funding
- Specify what contribution a university qualification and this scholarship would make to your future development
- Include any other information you wish to be taken into consideration when assessing your application. You may wish to provide information about your background you would like the judging panel to be aware of, they will not see Section 2.

Diversity

Why are we asking these questions?

The OR Society is committed to supporting equality, diversity, and inclusion in all its activities, and wants to ensure that its services are open to everyone. We are asking these questions so we can better understand the diverse make-up of our members and to help us identify any barriers to inclusion.

What will we do with this information?

This data is used only to help us identify barriers to inclusion. This section will be removed before your application is passed to the judging panel. Your application will be (as far as possible) anonymised and judged based on your personal statement and university supporting statement.

Data protection information: The data is anonymous and will be aggregated and reported on internally. Your answers are voluntary, completely confidential, and will be used only to address any identified diversity issues. No information will be published or used in any way that allows individuals to be identified. We recognise that some people may regard this information as private and have therefore included the option of 'prefer not to say' in all categories. If you would prefer not to answer any individual question, then please leave it blank.

Please contact diversity@theorsociety.com if you have any queries.

1. Gender: which of the following best describes your gender?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Man | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to self-describe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woman | |

2. Ethnicity: please choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - Black Caribbean and White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/British - Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian British - Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> White - English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian British - Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> White - European |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian British - other Asian background | <input type="checkbox"/> White - Irish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/Black British - African | <input type="checkbox"/> White - Any other White background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/Black British - Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Ethnic Group - Arab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black British - other background | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Ethnic group - any other Ethnic group (please describe) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - Asian and White | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - Black African and White | |

3. Disability: do you consider yourself to have a disability or long-term condition? (such as dyslexia, diabetes, arthritis, a heart condition, or a mental health condition)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | |

4. Religion: what is your religion or strongly held belief, if any?

- No religion
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh

- Spiritual
- Any other religion or belief (please describe)
- I have a religion or strongly held belief but prefer not to specify what this is
- Prefer not to say

5. Sexual orientation: which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

- Asexual
- Bi/sexual
- Gay man
- Gay woman/lesbian
- Queer

- Straight/heterosexual
- Pansexual
- Prefer to self-describe
- Prefer not to say

6. Socio-economic variables: when you were 18, had any of your parents or guardians completed a university degree course or equivalent (e.g. BA, BSc or higher)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- Prefer not to say

University contact details

Name	
Position	
Department	
Email address	

University supporting statement

- I confirm that the student named in this application is acceptable to study on the above-named course
- I confirm that the student named in this application is a UK national
- I confirm that the above-named course contains at least 40% OR content

Please indicate whether the student named in this application is an appropriate candidate for this scholarship. Include any additional information about the student that you would like to be taken into consideration when assessing their application, as this statement is considered by the judging panel.

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Course background information

Please provide application and fee information for the past three years for the above named course.

	2024	2023	2022
No. of UK students on course			
No. of EU students on course			
No. of International students on course			
UK fees (2024/25)	£		

This application must be submitted to scholarships@theorsociety.com by the university before 28 February 2025.