

BEGA x KCB Bursary Award for MSc Governance: Entry Criteria

KCB, in partnership with BEGA, is offering a fully funded bursary place to support one aspiring governance professional. The selection process consists of three stages:

- **Application:** Submission of a CV and a 500–750-word personal statement. Eligible applicants will then be invited to complete a 300–500-word short essay in August
- **Shortlisting:** Candidates whose submissions meet the programme requirements will be shortlisted for interviews conducted online (via Zoom)
- **Final selection:** Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview during the week commencing 15 September. The successful candidate will be notified by the end of September and will join the MSc Governance programme starting 14 October. The bursary will be formally awarded at the BEGA Awards Ceremony on 15 October

How to submit your application

To complete your initial application, please submit your CV and 500–750-word personal statement by emailing both documents to Sophie (sophie@kcbglobal.net) with the subject line:

BEGA x KCB Bursary Application – [Your Name]

Please attach your CV and personal statement as separate documents (both PDFs) but contained within the same email.

Deadline for initial applications: **18 August 2026**.

Eligible applicants will receive the short-essay instructions on **25 August**, with one week to complete the task. Further instructions for this stage will be provided over email.

Circumstantial requirements

- Applicants must identify as being from a Black or Black-British background, in line with the bursary's aim to support greater representation within the governance profession
- Applicants must be based in the UK for the duration of the programme
- Applicants from all sectors are welcome to apply; however, priority will be given to those working in contexts where employer sponsorship for postgraduate study is not typically available, including the non-profit, charity, and voluntary sectors
- Applicants must meet the standard academic and English-language entry requirements
- Applicants must be able to commit to study part-time over two years

Education requirements

The general entry requirement is a minimum of a 2:2 Bachelor's degree or international equivalent in any discipline or those that have attained Affiliate status of the Chartered Governance through an assessed programme of study and who have five years relevant work experience. We particularly welcome students who have undertaken any of the following CGI certificate programmes:

- Certificate in Company Secretarial Practice and Share Registration Practice
- Certificate in Corporate Compliance & Governance
- Certificate in Corporate Governance
- Certificate in Charity Law and Governance
- Certificate in Academy Governance
- Governance Officer Apprenticeship

About the MSc Governance

The MSc Governance is designed for individuals working in, or aspiring to work in, the governance profession. It is suitable both for those with extensive experience who want to formalise and deepen their expertise, and for those who are new to the sector and looking to build strong foundational knowledge and practical skills. The programme is equally relevant to professionals across corporate, public and not-for-profit organisations.

Students can tailor their learning through module assignments and a final project aligned to their chosen area of interest, allowing them to develop specialist knowledge within the aspects of governance most relevant to their career goals.

We recognise that many of our students are working professionals with demanding schedules. The programme is delivered part-time over two years to ensure that learning can be integrated smoothly alongside work and personal commitments.

For each module there will be 10 weekly live online sessions delivered via Zoom. Further independent study and preparation time is required for candidates to successfully complete the programme (around 160 hours per module, or 240 hours for the Focused Governance Report at the end of the course).

A key strength of the MSc is the opportunity to explore governance topics in depth while developing the practical skills required of today's governance professionals, including critical analysis, strategic thinking, ethical decision-making and effective communication. To maintain a high-quality learning experience and personalised academic support, each intake is limited to 25 students.

The MSc Governance is delivered by KCB in collaboration with the Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland (CGIUKI) and the University of Essex. CGIUKI brings over 125 years of professional governance expertise and provides the pathway to chartered status. The University of Essex contributes academic excellence as a university ranked 12th in the UK in the 2026 Guardian University Guide. Together, these partners ensure the programme is academically rigorous, professionally aligned and widely recognised across the governance sector.

This is a dual qualification. Upon successful completion, students are awarded an MSc Governance from the University of Essex and GradCG status from CGIUKI. Those with the relevant work experience may subsequently apply for full chartered status.

For more information, please visit the [KCB website](#).

Timeline of events

Date	Event
25 June	Applications open: submit CV and 500–750-word personal statement to sophie@kcbglobal.net
18 August	Deadline for initial applications (CV + personal statement)
25 August	Eligible applicants receive short-essay instructions
2 September	Deadline for 300–500-word short-essay submissions
w/c 15 September	Virtual interviews for shortlisted candidates
End of September	Announcement of bursary recipient
14 October	MSc Governance classes commence
15 October	BEGA Awards Evening

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy and Guidance

KCBs position on AI

KCB believes that Generative AI technology has a range of benefits and is evolving into an important tool for use in both our personal and professional lives. For this reason, KCB embraces the use of AI as an important skill that can be used and developed within our programmes. However, its use must be both responsible and ethical and it is important to consider matters such as data security, copyright, and academic malpractice. Due to the rapid evolution of AI, KCB will continue to review and adapt its policy and guidance on AI.

Using AI with your learning

It is important to realise that AI's most useful application is to augment rather than replace human intellectual and creative thinking. There are many legitimate ways in which AI can be used to support study. KCB encourages the use of AI tools to develop an understanding of its strengths and limitations, and the skills to use it ethically and effectively. Below are examples of how AI could be used to support study:

- Creating an essay plan to help develop and improve the structure of an assignment
- To help improve grammar and writing style
- Asking AI to explain a concept or theory to gain a better understanding

Limitations of AI

Generative AI responses are well-written and can appear convincing. However, it learns from historic internet-based material which can be out of date or unreliable. Sometimes this means Generative AI presents information that is not correct. Other known limitations of Generative AI are that it can create fictitious citations, make up facts, express biased views, give weak responses about nuanced, contextual, or contemporary matters for which there is often little or no accurate web-based information for it to draw upon. These errors are often difficult to identify and therefore it should never be assumed that the content created is accurate, up to date or true unless it is verified through a reliable source.

AI must NOT be used to write assessments

Writing assessments develop the important skill of communicating effectively in written form. It is also a key pathway for developing skills more broadly, including the abilities of developing, formulating, expressing, and testing ideas. Any attempt to 'pass off' AI generated material as the work of the student constitutes academic malpractice which KCB views as unacceptable.

How to avoid the offence of academic malpractice

To avoid the offence of academic malpractice, students are advised to follow the points set out below:

- Always cite and reference material included in your assessments that are not your own work
- Never present AI generated work as your own work. Your tutors will provide more specific instructions, but in general you are expected to include information about how you have used AI as part of your assessment submissions
- Never ask AI to generate experimental data which you then submit as primary data
- When you are preparing an assessment, it is a good idea to keep notes throughout your assessment development, saved as different versions. Should you be

suspected of committing an academic offence you will be able to provide these to demonstrate how you have constructed the assignment

- Be transparent about which tools you use and how you have used them to create your academic work

What happens if KCB suspects a student of using AI to generate an assignment?

KCB is increasingly using tools to detect plagiarism, including the use of AI, within assessments. If a student is suspected of plagiarism within an assessment, they will be subject to an investigation. Students will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the assessment and how it was written. If it is found that AI has been used and 'passed off' as the students work, the possible penalties include assignment rejection or expulsion from the programme.