

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENCY, ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026.

Christian Blind Mission (CBM) is an international development organization dedicated to assisting persons with disabilities. The organization derives its name from Ernst Jakob Christoffel, who, in 1908, embarked on a journey to Asia to support blind people and people with other disabilities. CBM's primary objective is to break the cycle of poverty and disability and to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the poorest countries of the world.

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 **eleven (11)** scholarship awards to doctors across Africa to study a postgraduate Ophthalmology degree in the 2025/2026 academic year intake. The scholarship package covers tuition fees, a stipend, relocation costs, inpatient medical cover for the residents, an annual ophthalmology conference, 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) that they are currently working for, 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), mission, and vision <https://www.cbm.org/about-cbm/our-mission-and-vision.html>

¹ 'Service term' refers to a time of continuous service, commonly known as 'bond period' effecting a bond agreement offered by an institution with the characteristics detailed in section 2 below.

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

- ii. Operational Principles of the Inclusive Health Initiative
<https://www.cbm.org/our-work/what-we-do/initiatives/inclusive-health-initiative.html>
 - iii. Safeguarding children and adults-at-risk <https://www.cbm.org/about-cbm/responsibility-and-transparency/reporting-channels-and-safeguarding.html>
- b) Applicants need to obtain admission to the Postgraduate programme in Ophthalmology at one of the following Universities³;
- i. Addis Ababa University (AAU), Ethiopia
 - ii. Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College (KCMUCo), Tanzania
 - iii. Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Uganda
 - iv. Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, Kenya
 - v. Muhimbili University of Health Allied and Science (MUHAS), Tanzania
 - vi. St Paul's Millennium Medical College, Ethiopia
 - vii. University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin
 - viii. University of Malawi, College of Medicine, Malawi
 - ix. University of Nairobi, Kenya
 - x. University Teaching Hospital, Zambia
- 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 in Africa;
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| i. Benin | viii. Nigeria |
| ii. Cameroon | ix. Sierra Leone |
| iii. DR Congo | x. South Sudan |
| iv. Ethiopia | xi. Tanzania |
| v. Kenya | xii. Togo |
| vi. Malawi | xiii. Uganda |
| vii. Niger | 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;

³ The selection committee can award the scholarship to a candidate admitted to a different University (other than the listed) within Africa, given specific contextual consideration.

- 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.
- 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 that have a human resource need will be given priority.

3. Application Procedure

Potential candidates are required to submit their applications to scholarships.afe@cbm.org, with the following documents. The committee will consider only applicants who submit the documents requested and adhere to all requirements.

- Motivation letter stating the reasons for the scholarship application.
- Up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV).
- Admission letter from a training institution in Africa. If not received by the time the application is sent, the applicant will send it to the address above as soon as she/he receives it.
- Signed service term agreement.
- Signed consent⁴ to allow CBM and its stakeholders to process the above information necessary in consideration for the award. The consent form has been alongside this announcement.

The deadline for submitting the scholarship application is **5th January 2026 to scholarships.afe@cbm.org**

For more information on the scholarship award, contact the below; scholarships.afe@cbm.org Attention: Programme Manager

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⁴ Find form shared alongside this announcement.