

Press Information

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University of Cambridge Manmohan Singh Undergraduate Scholarships announced for 2010

Three outstanding students from Bangalore, Kolkata and Mumbai are destined to receive the 2010 Manmohan Singh Undergraduate Scholarship to fund their undergraduate studies at the University of Cambridge.

The Manmohan Singh Undergraduate Scholarship programme was established in 2009 in honour of India's Prime Minister who graduated from the University of Cambridge with a First in Economics in the late 1950s, and who was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University in 2006. The Scholarship is awarded to students who have received an offer of a place at the University of Cambridge. Two of the three places offered by University of Cambridge are conditional on these students achieving specific grades.

The Scholarship programme will provide full funding, covering fees and means-tested maintenance for undergraduate study at the University of Cambridge, and was launched to provide financial assistance to exceptional students in India who would not otherwise be able to afford to go to Cambridge.

The Manmohan Singh Undergraduate Scholarships will be awarded to Neal Duggal from Mallya Aditi International School, Bangalore, Jesika Haria from Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai, and Rudrajit Banerjee from The Cambridge School, Kolkata. Neal Duggal and Jesika Haria have received conditional offers of places to St John's College and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to study for degrees in Economics and Engineering respectively, while Rudrajit Banerjee has received an unconditional offer to study Natural Sciences at Christ's College, Cambridge.

All three students received Cambridge Outstanding Achiever Awards in 2008 from University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) for their exceptional performance in their examinations. Neal Duggal won the Top in India award for Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry; Jesika Haria came Top in India for her performance across six Cambridge IGCSE subjects, and also won awards for Cambridge IGCSE Literature (English), Foreign Language French, Additional Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics; Rudrajit Banerjee won the Top in India award for Cambridge International A Level Physics.

More than 200 schools in India currently offer Cambridge international examinations, including Cambridge IGCSEs and Cambridge International A Levels.

The Manmohan Singh Undergraduate Scholarships are administered by the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, a charity established by the University of Cambridge, and were launched with gifts from Sir Evelyn and Lady Lynn Forester de Rothschild through the Eranda Foundation, and from the Mr Sunil Bharti Mittal-led company, Bharti Airtel (through the Bharti Foundation). The fund is underpinned by substantial funding through Cambridge Assessment, a department of the University and the parent of University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE).

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, Professor Alison Richard, who has recently returned from a visit to India, said: "I am so pleased to be congratulating these wonderfully able young people and to say how much we are all looking forward to their arrival in Cambridge. The long standing bonds between Cambridge and India are made even deeper with the inauguration of the Manmohan Singh Undergraduate Scholarship scheme. The University is honoured that these scholarships are in the name of the Prime Minister, and deeply grateful for the vision and generous support of the donors."

CIE Regional Manager, South Asia, Ian Chambers said the Manmohan Singh Undergraduate Scholarships provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for talented students to make their mark on the world.

"We are thrilled to be able to announce the recipients of the Manmohan Singh Undergraduate Scholarships. We would like to congratulate Neal, Rudrajit and Jesika on their landmark success. These students are immensely deserving of this scholarship. Their consistent academic performance shows their commitment to their chosen fields of study. This opportunity to study at the University of Cambridge without financial burden will allow them to attend one of the world's top universities, and become one of the world's future leaders. We wish them every success."

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Notes to Editors

Reactions from the students, and their schools:

Mallya Aditi International School, Bangalore

Neal Duggal, student, Mallya Aditi International School, Bangalore: 'I am completely overwhelmed by the enormous honour of receiving this prestigious scholarship. This will help me pursue my passion for Economics in a university of such great repute, and that too in the same college

(St. John's) where our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, studied the subject. I am truly thankful to Cambridge for this opportunity and plan to make the best of it.'

Sathish Jayarajan, Principal, Mallya Aditi International School, Bangalore: 'The Aditi community is delighted that Neal has been selected for this prestigious scholarship. My heartiest congratulations go out to Neal, his parents, and Aditi's amazing teaching team that works so hard to bring out the best in each student.'

The Cambridge School, Kolkata

Rudrajit Banerjee, student, The Cambridge School, Kolkata: 'At The Cambridge School I received a highly personalized education, and had frequent discussions with my subject teachers outside the classroom. Always welcoming and encouraging, they always took the time to engage in discussions or answer my queries. I often think of my interactions with my mathematics teacher, Mrs Haima Hariharan, whose approach was a rare one – instead of instructing me, she gave me freedom to explore maths myself. We often had discussions outside the syllabus, and these discussions helped shape my love for mathematics. I also specially remember my chemistry teacher, Mrs Anita Dutta, for her kindness and encouragement of my constant questions.'

'After graduating, Mr Mukherjee very kindly allowed me to use the school facilities, including the library and laboratory, and Mrs Chatterjee was always there to give me advice whenever I needed it. I feel Mrs Chatterjee deserves special mention, for over the past year she has been very welcoming, always happy to help me out whenever I needed her counsel. In fact she gave me valuable advice that calmed me down before the University of Cambridge interview.'

'I found the Cambridge International A levels an enjoyable experience. The courses allowed a deep study of a variety of topics in each subject, and the programme was both challenging and stimulating. In particular, it inspired me to investigate interconnections between subjects.'

Mrs Nonda Chatterjee, Principal, The Cambridge School, Kolkata: 'Exceptionally intelligent, very quick on the uptake, curious, Rudrajit stood out among his class mates even as a child at his previous school, and it is this spirit of enquiry which brought him to The Cambridge School for his Cambridge International A levels. This is a wonderful and well-deserved achievement, a 'Cambridge Physicist' no less. It is one of the proudest moments in my long teaching career, and may he only go from strength to strength.'

Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai

Jesika Haria, student, Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai: 'I was too stunned to react – it took almost five minutes for the news to sink in – I was thrilled! After the initial moments of

astonishment, the joy and exhilaration coursed through my veins only to be almost immediately replaced by the realization that I was now carrying on my shoulders a monumental responsibility. Winning something is commendable, but to live up to the faith reposed in you, to prove that you are deserving of the award conferred upon you is another mammoth task. I am indeed very humbled to have received the Manmohan Singh Scholarship - it is both an honour and a privilege. It is a tribute to the unique learning opportunities and challenges Dhirubhai Ambani International School has provided me. This accomplishment gives me the impetus to perform even better in my forthcoming IB examinations and keep up the same at university. I am indeed deeply grateful towards Cambridge for having given me this wonderful opportunity.'

About University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE)

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is the world's largest provider of international qualifications for 14-19 year olds. CIE offers the Cambridge International Curriculum for 5 – 19 year olds, professional qualifications for teachers and vocational qualifications for adult learners. CIE qualifications are taken in 150 countries and recognised by universities, educational providers and employers across the world.

CIE is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group, a not-for-profit organisation and part of the University of Cambridge. CIE has a strong pedigree in development and research and offers unrivalled support to its network of registered centres.

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