WHITWORTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

WHITWORTH SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

in all main engineering disciplines - Mechanical, Aerospace, Civil, Electrical and others



WHITWORTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS (UP TO £9,000 P.A.)
and SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS (UP TO £15,000 P.A.)
for ENGINEERS in all the main disciplines – Mechanical, Civil, Electrical and others.

Introduction

The IMechE has traditionally supported the development of outstanding engineers by offering a range of scholarships and awards. The Whitworth Scholarship Awards are available to engineers who have completed a 2 year engineering apprenticeship and are planning to embark on, or have already commenced, an undergraduate engineering degree-level programme including BEng, MEng and postgraduate Masters' courses e.g. an MSc.

The Whitworth Senior Scholarships are intended for Research for those engineers who are planning to embark on postgraduate degree study for a PhD or EngD degree, having already completed a 2 year engineering apprenticeship before commencing their undergraduate studies.

The standard monetary award granted for each year for undergraduate degree-level study courses are:

- **Full-time study**- £9,000 per year for up to 4 years (excluding industrial placements)
- **Sandwich** - The award will be paid on a pro rata basis
- **Part-time study** - The award will be paid on a reduced basis normally £3,000 per year
- **MSc (1 year full-time)** £9,000
- **MSc (2 year part-time)** normally £3,000 per year

For research degree study it is up to £15,000 p.a.

If you have excellent academic and practical skills and the qualities needed to succeed in industry, a Whitworth Award could help you on your way to excellence.

Background

In 1868 Joseph Whitworth founded the engineering scholarships associated with his name, under the trusteeship of the Minister of Public Instruction. The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the present Trustee, is offering up to ten Scholarship Awards per year from the Whitworth Scholarship Trust Fund, for the length of an engineering degree-level programme. (In the case of part-time study, the Scholarship Award will be on a pro rata basis.) At the satisfactory completion of the degree-level programme, each Award holder will be entitled to use the title "Whitworth Scholar" with designatory letters WhSch. The title has been borne by many distinguished engineers, including thirteen Presidents of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Consequently the prestige of the award is extremely high. It marks engineers who are expected to be high achievers in their subsequent careers. It should be noted that since 1984, 45% of Whitworth Scholars have gained first class honours engineering degrees and a further 40% have obtained a 2:1 classification.

In addition, Senior Scholarship Awards for research degree study are currently being offered.

Trustee

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) is sole trustee of the Whitworth Scholarship Trust Fund. The scheme is administered by the IMechE's Trustee Board Awards Committee, which has assigned tasks to the IMechE's Whitworth Awards Panel (The Panel). Membership of the Panel includes representatives from the IMechE, the Whitworth Society and the engineering profession.

WHITWORTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS (UP TO £9,000 P.A.) for ENGINEERS in all the main disciplines – Mechanical, Civil, Electrical and others.

CONDITIONS

Whitworth Scholarship Awards (for undergraduate engineering degree-level courses including BEng, MEng and MSc courses) are offered in competition to:

- outstanding engineers who have recently typically completed at least a 2 year engineering apprenticeship
- who have obtained or will obtain an appropriate qualification for admission to the planned engineering degree-level programme
- who are British, Commonwealth or European Union citizens, normally resident in the United Kingdom for at least three years prior to embarking on educational study.

  N.B. To be eligible to apply applicants must have been resident in the UK for at least 3 consecutive years prior to undertaking study in the UK at a College of FE/HE or university.

Whitworth Scholarship Awards are also offered to students who meet the above conditions and:

- are already on an engineering degree-level programme, or
- are engineering graduates who wish to further their academic qualifications by completing MSc courses. (Graduates must have had two years' industrial experience before commencing their undergraduate engineering degree-level programme.)

ONLY ONE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CAN BE GRANTED TO AN INDIVIDUAL

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers has discretion to vary the conditions of eligibility for potential candidates who have been prevented from complying completely with the conditions attached to the award due to serious illness or other sufficient cause.

Closing date for applications is 31 July

The decision of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers on any matter in connection with the selection, or award or withdrawal of the Scholarships and Awards, shall be final.

Criteria for Selection

The Panel is looking for outstanding engineers who would justify consideration for one of the awards offered annually in the United Kingdom. Candidates are expected to display academic excellence and practical ability together with the personal qualities needed to achieve success in industry. Particular attention is paid to each candidate's record in practical engineering at school/college and the employing organisation.

Who Should Apply?

The awards are intended to encourage recent apprentices who have completed at least 2 years of acceptable practical engineering training, who have then decided to further

their academic studies to degree level. Admission to the competition for awards may be based on Edexcel/SQA National Certificate, Edexcel/SQA Higher National Certificate, A-level, or any equivalent qualifications acceptable to the admissions authorities of the chosen course. Applications for awards will normally be expected approximately six months before the start of the degree-level programme of study. However, applications may also be considered from undergraduates who have already commenced their degree-level studies, provided that they satisfy the normal entry conditions. The award will also be available to those who wish to study further at postgraduate level in order to become Chartered Engineers or to undertake research closely allied to the engineering profession, who satisfy the specific entry conditions.

Typical Candidate Profile

Edexcel/SQA Route

Normally, left school with 7 good GCSEs/Highers and was employed for at least two years as a "Modern Apprentice" by a company engaged in the manufacturing industry. Whilst serving an apprenticeship he/she would have undertaken Edexcel/SQA part-time qualifications in engineering, (normally one day plus two evening classes per week), gaining excellent marks in Edexcel/SQA National Certificate Level III (six full unit Distinctions and the rest Merits over the two years).

The Candidate would have then decided to further his/her academic qualifications to degree level in order to become a Chartered Engineer. Before commencing the degree-level programme, the Admissions Tutor may have suggested broadening knowledge of mathematics and general sciences, (thus increasing the total number of Level III Distinctions) with an additional year's study.

A-Level (or equivalent Route)

Normally, left school with good GCSE's/Highers and A-levels/Advanced Highers and was employed as a "Modern Apprentice" by a company engaged in the manufacturing industry.

(Candidates must be able to demonstrate that a minimum of 2 years of acceptable practical engineering training has been completed.) Candidates then decide to undertake an engineering degree-level programme.

Undergraduate Route

Candidates must have either entered their degree-level studies via the Edexcel/SQA or A-level/Advanced Highers Routes, as mentioned above, and they must be able to demonstrate that at least 2 years of acceptable practical engineering training had been completed prior to commencing their undergraduate degree-level programme.

Graduate Engineers

Candidates must be able to satisfy all the award conditions mentioned in "Conditions" and must be able to demonstrate that they have had at least 2 years of practical engineering training prior to commencing any full-time undergraduate degree-level programme. Graduate engineers from part-time courses will be treated on an individual basis.

Whitworth Scholarship Awards
Application Process

Application Forms

Candidates are required to complete a detailed application form available from ASK House, or on line (see last page for contact details).

Referees

A Candidate who is about to start a degree-level programme will be asked to supply the names of two referees who must be able and willing to vouch for his or her theoretical and practical training and suitability for this award. One referee should be a senior member of staff from the candidate's School/College and the other a senior representative of the engineering organisation where practical engineering experience was obtained. Undergraduates applying in the first or later years of their degree-level programme will be asked for an additional reference from the head of the relevant academic department. The Institution will contact the referees and a copy of the completed application will be sent to the referees for comment. References will be required by 15th July.

Interviews

Interviews are mandatory for short-listed candidates. The Institution will notify candidates of the decision of the Whitworth Awards Panel which meets in early August to determine the short-list of candidates. Short-listed candidates will be invited to attend an interview in London in either late August or early September following the closing date. Travelling expenses will be paid. Final decisions on Awards are usually communicated to candidates during the week following the interviews.

Holding an Award

Duration of Award

Awards will normally be made for the 4 years' study on an MEng accredited degree-level programme which meets the academic requirements for Chartered Engineer status, (or in the case of undergraduates, for the remainder of the programme), subject to satisfactory progress as judged by the Panel. The Panel will also consider candidates on other degree-level and postgraduate engineering courses on an individual basis.

Value of Awards

The value is determined from time to time by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and is detailed in the table below:

Full-time	Sandwich Study	Part-time study
£9,000 per annum.	The award will be paid on a pro rata basis.	The award will be paid on a reduced basis, normally £3,000 per annum.

In the case of a full-time 1 year MSc course £9,000 will be paid and for a 2 year part-time MSc course £3,000 p.a.

The Whitworth Award will not exceed a total of £36,000 for any individual. The Whitworth Award may be held in conjunction with other awards (except any other Whitworth Award).

Payments

Payments will be made by termly instalments to each Award Holder, as soon as possible after the beginning of each term.

Progress Reports

These will be required annually and Award Holders will be notified of the form they should take. An unsatisfactory report could lead to termination of the award.

Certificate, Medal and Title

At the completion of the programme of study, the Panel will consider the candidate's overall achievements. If the Panel approves, the Award Holder will receive a certificate and medal and be entitled to use the title "WHITWORTH SCHOLAR" with designatory letters, WhSch.

For an application form or further information, please see back page of booklet for contact details.

WHITWORTH SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS(UP TO £15,000 P.A.) for ENGINEERS in all the main disciplines – Mechanical, Civil, Electrical and others.

From 2006 the Trustees decided to offer enhanced awards for Postgraduate Research which are known as Whitworth Senior Scholarship Awards. These awards are open to existing Whitworth Award Holders and Whitworth Scholars and other eligible candidates. Conditions of eligibility will be the same as for the Whitworth Scholarship Awards, except that a degree-level programme will have already been completed.

Whitworth Senior Scholarship Awards (for Postgraduate Research leading to a PhD or EngD) are offered in competition to:

CONDITIONS

- outstanding engineers who have recently graduated with an engineering degree
- who completed at least a 2 year engineering apprenticeship **before** entering an engineering degree-level course
- who have obtained or will obtain admission to, or have already commenced, a postgraduate research degree programme
- who are British, Commonwealth or European Union citizens, normally resident in the United Kingdom for at least three years prior to starting their research course.

  N.B. To be eligible to apply applicants must have been resident in the UK for at least 3 consecutive years prior to undertaking study in the UK at a College of FE/HE or university.

ONLY ONE SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CAN BE GRANTED TO AN INDIVIDUAL.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers has discretion to vary the conditions of eligibility for potential candidates who have been prevented from complying completely with the conditions attached to the award due to serious illness or other sufficient cause.

Closing date for applications is 31 July each year.

The decision of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers on any matter in connection with the selection, or award or withdrawal of the Senior Scholarships and Awards, shall be final.

Criteria for Selection

Candidates must complete an application form obtainable from ASK House or downloaded from the website (see last page for details). The form asks candidates to submit a short description of their proposed research activity. Whitworth Award Holders and Scholars will not need to repeat information relating to training and undergraduate experience which is already documented by IMechE, nor will they need to repeat previous references from their company or organisation where practical training was obtained. Other candidates will need supporting references from a senior representative of the company or organisation where practical training was obtained. The research programme must be supported by a reference from the proposed research supervisor, and if appropriate from a sponsoring company.

Who Should Apply?

Senior Awards are intended to support research activity. (MEng or MSc courses may be supported by a Whitworth Award as described earlier.) The full award will usually be made to a successful candidate who proposes to undertake full-time research at a university as a research student. Candidates who propose undertaking part-time

research based on a university may still apply, but the Panel will expect that the time to be spent at the university will be substantial. The value of the award would be adjusted to reflect the proportion of time spent at the university.

Holding an Award

Duration of Award

Awards will normally be made for a maximum period of three years.

Value of the Senior Award

The value is determined from time to time by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and is presently set at up to £15,000 p.a. for a maximum period of three years. The Awards will be subject to annual review. The Awards may be held concurrently with other forms of financial support (except with any other Whitworth Award). It is the Panel's understanding that these scholarship awards will not be taxable. Successful candidates will be required to verify this is so in their own particular case, and under certain circumstances the Panel reserves the right to reduce the value of the award.

Payments

Payments will be made by termly instalments to each Senior Award Holder, as soon as possible after the beginning of each term.

Progress Reports

These will be required annually and Senior Award Holders will be notified of the form they should take. An unsatisfactory report could lead to termination of the award.

Certificate and Title

At the satisfactory completion of a course supported with a Senior Award, a candidate may be elected to the title of Whitworth Senior Scholar with designatory letters WhSSch.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers has discretion to vary the conditions of eligibility for potential candidates who have been prevented from complying completely with the conditions attached to the award due to serious illness or other sufficient cause.

Interviews

Interviews are mandatory for short-listed candidates who will be invited to attend an interview in London in early July following the closing date. Travelling expenses will be paid. Final decisions on Senior Awards are usually communicated to candidates during the week following the interviews.

For an application form or further information, please see back page of booklet for contact details

The Whitworth Society

Membership of the Society has always been limited to men and women who have been awarded Whitworth Scholarships, Senior Scholarships, Exhibitions, major Prizes and Fellowships.

The Society provides the means for informal contact to be made between previous Whitworth Scholars, and newly successful Award Holders. These contacts are much appreciated by all age groups.

Society activities bring together those who have benefited from Sir Joseph Whitworth's generosity, thus keeping his memory alive and continuing to mark his great contributions to engineering and to engineering education.

Each year the Whitworth Society holds a Commemorative Dinner in March and a two day Summer Meeting in July. Award holders are invited to these events.

Sir Joseph Whitworth, Bart.

Sir Joseph Whitworth was born in Stockport, Cheshire in 1803. He started work in a cotton spinning mill at the age of 15 and gained experience at the workbench with a number of firms in Manchester and London before setting up on his own in Manchester in 1833 as "Joseph Whitworth - tool-maker from London". The business flourished and by 1850 his hand and machine tools had become internationally famous. He is chiefly remembered for his advocacy and development of national standards in both engineering dimensions and measurement. The Whitworth screw thread is still with us. He was President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1856/1857 and in 1866. On 18th March 1868, Sir Joseph wrote to the Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, offering to found the Whitworth Scholarships so that, "means may be found for bringing science and industry into closer relation with each other than at present obtains in this country". He offered, "30 scholarships of the annual value of £100 each, to be applied for the further instruction of young men, natives of the United Kingdom, selected by open competition for their intelligence and proficiency in the theory and practice of mechanics and its cognate sciences". His offer was accepted. One-year Exhibitions were awarded in 1868 to help selected candidates to prepare for the first scholarship examination which was held in 1869. The scheme of awarding one-year Exhibitions and three-year scholarships continued for more than eighty years. Changes were made gradually to accommodate altered conditions in the educational system. By 1955, the widespread availability of national and local awards enabling promising school leavers to go to University made the Whitworth Scholarships less attractive, and undergraduate awards were replaced by postgraduate fellowships and exhibitions. However, during the early 1980s few awards were made under this scheme, and it was, therefore, modified again. The Whitworth Scholarships were re-introduced in 1984 to benefit those who started their engineering careers with practical training linked to part-time study. The conditions are very close to those suggested by Sir Joseph over a century ago.

Whitworth Senior Scholarships (for research), were re-introduced in 2006.

All enquiries for application forms or further information should be addressed to:

l: Eagle House
IMechE Prizes and Awards
Sudbury Road
Great Whelnetham
BURY ST EDMUNDS
Suffolk IP30 0UN

t: (01284) 717887

e: awards@whitworthscholarships.org.uk

w: www.whitworthscholarships.org.uk

The IMechE is a registered charity number 206882

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