



Scholarship Award Policy

COA International offers STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) scholarship awards at the Cambridge Lower Secondary level (Years 7 to 9), Cambridge Upper Secondary level (IGCSE), and Cambridge Advanced level (AS & A-Levels). We welcome applications for STEM scholarships from exceptional students.

Our scholarship fund allows us to offer a limited number of awards covering up to 50% of the tuition fees for Mathematics and Science (including Physics, Chemistry, and Biology) Independent Study Courses offered by COA International.

To be considered for a scholarship award, students must complete the COA International Assessment and meet the specific standards outlined in this policy.

COA International Assessment

The assessment consists of a verbal examination in Science and Mathematics, conducted online by the Headteacher in a one-on-one session. It will take place via Microsoft Teams, and students are required to have their camera switched on for the duration of the assessment. This allows the Headteacher to properly invigilate the session and ensure that no cheating occurs. The exam paper will be displayed on the screen, and students will answer the questions verbally, with the Headteacher marking the responses in real time. The assessment will be based on the previous year of study in accordance with the Cambridge International Curriculum. For example, students applying for a scholarship in Year 10 (IGCSE) will be examined on material covered up to and including Year 9.

Eligibility Criteria and Assessment Standards

Standards for Cambridge Lower Secondary (Years 7 to 9) and Cambridge Upper Secondary (IGCSE) Level STEM Scholarship Award

- 1. Outstanding academic performance:** A score within the Outstanding Performance Band (80 – 100%) in Cambridge Progression Tests, or an equivalent assessment if

transferring from another school, in the End-of-Year Assessment for Science, Mathematics, and English.

2. **Strong verbal assessment results:** A score within the Outstanding Performance Band (80 – 100%) in the COA International Verbal Assessments conducted by the Headteacher in Science and Mathematics, appropriate to the student's point of entry.
3. **Personal portfolio:** A portfolio outlining the student's areas of strength and explaining why they should be considered for a scholarship.
4. **Positive learning attitude:** A demonstrated commitment to learning, including a proven record of good punctuality, timely submission of all assignments, high standards of homework, and the ability to study independently.

Standards for Cambridge Advanced Level (AS & A-Level) STEM Scholarship Award

1. **Outstanding academic performance:** Achieved grade A or A* in Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology examinations.
2. **Exemption from verbal assessment:** Students who sat Cambridge IGCSE examinations in these subjects are not required to complete a verbal assessment.
3. **Verbal assessment for non-Cambridge IGCSE students:** If the examinations were taken with a different exam board, a verbal assessment in Mathematics and one Science subject (selected by the Headteacher) will be conducted, based on past Cambridge International examination papers. The student must achieve a grade A or A* in both verbal assessments to meet the scholarship standard.
4. **Personal portfolio:** A portfolio outlining the student's areas of strength and explaining why they should be considered for a scholarship.
5. **Positive learning attitude:** A demonstrated commitment to learning, including a proven record of good punctuality, timely submission of all assignments, high standards of homework, and the ability to study independently.



COA International celebrates all scholarship achievements and students who are awarded scholarships gain an important benefit in terms of references, admissions, job applications and public recognition. In addition, all successful applicants are expected to sign the 'General Expectations of the COA International Scholarship Award Holders' (see appendix one), to confirm that they accept the terms of the award. This will include an additional provision in the area of excellence, and in return will place expectations on the award holder in terms effort and attitude.

The maximum standard scholarship award is a 50% remission of tuition fees, applicable **only to Science and Mathematics subjects**. If a student chooses to take any additional subjects, the full tuition fee will apply to those subjects. In exceptional circumstances, the Headteacher may make a discretionary award beyond the standard 50% remission. All scholarships are reviewed on an annual basis and, subject to satisfactory review, remain valid throughout the student's time at COA International. There is no finite number of awards available, although there is a limit to the funding available. The Headteacher and the Bursar will ensure fairness, within these limits.

Conditions of Scholarship Award

An award is granted at the sole discretion of COA International. The student who is the subject of an award is required to:

- Work diligently and demonstrate a strong commitment to independent study.
- Engage actively with their courses, meeting all assignment deadlines and applying feedback from teachers to improve future work.
- Communicate respectfully and professionally with teachers, using Canvas as the main platform for academic correspondence.
- Seek help from teachers via Canvas whenever clarification or additional support is required.
- Attend scheduled One-to-One lessons if booked, or notify the Student Administrator in advance if attendance is not possible so that the session may be rescheduled.

The parents of an award holder are expected to support and encourage the student in achieving the purposes of the award. Awards will continue as long as the annual review is satisfactory and COA International has the financial resources to maintain the award.

The scholarship award may be terminated on any of the following grounds, with one term's written notice unless otherwise stated:

- The parents have not met COA International's financial requirements.
- The parents have breached the General Terms and Conditions of Admission agreement.
- COA International is no longer able to continue offering the award.
- The outcome of the annual review was unsatisfactory, and the award holder has failed to meet agreed targets for improvement.
- If the student's behaviour or conduct results in permanent exclusion from COA International, the award will be terminated immediately and without notice.

Annual Review Process

If there are concerns about the performance and progress of an award holder, targets will be set mid-year, for end of year review. These targets will be confirmed in writing to the parents of the award holder.

In the normal process of checking that the standards described in this policy are maintained by the student, the outcome of the annual review will be communicated to parents to confirm the continuation of the award into the next academic year, by the Headteacher. The Headteacher's decision is final in relation to all awards, and COA International reserves the right to change its admissions and scholarship policies at any time, if necessary.

Appendix 1

COA International STEM Scholarship Award Holders – General Expectations

Scholarship award holders are expected to:

- Demonstrate self-discipline, independence, and a positive approach to learning.

- Achieve excellent grades in their core subjects, showing consistent effort and academic progress.
- Be punctual in meeting all assignment submission deadlines and attend scheduled One-to-One lessons if booked.
- Maintain a high standard of academic conduct by engaging fully with their independent study courses and acting upon feedback provided by teachers.
- Seek help from teachers via Canvas when clarification or additional support is needed.
- Communicate respectfully and professionally with teachers, using Canvas as the primary platform for academic correspondence.
- Show commitment to continuous improvement by applying teacher feedback to future work and striving for higher levels of achievement throughout their course of study.
- Participate in the annual review process of their award, conducted by the Headteacher or a designated representative.

Awards may be reduced or withdrawn following an unsatisfactory review, or confirmed/increased following an outstanding review.

COA International will continue to provide award holders with opportunities and resources to maximise their academic potential and achieve excellence in their chosen areas of study.

I, _____, have read and understood the General Expectations of the COA International Scholarship Award Holders printed here, and I agree to abide by them.

Student's signature: _____

Date: _____

Vladimir Krasniakov
Headteacher

Date Reviewed	Approved By
01/08/2021	Headteacher
12/05/2022	Headteacher
30/06/2025	Headteacher
16/08/2025	Headteacher