



**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**
Leadership Foundation

2026 Scholarship Opportunities Recruitment Timeline



2026 MAD Scholarship Opportunities

MAD Leadership Foundation invites ambitious South African youth to apply for one of two highly sought after scholarships focused on leadership, education, and personal growth.

1. MAD LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

For future leaders in science (incl. wood science), technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), commerce, construction professions and construction trades

Eligibility:

- Currently in Grade 12, 1st or 2nd year of study
- Applying to, accepted into, or currently studying a STEM (incl. wood science), commerce, or construction-related field
- Minimum 65% average academic performance
- Household gross income below R25,000/month
- South African citizen
- Able to speak and understand basic English

Application links:

Grade 12: Interested in STEM incl. wood science, commerce, construction professions and construction trades

- [Click on link](#)

1st or 2nd year students: studying STEM incl. wood science and commerce

- [Click on link](#)

RECOMMENDED QUALITIES

- Strong values and integrity
- Demonstrated leadership and community involvement



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2. MIKE ILSLEY MEMORIAL (MIM) SCHOLARSHIP

In honour of Mike Ilsley's legacy of ethical leadership and education. For aspiring Chartered Accountants – CA(SA)

Eligibility:

- South African citizen
- Currently in 1st or 2nd year at a South African university
- Enrolled in a SAICA-accredited CA(SA) undergraduate programme
- Minimum 70% average (2024) & 70% in Financial Accounting
- Household gross income below R25,000/month
- Able to speak and understand basic English

Application link:

- [Click on link](#)

RECOMMENDED QUALITIES

- Strong values and integrity
- Demonstrated leadership and community involvement





2026 MAD Scholarship Logistics and Support

APPLICATION PERIOD

- Opens: 1 August 2025
- Closes: 31 August 2025
- Only applications submitted online will be considered.
- A formal application link will be made available on our website and social media platforms from 1 August.
- Applications must be submitted via this link, no email or other submission methods will be accepted.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

- Ensure you meet all eligibility criteria.
- Verify and secure all required documents in electronic format before starting the application, as these must be uploaded during the process. See list provided on the next page

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Contact details:

- Email: applications@madleadership.org
- WhatsApp & Queries: [082 313 9014](tel:0823139014)

Please take note:

- Due to a high volume of applications, response time is 3–5 business days.
- Calls, WhatsApp messages, and texts will be attended to during business hours: Monday to Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM.



2026 MAD Scholarship Documentation

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Please ensure you have all the required documents in electronic format before starting the online application, as you will need to upload them as part of the submission process.

Gr. 12 Applicant Documents

- Copy of Identity document (or certified copy of birth certificate if younger than 16 years)
- Copy of report for final school term in 2023
- Copy of report for final school term in 2024
- Letter of confirmation of good conduct from the school and confirmation of the school quintile
- Letter from the school confirming exemption/discount and amount of bursary/exemption/discount (if applicable)

Student Applicant Documents

- Copy of Identity document
- 2025 Proof of registration
- Copy of transcript for mid term 2025
- Copy of transcript for mid term and year end 2024 (if applicable)
- Letter of confirmation of good conduct from the post-school institution
- Letter from post-school institution confirming NSFAS/exemption/discount and amount of bursary/exemption/discount (if applicable)



2026 MAD Scholarship Documentation, cont.

DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO ALL APPLICANTS

These documents are relevant to all applicants, regardless of the scholarship stream.

Applicant's Father (if applicable)

- Copy of ID Document
- If deceased: Copy of the Death Certificate
- Proof of gross income: Financial statements/allowances, maintenance (not older than 3 months)
- If employed:
 - Salary advice / letter of employment stating income (not older than 3 months) or affidavit confirming employment status and average monthly income
 - Latest 3 payslips
- If retired: Pension advice / SASSA letter or slip stating income (not older than 3 months)
- If unemployed: UIF letter, retrenchment letter or affidavit confirming unemployment

Applicant's Mother

- Copy of ID Document
- If deceased: Copy of the Death Certificate
- Proof of gross income: Financial statements/allowances, maintenance (not older than 3 months)
- If employed:
 - Salary advice / letter of employment stating income (not older than 3 months) or affidavit confirming employment status and average monthly income
 - Latest 3 payslips
- If retired: Pension advice / SASSA letter or slip stating income (not older than 3 months)
- If unemployed: UIF letter, retrenchment letter or affidavit confirming unemployment



2026 MAD Scholarship Documentation, cont.

DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO ALL APPLICANTS

These documents are relevant to all applicants, regardless of the scholarship stream.

Legal Guardian (if applicable)

- Copy of ID Document
- Proof of gross income: Financial statements/allowances, maintenance (not older than 3 months)
- If employed:
 - Salary advice / letter of employment stating income (not older than 3 months) or affidavit confirming employment status and average monthly income
 - Latest 3 payslips
- If retired: Pension advice / SASSA letter or slip stating income (not older than 3 months)
- If unemployed: UIF letter, retrenchment letter or affidavit confirming unemployment

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Imagine, if we could build an army of young leaders who care about this country, who care about society, who care about their community. What a powerful force for change that could be.

- Francois Pienaar: Founder, Executive Chairman



This mission is deeply rooted in a promise made by Francois Pienaar to Nelson Mandela in 1995 to make a difference. Mandela's belief in education as “the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” continues to guide the Foundation's work. The legacy lives on.

Watch Francois' promise to Mandela: [link](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

Scholarship Applications:

- Email: applications@madleadership.org
- WhatsApp & Queries: [082 313 9014](tel:0823139014)

Global Head of Stakeholder Relationships and Fund Development

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