



MEDIA RELEASE

Quantedge Foundation launches Cambridge scholarship for refugee students to access higher education



Students graduating from King's College, June 2019 (Credit: Martin Bond)

Singapore, 27 FEB 2020 – A new scholarship from the Quantedge Foundation will offer students from challenging circumstances the opportunity to study for an MPhil at King's College, Cambridge.

The Quantedge-Cambridge Refugee Masters Scholarship will enable students who have been granted refugee status in the UK to acquire the perspectives, skills and experiences to become positive contributors to their communities and society at large.

Students from conflict-affected areas often face many barriers in accessing higher education, including a lack of information specific to their needs and restricted access to student finance schemes. However, access to higher education is key in creating opportunities for these students.

Professor Michael Proctor, Provost of King's College, said: *"King's has always prided itself on welcoming, supporting and enabling as many of the best students as possible from all backgrounds and from all parts of the world, and on being an open, diverse and inclusive community. The Quantedge-Cambridge Refugee Masters Scholarship will help in the building of a more hopeful future not only for the student themselves, but also for their communities, and we greatly welcome this initiative."*

The scholarship offers a full funding package that covers University tuition fees and living costs for the period of study, for any one year MPhil course eligible at King's.

The scholarship will be awarded annually from the start of the 2021/22 Cambridge academic year.

Dr Bert Vaux, Graduate Tutor, King's College said: *"Students with refugee status can face a challenging time when applying for graduate courses, especially if they are not eligible for student finance schemes. We are delighted to be able to help address some of the disadvantages in graduate opportunities through the Quantedge-Cambridge Refugee Masters Scholarship, and I look forward to the contribution the MPhil students will make to our King's community."*

The newly established scholarship supports the Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign (CRSC), a student-led initiative founded in response to the devastating impact that ongoing refugee crises around the world have on the education of refugee students.

Jacqueline Cho for the Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign (CRSC), said: *"The Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign is a student-led campaign that has been working to improve access to higher education for those from backgrounds of instability or conflict since 2017. It has two main purposes: to raise awareness of opportunities for potential applicants to study at Cambridge, and provide a space for community and friendship for scholars with backgrounds of forced displacement to share their experiences and flourish together. We warmly welcome the establishment of the King's College MPhil."*

Quantedge Foundation extends efforts to expand equalised access to quality education beyond Singapore

This Masters scholarship is aligned with Quantedge Foundation's mission to help underprivileged children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds access education and developmental opportunities at all levels - from early childhood through to tertiary education. It extends Quantedge Foundation's

existing efforts in Singapore to address barriers to quality higher education, to those from conflict-affected areas globally.

Quantedge Foundation is committed to contributing to a more sustainable world, in line with the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals on Quality Education and Reduced Inequalities. In particular, the Foundation supports initiatives that help ensure the accessibility of quality education for vulnerable, disadvantaged or marginalised groups.

Quantedge Foundation is a philanthropic foundation established by the principals of Quantedge Capital. Mr Suhaimi Zainul-Abidin, CEO of Quantedge Capital, said *"This Masters Scholarship is part of our continuing effort to expand equalised access to quality education, not just in Singapore but also globally. Displaced students from conflict-affected areas such as Syria, Iran, Eritrea, Sudan and Afghanistan, should not view quality higher education is an unattainable luxury, but rather an achievable, accessible and important pursuit that will enrich their lives and allow them to contribute positively to their communities."*

Further details:

- Funding for graduates: Quantedge - Cambridge Refugee Masters Scholarship
<https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/graduate/funding-for-graduates/quantedge-cambridge-refugee-masters-scholarship>

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About King's College, University of Cambridge

King's College was founded in 1441 by Henry VI. For more than 500 years it has given creative and curious minds the opportunity to excel, and had an impact on the world out of all proportion to its size. The King's Campaign, launched in 2018, aims to raise £100 million to ensure that King's can continue to encourage and support the most talented applicants from the greatest range of under-represented and diverse backgrounds, deliver world-class teaching and research, and maintain and preserve its unique historic buildings.

About Quantedge Foundation

Quantedge Foundation is a philanthropic foundation that aims to deliver impactful solutions to a broad range of social issues and challenges. One of its key objectives is to enable social mobility through education.

The Foundation believes that every child or youth should have an equal opportunity to succeed. We work with partner organisations to design and support programmes that alleviate unfavourable starting conditions in life and expand the opportunity set for underprivileged children, as a pathway to lifting them and their families out of inter-generational poverty and achieving upward social mobility.

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.quantedge.org>