

# CISL Sustainability Leadership Access Bursary

## Master of Studies in Sustainability Leadership (flexible and continuous route)

### 2026-28

*Closing date for applications: 27 January 2026*

#### Overview

The [Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership](#) (CISL) aims to empower individuals and organisations to take leadership in tackling critical global challenges.

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.

By providing a partial bursary to MSt in Sustainability Leadership students, CISL hope to provide the support required which may otherwise prevent a student from taking such an opportunity to develop real leadership confidence and skills in responding effectively to the economic, social and environmental challenges facing the world and lead others to achieve positive change.

This has been made available in part through the generosity of alumni and teaching colleagues who wish to support sustainability leaders of the future otherwise unable to fund their studies.

#### Eligibility Criteria

We recognise the importance of diversity of perspective and experience within our cohorts and seek to optimise the diversity of cohorts to the benefit of all our students. In particular we welcome applicants who have experienced social, economic or educational disadvantage, with an express objective of ensuring that the bursary is used to enable applications from disadvantaged backgrounds to access the opportunity of study with us. We will particularly consider:

- UK citizen from ethnic minorities
- Citizens of a country in the [DAC list of ODA recipients](#)
- Candidates who are under-represented at Cambridge including but not limited to; refugees or asylum seekers, carers, care-leavers, individuals with a disability
- Candidates who can demonstrate a case for financial need, including applicants from low-income backgrounds, low-income countries or without access to company or other sources of funding.

Applications are welcome from any candidate, irrespective of gender, nationality, or geographical location. There are no restrictions on citizenship, country of residence or fee status.

This bursary is available to candidates who apply for admission to the Master's (either the continuous route or the flexible route stage 3) via the standard application process, receive an offer of admission to the Master's following the competitive selection process and fulfil any admission conditions set by the University of Cambridge.

### Bursary Value

The value of bursaries awarded may be up to 50% of the [Combined Graduate Fee](#). The amount awarded will be paid directly into the recipient's fee account (administered by CISL) in one instalment at the start of the course and is not transferable. Recipients must be able to pay any remaining fees, meet the accommodation, food and travel costs associated with attending the residential weeks, and cover any others costs that may be incurred to fulfil the course requirements, e.g. undertaking research.

### 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
- any other funding opportunities you have investigated, including employer support
- supporting factors relating to under-representation, social, economic or educational disadvantage
- how your life experiences or background could contribute to diversity of perspective
- what impact you anticipate in your professional / personal life from the programme and how you hope to implement your learning from the programme.

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 candidates are 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 will review bursary application forms in Spring and may invite candidates to a virtual interview following this review. We aim to notify candidates 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, including confirmation of adequate financial support from other sources to cover any remaining portion of the fees and other costs.

### Expected Commitments

The beneficiary will be required to submit a short report on their course experience outlining the impact of the bursary on their Cambridge experience for use (print and online) by CISL.

### 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, or is convicted of any offence against the laws of England and Wales, or is unable to continue his/her studies at the University for any reason whatsoever, including having made unsatisfactory progress as determined by the University.