

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

CBM SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENCY, ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

CBM is an international Christian development organization committed to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the poorest countries of the world. Based on its Christian values and over 100 years of professional expertise, CBM addresses poverty as a cause, and a consequence, of disability, and works in partnership to create a society for all.

According to the WHO World Vision Report 2019, eye conditions and vision impairment are influenced by the use of eye care services. A shortage of trained human resources is one of the greatest challenges to increasing the availability of eye care services and reducing the prevalence of vision impairment and blindness that could have been prevented or has yet to be addressed. In response to this, CBM's Scholarship Programme seeks to offer **ten (10)** scholarship awards to doctors across CBM programme countries in Africa to study postgraduate Ophthalmology degree in the 2024/2025 academic year intake. The scholarship package covers the tuition fees, stipend, relocation costs, in-patient medical cover for the resident, conferences, and a set of ophthalmic instruments.

Successful candidates should be willing to work for a 'service term'¹ in an eye care facility that serves communities in underserved regions of their country. To this effect, as part of their application process, applicants must be willing to sign a 'service term agreement'² with the eye care facility (service term institution) they are currently working for and submit a scanned copy to CBM.

1. Eligibility criteria

The following are the requirements for eligibility for the scholarship award for the Postgraduate programme in Ophthalmology.

- a) Applicants must be willing to adhere to the following;
 - i. CBM core values (Christianity, Internationalism, Professionalism, Integrity, Communication and Inclusion) (<https://www.cbm.org/about-cbm/our-vision-mission-and-values/>)
 - ii. CBM Disability inclusive practices for strengthening comprehensive eye care ([https://www.cbm.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/Inclusion in Eye Health Guide.pdf](https://www.cbm.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/Inclusion_in_Eye_Health_Guide.pdf))

¹ 'Service term' refers to a time of continuous service, commonly known as 'bond period' effecting a bond agreement offered by a CBM preferred institution.

² A legally binding agreement between an employer and employee (doctor) which states among other conditions, that the employee will remain in the services of the employer for a given period.

- iii. CBM's Safeguarding Policy
(https://www.cbm.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/cbm_child_safeguarding_policy_2018_accessible.pdf)
- b) Applicants need to obtain admission to the Postgraduate programme in Ophthalmology at one of the Universities or training institutions within their country or neighboring country, depending on availability.
- c) Applicants must be willing to honor a service term agreement for a period equivalent to (or not less than) the training years (continuously) at an eye care facility (service term institution) that serves communities in underserved areas of their country of origin.
- d) Applicants should be residents and currently working in the following countries of Africa.
 - i. Benin
 - ii. Cameroon
 - iii. DR Congo
 - iv. Ethiopia
 - v. Kenya
 - vi. Malawi
 - vii. Niger
 - viii. Nigeria
 - ix. Sierra Leone
 - x. South Sudan
 - xi. Tanzania
 - xii. Togo
 - xiii. Uganda
 - xiv. Zambia

2. Qualities of 'Service Term' Institutions

Applicants will share a signed service term agreement entered with their employer. The employer is expected to have the following qualities;

- i. Institution that is a secondary level eye care provider, with the required infrastructure & equipment providing both medical & surgical eye care services.
- ii. Institutions providing service to underserved and needy communities, away from big cities will be given priority when possible.
- iii. The institution should be able to provide the necessary support structures (including HR policy) to retain the doctor for the service term period.
- iv. CBM partner institutions which have a human resource need will be given priority.

3. Application Procedure

Potential candidates should send their applications to scholarships.afe@cbm.org by submitting the below documents. The committee will consider only applicants who adhere to submitting the documents requested, and adhere to all requirements.

1. Motivation letter stating the reasons for the scholarship application
2. Up to date Curriculum Vitae (CV).
3. Admission letter from a training institution in Africa. If not received by the time of sending the application, the applicant will send it to the address above as soon as she/he receives it.

4. Signed service term agreement.
5. Signed consent³ to allow CBM and its stakeholders to process the above information necessary in consideration for the award.

The **deadline** for the scholarship application is the **10th December 2024**.

For more information on the scholarship award, contact the Program Manager through scholarships.afe@cbm.org

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³ Find form attached.