

How to apply

To apply for the August 2025 round of CBSI Scholarships, you first need to select a Masters 2 Scholarship to apply for. Next you will need to prepare your documents, and then apply online by **21 August 2025 16:00 (time in Kinshasa)**.

Preparing and applying for a scholarship (August 2025 round)

1 Check that you meet nationality criteria

You must be a national of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon or Republic of the Congo. Proof of eligibility will be required.

2 Check funding eligibility criteria

You must be registered for Masters 1 in the 2024-2025 academic year at an eligible institution, studying an accepted programme/discipline. You must be preparing to commence Masters 2 in the 2025-2026 academic year. Details of eligible institutions and accepted programmes/disciplines are specified in the project pages for each scholarship under **funding eligibility criteria**.

3 Find your project and check prerequisite skills

The August 2025 round of CBSI Scholarships are research-focused Masters 2 projects in specific areas. The scholarships contribute to the CBSI Vegetation, Soil and Biogeochemistry Observatory, to complement the efforts under CRAFT-Sustainable Development (Congo Rainforest Alliance for Forest Training for Sustainable Development) on selectively logged forest and agroforestry. Find the right Master's opportunity for you by reading the project pages. Prerequisite skills are specified for each project – you will need to demonstrate these in your application.

4 Prepare your statements

In the online application form, you will need to enter short statements in answer to the following questions. You may wish to prepare your answers then enter them into the online

application.

- How do your previous studies, research and professional experience demonstrate your potential and ability to complete the project successfully? (500 words)
- Why do you want to do this MSc project? (500 words)
- Why would you like to join the CongoFor1.5 project and be affiliated to the Congo Basin Science Initiative? (500 words)
- Please give any relevant circumstances regarding your application that you would like to draw to the attention of the selection committee, e.g. unusual education path, change of study direction (250 words)

You will need to complete your application form and statements in French.

5 Prepare your supporting documents

When you apply, you will need to upload all required supporting documents to the online portal:

Official documents

- Masters 1 transcripts (*if possible*)
- Degree certificates
- Transcripts
- Copy of passport or national ID card

CV

- A CV summarising your academic record and highlighting experience that demonstrates your potential to conduct research

Project Development Statement

- A one-page statement outlining how you would develop the project that you are applying for. This could include developing the fieldwork, analyses, or other aspects of the project given in the advertisement for the project, or related avenues of research to answer questions posed in the advertisement for the project. The statement should be uploaded as a PDF of no more than one page, font size 11 or larger, 2 cm margins

Two references, preferably academic

- When you contact your referees, you should provide them with the details of your chosen project and ask them to provide a reference on letter headed paper. The

references should be addressed to the CBSI Selection Committee and your referees should state:

- in what capacity they know you how long they have known you how they would assess your academic potential how they would assess your potential to complete the project that you are applying for successfully
- any other relevant information

Official documents and references can be in English or in French.

The CV and the Project Development Statement should be in French.

PLEASE NOTE: your documents will not be checked before we assess your application. You must ensure that all required documents are uploaded to the online portal. Your application will not be considered if it is incomplete.

An English language test certificate is not a required document. However if you have already taken an English language test (e.g. IELTS), please also upload the test certificate.

6 Check key dates and deadlines

The August 2025 round of CBSI Scholarships will typically start in **September/October 2025**. Check the [project pages](#) for details.

The deadline to apply for the August round of CBSI Scholarships is **21 August 2025 16:00 (time in Kinshasa)**.

We aim to complete interviews with all shortlisted candidates in **September 2025**. If you are successful, you will be notified soon after interviews are complete.

7 Submit your application

Apply online

You apply for the scholarship through our [online portal](#), which uses the NextZen platform. Download our [step-by-step guide](#) to help you complete your scholarship application.

Make sure that you upload all required [supporting documents](#) to the online system and submit your application before the deadline. Your documents will not be checked before your application is assessed. We will not be able to assess your application if it is incomplete.

You will receive an automatic confirmation once you submit your application.

If you have a disability and have difficulties using the online application form, please contact the CBSI Secretariat, email info@congobasinscience.net

After you've applied

Assessing your application

The selection committee will assess your application and supporting documents against the following criteria:

- Academic merit
- Motivation for project/course of study
- Quality of Project Development Statement

Disability disclosure

CBSI welcomes applications from individuals with outstanding talent and identifiable potential from all walks of life. If you have a disability and are called for interview, please contact the CBSI Secretariat to let us know about any impairment, health condition or learning difference that has a substantial or long-term impact on your ability to carry out day-to-day activities. This will help us to make reasonable adjustments. With your permission, reasonable adjustments will be discussed with the lead supervisor for your project. If you are a disabled student, your application will be assessed in the same way as all other applications. It will not affect our academic assessment of your application.

Interview and tests

If you are shortlisted you will be invited to participate in an interview with the supervisory team and take tests. Interviews will normally take place online.

After interview, successful candidates will be informed, and they will register for their Masters 2 in September/October 2025.