

SECTION B: Application for funding (academic year 2016/17 ONLY)

Please use this form to indicate a need for funding - this will not affect the academic decisions about your admission to a degree. You can apply to the funding bodies listed below using this form; but please check their individual websites for full information about eligibility criteria.

Please select *at least* one tick box on this page.

If you already have funding available to you and **do not** wish to apply for funding from the funding bodies below please tick this box and proceed to Section C

OR

If you **do** wish to apply for funding, please tick the relevant box(es) and complete any additional questions where required. Applicants may tick more than one box to apply to multiple funding bodies if they believe they are eligible.

Scholarship	Eligibility and deadline	How to apply	I wish to apply
Gates Cambridge	For citizens of countries outside the UK. Deadlines: 14 October 2015 (US citizens normally resident in the USA), 2 December 2015 (all other eligible applicants).	Tick box on the right and complete sections B1 and B2 below.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cambridge Trust (including central University funding competitions)	For citizens of countries outside the EU. Deadline: 2 December 2015	Tick box on the right and complete sections B3 and B4 below.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cambridge Trust (including central University funding competitions)	For citizens of countries within the EU (including UK). Deadline: 6 January 2016.	Tick box on the right and complete sections B3 and B4 below.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic and Social Research Council	For UK and EU citizens applying for a research degree in economic and social research. Deadline: 6 January 2016.	Tick box on the right.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and Humanities Research Council	For UK and EU citizens applying for a research degree in arts and humanities. Deadline: 6 January 2016.	Tick box on the right.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Research Councils (BBSRC, EPSRC, MRC, NERC and STFC)	For UK and EU citizens applying for a research degree in these subject areas. Deadlines are varied and awards are administered by individual departments.	Tick box on the right and enquire with your department about the application procedure.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other funding: in addition to the funding bodies listed above, there are numerous other funding opportunities for postgraduate study and research at Cambridge. Many of these can be found on the University's [Graduate Funding](#) page, although applicants should also check with individual departments and Colleges about funding they may offer.

Supporting documentation: please note that after submitting the application form by the required deadline, you have a further 14 days to submit the required supporting documentation.

B(1) Gates Cambridge Scholarships

In not more than 500 words please explain why you are applying for a Gates Cambridge Scholarship and how you meet the four main criteria. Full details about how to apply, including selection criteria and guidance on completing this personal statement, can be found at <http://www.gatescambridge.org/apply/>.

Educational inequality is a worldwide problem. There is a double digit difference between graduation rate of whites and minorities in Buffalo public schools and 90% of the children in India never go to college. I became cognizant of this problem as a Buffalo Public schools tutor. Then, in 2014, I spent a challenging yet fulfilling summer as an English tutor in Calcutta Rescue, a NGO serving low income students of Kolkata, India.

While developing and teaching an English course to a group of 40 students at Calcutta Rescue, I encountered the face of Indian Primary education that favours rote learning over understanding. I realized that my challenge was much more than teaching English; my task was to overcome the system. I made the class as fun as possible without losing its educative value, developing an edutainment course with the goal that all my students be able to tell time and carry out basic conversation in English. Sometimes, when I felt overwhelmed, I persevered thinking that only fate separated me from them. They all deserved an excellent education.

One challenge I faced was the diversity amongst students in language and age. I often found myself struggling to explain English concepts in broken Hindi, while other children stared at me; disinterested in the "fun" class activity because they weren't old enough to participate. I felt frustrated and helpless. After some thinking, I started allotting age appropriate activities to master a common task. Despite planning and strategising, it took a lot of patience and determination to improve participation and nurture enthusiasm in the students. Finally, when little Khushbu exclaimed she had become her mother's timekeeper, all frustrations felt warranted. This was my journey of overcoming odds, developing independence, and taking responsibility; a story of impacting lives of underprivileged children through structured and sincere hard work.

In my academic career, I have demonstrated perseverance and hard work in neuroscience research. I investigated alpha 3 glycine receptors to understand the cellular mechanisms of retina function and studied steroid modulation of GABA receptors in hippocampal neurons. I wish to continue in the field because understanding the neural circuitry of perception and behaviour will impact society by curing debilitating neurological disorders. I share science with the general public through a blog (sampurnabuffalo.wordpress.com) describing my research and other neuroscience related topics.

At Cambridge, I hope to advance my leadership and technical skills to create new ideas and share them through public outreach events like the Cambridge Science Festival. For my PhD work, I will explore rheumatoid arthritis driven pain, a condition that affect thousands worldwide, with Dr. Ewan St. John Smith. Dr Smith has industrial collaborations that I am keen to explore in order to translate findings from bench to bedside.

A Gates Cambridge Fellowship will help me collaborate with future global leaders to advance my pledge of improving lives; as a researcher and as an educator.