

The Chanel Sustainability Leadership Bursary

Master of Studies in Sustainability Leadership

(continuous route only)

2026-28

Closing date for applications: 27 January 2026

Overview

The [Chanel](#) bursary aims to offer an opportunity to people who have faced challenges in achieving their full potential through personal, physical or socio-economic circumstances and who would be unable to pursue the [Master of Studies in Sustainability Leadership](#) continuous route without financial support.

Through a combination of interdisciplinary insights, academic analysis, practical business application, peer learning and personal reflection, the Master of Studies (MSt) in Sustainability Leadership offered by CISL aims to develop a community of leaders who have:

- a wide awareness and deep understanding of the social, environmental, ethical and economic challenges and opportunities facing the world
- the vision and ambition to drive business leadership to achieve real systems change
- the knowledge, experience and ability to critically evaluate a range of strategic levers for change
- the leadership capacity and confidence at a personal and organisational level to best use these levers to effect transformation.

Eligibility criteria

The Chanel Sustainability Leadership Bursary aims to support candidates who would otherwise not be able to participate in the course, and we ask all candidates to:

- outline a clear need for financial support in order to participate in the programme
- demonstrate the challenges they have faced, or continue to face in working towards their potential whether due to personal, physical or socio-economic circumstances
- outline how they might bring different life experiences that would contribute to the diversity of perspectives on the programme.

Chanel and CISL are committed to improving access and enhancing diversity and inclusivity, and welcome candidates from all backgrounds, countries and life experiences who can demonstrate these criteria. We particularly welcome candidates working in social enterprise, start-up, or not-for-profit contexts.

This bursary is available to candidates who have applied for admission to the Master's via the standard application process, fulfil any admission conditions set by the University of Cambridge and receive an offer of admission to the Master's following the competitive selection process.

Bursary value

Funding is available for up to two exceptional candidates each year. The value of the bursary awarded will be 100% of the [Combined Graduate Fee](#). The amount awarded will be paid directly into the recipient's fee account (administered by CISL) in equal annual instalments and is not transferable.

Candidates should anticipate the need to cover any remaining costs incurred to fulfil the course requirements (such as subsistence, travel and accommodation) when attending residential workshops. However, we recognise that travel costs may be a barrier for international students, if this would present a barrier to attendance, additional support may be available and candidates should outline additional requests as part of the application process.

Application and selection process

To be considered for this bursary, candidates must have applied to the Master's through the standard admission process administered by the Institute for Continuing Education **by 27 January 2026**.

Once the standard application has been submitted, candidates must also complete the following [bursary application form](#) where they will be asked to outline:

- financial barriers to accessing the programme
- personal, physical or socio-economic factors that have impacted your ability to meet your potential
- how your life experiences or background could contribute to diversity of perspective
- what difference the bursary funding would make to your current personal or professional trajectory.

Please note that when completing the form applicants should not resend any documentation submitted as part of their application for admission. The documents provided for the bursary will not be considered as part of the process to determine whether an offer of admission will be made. Only bursary applications from candidates who may potentially receive offers of admission will be processed fully. Further information and/or supporting evidence may be requested.

There will be no obligation to award a bursary if no eligible candidate is selected.

Candidates who receive admission offers, but do not receive written confirmation of the award of a bursary, are still eligible to join the course, but would need to provide confirmation of adequate financial support from other sources to cover the full fees and costs (as is the case for all other candidates).

Timeline

Although admission decisions are made on a rolling basis, bursary applications will only be reviewed once all offers have been made. We expect candidates to be invited for virtual bursary interviews and receive notification of a decision in June, however confirmation of the award of a bursary is subject to the admission offer being confirmed, with all conditions met.

Following receipt of a bursary

Each bursary recipient may be put in contact with a Chanel representative for liaison purposes if desired.

There is no requirement to pursue a research topic that is relevant to Chanel to receive the bursary, however bursary recipients may be invited to share the findings of their research or assignments with Chanel.

We also invite recipients to share information about their experience on the course for the benefit of potential future students, which may be used by CISL and Chanel for print and online.

Termination of an individual bursary

A bursary may be terminated if an individual is found to be in violation of the Statutes or Regulations of the University, or of the terms of the offer letters issued to the scholar, or is convicted of any offence against the laws of England and Wales, or is unable to continue their studies at the University for any reason whatsoever, including having made unsatisfactory progress as determined by the University.

About Chanel

Chanel is a private company and a world leader in creating, developing, manufacturing and distributing luxury products. Founded by Gabrielle Chanel at the beginning of the last century, the company believes in cultivating human potential and having a positive impact in the world. Chanel works with a range of social organisations and actively supports different communities, recognising that varied life experiences can bring a breadth of perspectives and feed the spirit of responsible leadership.

This bursary forms part of a multi-year strategic partnership between Chanel and CISL focused on education, leadership, and innovative operational projects.