

Talent and Opportunity Scholarship

GMAT
Scholarship
award
winners
and
runners-up



The Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC)

is delighted to share the stories of the ten outstanding recipients of the **GMAT Talent and Opportunity Scholarship 2023.**



Selected from nearly **300 applicants across 23 countries**, the winners come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and are shining examples of individuals who embody dedication, resilience and a relentless drive to make a positive impact.

They will be awarded a scholarship that includes a voucher to cover the full cost of the GMAT Exam or GMAT Focus Edition; a GMAT Official Practice Exam package and a meditation application subscription. In addition, thanks to the generosity of industry partners, winners will receive a GMAT preparation course with a GMAT instructor, sessions from a professional admissions consultant, and online cultural courses for applicants who plan to study abroad. The total value of the scholarship is close to \$5,000 / €4,500.



With such a strong field this year, we are also pleased to reward our 17 runners up with a GMAT Official Guide to help with their exam preparation.

"It has been truly joyous and inspiring to read the stories of all the applicants – the journeys they have been on to get to where they are now, together with their aspirations for the future. Our winners span traditional sectors as well as areas such as Pharmatech, transport services, professional sports – but all share motivations to create more inclusive environments and offer the wider world benefits through their work,"

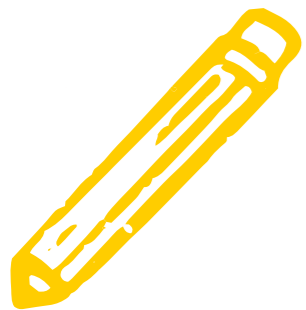
said Nalisha Patel, Regional Director for Europe at GMAC.

Scholarship purpose



Launched in 2022, the annual **GMAT Talent and Opportunity Scholarship**, aims to promote inclusivity within graduate management education and reduce barriers for underrepresented groups.

The scholarship is open to all, but we strongly encouraged applications from **women, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, socio-economically diverse, LGBTQ+ and non-binary candidates.**



"Our vision is a world where every talented person can benefit from the best business education for them. We strive to improve diversity, inclusion, and access to business school, and this scholarship program is a prime example of one of the ways we work to help business school aspirants realize their education and career dream for the good of not just their personal fulfillment but also the society at large,"

said Joy Jones, CEO of GMAC.





The Winners



Students:

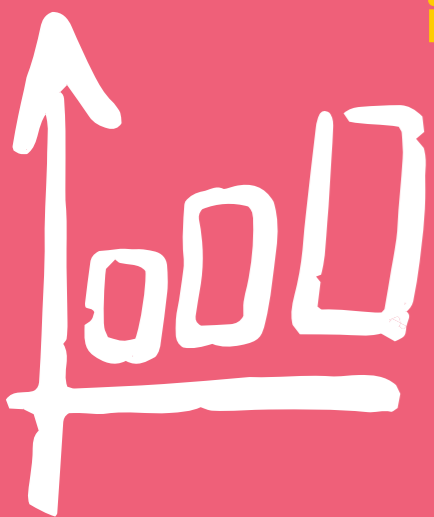
Anastasija Loncarevic →
Daniel Dipper
Endang Ghani Ashfiya
Juan Diego Du Bois
Julius Ramb
Kajsa Persson
Kyle Fraser-Allen
Linda Masibo
Nicoleta Spinu
Renata Agostinelli

Student:

**Anastasija
Loncarevic**

From:

Serbia



Expertise:

**Economics
and Finance**

Ambition:

**Inspire the next
generation of women
in finance in Serbia**



Anastasija

My story

I hold a degree in Economics and Finance from the University of Belgrade, developed in conjunction with London School of Economics, which equipped me with comprehensive insights into diverse business landscapes and intricate financial analyses. I was also privileged to serve as a Corporate Finance Analyst at KPMG Serbia.

One of my proudest achievements was working on the Case Study Club at the Economics and Business Faculty, University of Belgrade. Chosen from a distinguished pool of alumni, I guided the 2023 CFA Research Challenge EMEA Finalists in valuing a wind farm, a responsibility that honed my mentoring skills and expanded my industrial expertise.

Hailing from Serbia, I embrace the unique challenges and perspectives encountered as a woman in a traditionally male-centric finance domain. I aspire to further my studies at a top-tier US business school in valuation and corporate finance. My ambition is to inspire and educate the next generation of finance professionals in Serbia.

Judges' commentary:

"Anastasija demonstrates remarkable resilience in a traditionally male-dominated industry. This, coupled with a passion for finance and business, she strives to impart her industry experience and practical knowledge to the next generation in Serbia."



Student:

**Daniel
Dipper**

From:

**United
Kingdom**

Expertise:

**History,
Politics and
Analytics**

Ambition:

**Put ED&I
at the centre
of business
decision-making**

My story



I am a Graduate Business Analyst in financial technology, having studied History and Politics at Oxford. Outside of work, I currently serve as a trustee of Potential Plus UK and as a Zero Gravity Founding Brand Ambassador, having recently finished a two-year term on the Sutton Trust Alumni Leadership Board.

While at university I was undergraduate president of Magdalen College, and as Vice President of the world's largest debating society (The Oxford Union) I interviewed speakers such as Dr Anthony Fauci and James Gorman, alongside playing a leading role in their work on equity and diversity.

In my spare time I perform as a DJ in nightclubs and at student balls.

Studying at a business school in the US or Europe is central to my long-term career and personal development plan, to learn more about business development and how to put ED&I at the centre of business decision-making.

Judges' commentary:

"Daniel has a strong track record of taking an active role to make tangible changes related to accessibility in organisations. By using his lived experience, he demonstrates his dedication to creating opportunities for others."



Student:

**Endang
Ghani
Ashfiya**

From:

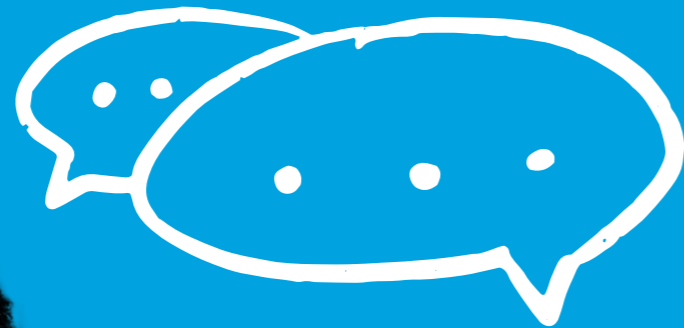
**Indonesia
living in
Sweden**

Expertise:

**Strategic
Communication
and Digital Analytics**

Ambition:

**Lead digital
transformation and
promote D&I, where
every voice is heard
and valued**



Endang

My story

I am a resilient and determined individual, born and raised in Indonesia, and currently living in Sweden whilst pursuing a professional career.

Despite facing various challenges, I remained steadfast in my determination to pursue education and achieve professional success. Overcoming initial setbacks, I successfully hold a degree in Strategic Communication from Lund University and am currently working as a Global Digital Analytics Specialist at ASSA ABLOY Entrance System, in Landskrona, Sweden.

Throughout my professional journey, I have developed expertise in online marketing, digital analytics, and data-driven strategies. I have actively empowered others through mentorship and support for education, reinforcing my belief in the transformative power of knowledge.

Now, I aspire to enroll in an MBA program with a focus on business analytics, operations, and management science. My goal is to become a leader in digital transformation and promote diversity and inclusivity within organisations, where every voice is heard and valued.

Judges' commentary:

"Despite facing limitations and hardships, Endang persevered, and overcame numerous challenges to pursue education and career success. He believes that education can change lives and he instils this belief by mentoring others to pursue their dreams."



Student:

**Juan
Diego
Du Bois**

From:

**United
Kingdom**

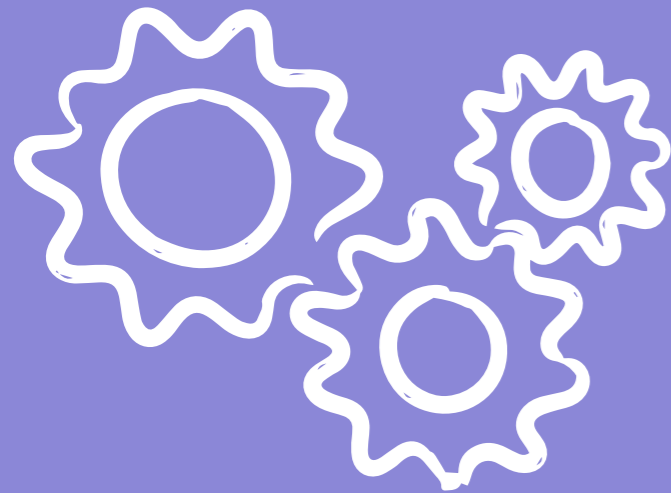
Expertise:

**Business
Management, Public
Finance & Policy**

Ambition:

**Accelerate
global prosperity
and inclusivity**

My story



Juan Diego

I am originally from Peru and have been living in London for the past two years to complete my undergraduate Business Studies degree at King's College London. I am currently completing a placement year at The Walt Disney Company as part of my degree.

I am honoured and grateful to be one of GMAT's Talent & Opportunity scholarship recipients, as this is an essential milestone in my desire to contribute to Peru's socio-political welfare. Growing up in Peru, I have witnessed political instability first-hand. Therefore, I aspire to fight against Peru's socio-political deficiencies from a public or corporate leadership role, and there is no better weapon for this than an MBA education.

Moreover, living in Peru, the UK, the US and South Africa, I have been exposed to a multinational background, which I look forward to deepening through an MBA.

Judges' commentary:

"Juan Diego's character has been shaped by his impactful work in Peru and his dedication to education. These experiences have instilled in him unwavering determination, deep compassion, and a heartfelt commitment to making a meaningful difference."

Student:

**Julius
Ramb**

From:

Sweden

Expertise:

**Corporate
Finance**

Ambition:

**Make a difference
in the business
world by promoting
D&I for everyone,
regardless of their
gender or sexuality**



Julius

My story

I recently completed a one-year master's program at Linköping University, Sweden where I focused on finance. Now, I'm eager to continue my studies at a prestigious university in Sweden or elsewhere in Europe, specializing in Corporate Finance or Investment Management.

My background is in finance, and I'm passionate about making a difference in the business world by promoting diversity and inclusion for everyone, regardless of their gender or sexuality. Currently, I'm gaining valuable experience on a trainee program at a startup. Here, I'm learning about how organizations empower the voices of every employee regardless of position.

My goal is to combine my educational pursuits with the practical insights I'm gaining to drive positive change in the business world. I'm excited to pursue further education and contribute to creating a more inclusive and equitable business environment.

Judges' commentary:

"Julius' passion for promoting inclusion in the business world shone through in their submission. They display commitment for ensuring gender representation in leadership and dedication for empowering voices at all levels in organisations."



Student:

**Kajsa
Persson**

From:

Sweden

Expertise:

**Law and
International
Affairs**

Ambition:

**Contribute
to society by fostering
intercultural
understanding**



Kajsa

My story

I am studying Law at University College London (UCL), having just completed a year abroad at the National University of Singapore, which was a fascinating opportunity for me to explore a different jurisdiction for a year.

I am interested in international affairs and have lived in six countries so far in my life, speaking English, Swedish and Japanese. I am very excited to pursue further studies at a business school in Europe after graduation.

I aspire to working in a global company where I can make use of my intercultural communication skills to liaise with fellow professionals from all over the world.

During my spare time, I enjoy volunteering for legal charity organisations, writing and travelling.

Judges' commentary:

"Kajsa's international experiences stood out by exemplifying how they broadened her perspective, fostered a desire to contribute to society, and deepened her intercultural awareness. In addition, her personal resilience has made her adaptable."

Student:
**Kyle
Fraser-Allen**

From:
**United
Kingdom**

Expertise:
**Business
and Financial
Management**

Ambition:
**Greater
representation
in investment
management,
and greater social
mobility in the UK,
Africa and the
Caribbean**



My story

I am a former professional footballer and retired from football due to a diagnosis of a heart condition, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

I transitioned into the investment management industry via an undergraduate degree in Business and Financial Management and a Master's in Finance, which led to working for some of the largest insurance and investment management firms within financial services with roles ranging from sales, relationship management, product development and most recently credit investing as a Research Analyst.

I am an MBA candidate hopeful with the ambition to further my studies at a prestigious business school. I aspire to enhance my leadership credentials, diversify my skillset, and build a network that will not only support my career aspirations but also support initiatives I care passionately about. These include greater representation of a variety of backgrounds in investment management, and greater social mobility not just in the UK but Africa and the Caribbean.

Judges' commentary:

"Overcoming setbacks from a young age, Kyle exemplifies leadership resilience. He displays unwavering determination, a strong work ethic and real commitment to creating a more inclusive investment management industry."



Student:

**Linda
Masibo**

From:

**United
Kingdom**

Expertise:

**Transportation
Sciences**

Ambition:

**Transform
road safety and
sustainable
transportation
for the better**



My story

I am a researcher and global road safety advocate from Kenya.

I hold a master's degree in Transportation Sciences focusing on road safety in the global south. I am deeply committed to engaging youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, serving on the Youth Leadership Board of the Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety.

Driven by a passion for entrepreneurial solutions in safe mobility, I seek to enhance my leadership skills through business school. My goal is to leverage my expertise and global perspective to transform road safety and sustainable transportation for the better.

Judges' commentary:

"Linda brings experience working with emerging markets and a unique perspective as a global road safety advocate who is deeply committed to youth engagement. Her passion and dedication shines, and she is on a worthy journey to driving change."



Linda



Student:

**Nicoleta
Spinu**

From:

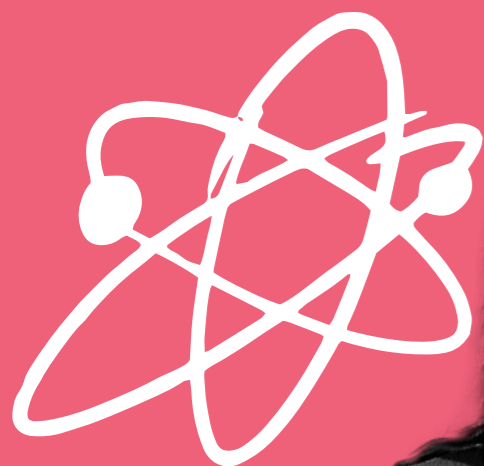
**Moldova
living in The
Netherlands**

Expertise:

**Pharmaceuticals
and Computational
Toxicology**

Ambition:

**Ignite innovation
and push boundaries
in clinical
decision-making**



Nicoleta

My story

I am a Pharmacist by training with a PhD in Computational Toxicology.

At present, I design and develop models in precision medicine. I am experienced in the safety assessment of chemicals and, in particular, in neurotoxicity. I have extensive knowledge of regulatory affairs and policy decision-making.

With my background and experience acquired so far, I aim to build products that would benefit patients, and embarking on an MBA at a top business school will help me achieve my goals.

Judges' commentary:

"Nicoleta's expertise in computational toxicology is beyond impressive. Her intellect for developing models to aid brain cancer patients' decision-making combined with her unique background in data science and AI provides an exciting pathway for her future career."

Student:

**Renata
Agostinelli**

From:

Spain

Expertise:

**Software
Development
Engineering**

Ambition:

**Empower women
in technology
to overcome
challenges and make
a positive impact**



Renata

My story

Born in Argentina, I moved to Barcelona aged seven when my mother fled a financial crisis in Argentina. Raised as a first-generation immigrant by my single mother, I had to learn how to be independent, confident, and resilient.

At 19, my father unexpectedly passed away and I had to work full-time while pursuing my Telecommunications Engineering degree at UOC, Spain. I'm proud to be the first engineer in my family and to have amassed ten years of work experience in the technology sector. I have had the unique opportunity to lead diverse high-performing cross-cultural teams, positively impacting companies across different industries.

My engagement in fostering individuality and equality in the Lean In organization has unveiled my true passion for becoming a diversity and inclusion consultant. This MBA degree will serve as a catalyst for my career change, granting me valuable management skills and a deep understanding of organizations and their challenges.

Judges' commentary:

"Renata demonstrates incredible strength and determination. Her commitment to education, along with her passion for empowering others, highlights her resilience, resourcefulness, and a genuine desire to create positive change."

Students:

Alexandra Tudora
Andry-Tohy Rakotovololona
Anirudh Kasha
Asheer Rahman
Bruno Reis
Camelia bouaouda
Douglas Adjei

The **Runners up**



Emma Dammann
Haris Sultan
John Lim
Kaughnan Joseph Kouadio
Muhab Hasan
Pavel Kirjanas
Pavithra Neelagiri
Shafa Aria
Teodor Avramov
Wisdom Nwanack A Beigoll



Student:
**Alexandra
Tudora**
From:
Romania

Expertise and ambition:
**Civil engineering, managing international
teams, creating inclusive workspaces,
transnational communicator**

Student:
**Andry-Tohy
Rakotovololona**
From:
France

Expertise and ambition:
**Business development, lived internationally,
adaptable to other cultures**

Student:
**Anirudh
Kasha**
From:
Ireland

Expertise and ambition:
**Law, aerospace engineering, software-led
modelling research, new technologies in
digital transformation consulting**

Student:
**Asheer
Rahman**
From:
**United
Kingdom**

Expertise and ambition:
**Investment management, sustainability
practices, reducing carbon footprint
in credit trading**

Student:
**Bruno
Reis**
From:
Sweden

Expertise and ambition:
**International business management,
curiosity for diverse cultures leadership
aspirations, inspiring future generations**



Student:
**Douglas
Adjei**
From:
**United
Kingdom**

Expertise and ambition:
**Wealth and asset management analyst,
determined to pave education success,
social impact projects, cross-cultural
awareness**

Student:
**Emma
Dammann**
From:
Germany

Expertise and ambition:
**Collaborator, adaptable to new
environments, analytical, embraces
diversity**

Student:
**Haris
Sultan**
From:
**United
Kingdom**

Expertise and ambition:
**Medical student, youth representative
for National Health Service, offering
innovative solutions, narrows inequalities**

Student:
**Camelia
bouaouda**
From:
France

Expertise and ambition:
**Data scientist, AI specialist, strategy
consulting, solving complex business
problems in a strategic and data-driven
manner**



Student:

**John
Lim**

From:

**United
Kingdom**

Expertise and ambition:

**Ambition to create an environment
that celebrates individuality, fosters
creativity, and cultivates leaders**

Student:

**Kaughnan
Joseph Kouadio**

From:

France

Expertise and ambition:

**Investment management, client services,
assistant pastor, empowering young
people to create positive change in
societies**

Student:

**Muhab
Hasan**

From:

**United
Kingdom**

Expertise and ambition:

**Engineering, entrepreneurship, management
consulting, adaptable to change, adept at
overcoming obstacles, ethical investing**

Student:

**Pavel
Kirjanas**

From:

Lithuania

Expertise and ambition:

**Sustainable finance, cross-continent
collaborator, become an agent of change
in investment industry, developing
climate solutions**



Student:

**Pavithra
Neelagiri**

From:

**United
Kingdom**

Expertise and ambition:

**Strategy Consulting Analyst, youth
co-ordinator, devoted to cultural
preservation, advocate for women
in STEM**

Student:

**Shafa
Aria**

From:

Norway

Expertise and ambition:

**Fusion energy and space industry,
international collaborator, multi-lingual,
resilient and optimistic in the face
of adversity**

Student:

**Teodor
Avramov**

From:

Bulgaria

Expertise and ambition:

**International business management,
technological innovator, sustainable
project development, graphic designer**

Student:

**Wisdom
Nwanack
A Beigoll**

From:

France

Expertise and ambition:

**Telecommunications, computer science,
entrepreneurial spirit, business analyst,
dedicated to community development**

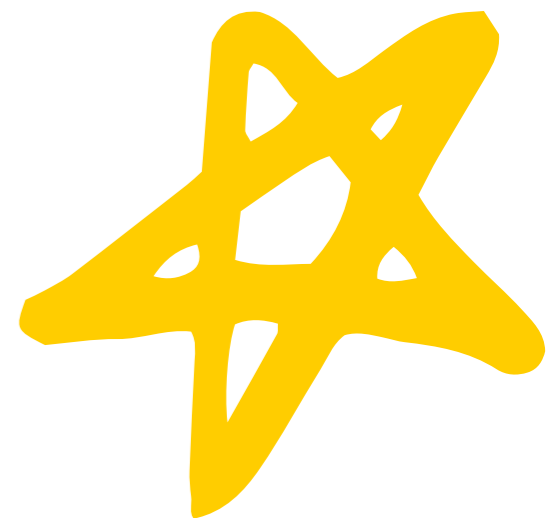


The winners are not just recipients of financial support; they are the torchbearers of hope and inspiration for future generations of aspiring leaders. They each hold their own goals, plans and dreams, and GMAC is happy to help light their fire.

The scholarship is made possible in part by our generous  sponsors: **700+ Club, Apex GMAT, English Business Services (EBS), Your GMAT Coach, Fortuna Admissions, and CulturaGo.**



We are delighted to work with our sponsors,
and we thank each one for their valuable contribution.



**Applications for the 2024 Scholarship
will open around April 2024. Keep
updated on [www.mba.com/
how-to-apply/scholarships-and-financing/
gmat-talent-and-opportunity-scholarship](http://www.mba.com/how-to-apply/scholarships-and-financing/gmat-talent-and-opportunity-scholarship)**

**Graduate
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