



## UK SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

Over the past ten years, Windle Trust International has sponsored around 300 refugees or internally displaced people to study for postgraduate qualifications at universities in Britain. These students arrive in the UK from some of the most basic of conditions in refugee camps. Competition and demand for sponsorship is high, and candidates must meet the following criteria in order to be considered:

- be a refugee or internally displaced person living in Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Egypt or Ethiopia;
- have a very good first degree, with a grade equivalent to a British upper second or first class;
- have at least two years of relevant work experience since completing their undergraduate studies;
- be under forty years of age.
- have an ability to study effectively in English;
- demonstrate leadership potential and excellent personal qualities;
- be committed to returning to Africa to put into practice the skills and knowledge learned for the benefit of their community, society and region as a whole.

Courses chosen encompass a broad range of subjects of value to development, from public health to rural resource management to civil engineering. All of the universities involved in our programme themselves make substantial contributions to the funding of our candidates - often in the form of fee scholarships. Given the severe funding constraints in the UK higher education sector these days, it is remarkable and noteworthy that so many universities are willing to make such efforts to ensure access to education for some of the world's most marginalized groups

Sponsored students receive an initial orientation at our offices in Oxford, and our staff members visit each university at least once per year. In addition, Windle Trust International holds an annual student conference over a weekend in January, and a one-day workshop each July. There is an active Students' Association, which acts as a channel through which peer support and encouragement can be given.

We have been offering UK sponsorships for more than twenty years. We are proud that the graduates from the programme now make up a significant body of professionals making important contributions to development in East Africa and Sudan through both their paid work and voluntary commitments. Examples of such work include: de-activating landmine fields, building schools, running hospitals for thousands in areas that take four to five days to get to, and becoming ministers in their new governments.

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