



Scholars Program

Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Gondar

Call for Expression of Interest (EOI): Scholars Community Giveback and Innovations (SCGI) and Scholars Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fund (SIEF)

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Gondar is announcing Scholars Community Giveback and Innovation (SCGI) and Scholars Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fund (SIEF) to support Scholars' promising ventures and community projects. These projects aim to provide services and capacity building programs to vulnerable groups and seed and kick-start scholars' ventures that will create economic and employment opportunities for themselves and others.

1. What is SIEF?

SIEF is part of the pilot project launched by the Mastercard Foundation with the objective of building Scholars' capacities to become transformative leaders. It aims to help them put their innovative and entrepreneurial ideas into impactful community actions.

2. What is SCGI?

SCGI aims to build Scholars' capacities to become transformative leaders by supporting their commitment to innovative and purposeful community programming. The Scholars Program believes that giving back to the community and improving the lives of others is a cornerstone of all its Scholar-centered activities and initiatives. It also recognizes that only a few leaders have the opportunity to make an impact at a young age. For this to change through youth-led innovative and successful ventures, youth require financial and technical support and mentoring to kick-start promising ideas and bolster existing projects.

To this end, the Program is launching Mastercard Foundation Scholars Community Giveback and Entrepreneurship Funds. The call for applications will be open from 18 April 2024 to 27 April 2024.

3. What is the funding structure?

SIEF and SCGI incorporates a series of activities to help Scholars make the best of SIEF and SCGI. The Program will engage partners, professionals, experts and relevant actors to support Scholars in transforming their noble ideas into concrete and practical social ventures with the potential to positively impact their own lives and lives of others.

Applications will open on 19 April, 2024 and will remain open until 28 April, 2024. Applicants should fill out application form and submit a 2-page Expression of Interest (EOI) and your CVs via this link [Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Gondar. Call for Expression of Interest \(EOI\): Scholars Community Giveback and Innovations \(SCGI\) and Scholars Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fund \(SIEF\) \(google.com\)](#)

Accordingly, interested Scholars will pass through the following steps in the funding process:

- **Pre-screening.** The coordinator will establish an independent Funding Review Committee of six members to review applications in terms of their relevance, novelty and feasibility. The Expression Of Interest should contain a brief overview of the project, objective, target group or beneficiaries, list of activities, expected outcomes and implementation timeline. Please also include in your submission the names, email addresses, phone numbers and identification number of all applying Scholars/Alumni.
- **Full proposal development.** Applications selected as relevant, novel and feasible by the Funding Review Committee will be requested to submit full proposals.
- **Final approval and funding.** All Selected applicants will be required to present either in person or virtually – before the Funding Review Committee for a final decision is made on the status of the applications. Finally, 10 applications (4 for Scholars Community Giveback Projects and 6 for Entrepreneurship Projects) will be selected for funding under the SIEF.

4. What is the funding timeline (tentative)?

- 19/04/2024. Call for applications
- 28/04/2024. End of call for application
- 08/05/2024. Review process
- 10/05/2024. Invitation for full proposal
- 26/05/2024. Submission of full proposal
- 09/06/2024. Oral/visual presentation
- 13/06/2024. Announcement of 2024 winners (maximum of 10)
- 28/06/2024. Disbursement and follow-up
- 01/07/2024. – 31/12/2024. Implementation and report back period

5. What do Scholars benefit from the SIEF & SCGI?

- Funding grants of up to 250,000ETB per Project;
- Mentorship support for winning project ideas; and,
- Networking opportunities with other MCF Scholars, Alumni and partners.

6. Who is eligible for the SIEF & SCGI?

- a. All Scholars are eligible to apply to the SIEF & SCGI.
- b. Alumni must apply as a team, with the team leader being a Mastercard Foundation Scholar.
- c. Graduating class scholars can apply as a team and the team Leader must be scholars who will not be graduating this year.
- d. One Scholar cannot apply to more than one projects.
- e. A team should consist at least 3 members and not exceed 10 members.
- f. Scholars who won either or both SIEF and SCGI fund yet have not completed the project implementation are not eligible to apply.

If you have any questions, call to Mr. Muluken J. 0918161170 Or email at mulukenjegn@gmail.com.