

KI Fellowship Program 2026

Fields: Social Sciences and Humanities

Destinations: North America, Europe, and Other Regions

Duration: July – December 2026

In Partnership with

Student Square

Programme Overview

The KI Fellowship Program 2026 is a structured, end-to-end support initiative of the Khaldun Initiative, delivered in partnership with Student Square. The Programme is designed to guide aspiring graduate students in Bangladesh through the higher education application process. It targets individuals committed to pursuing postgraduate study in the social sciences and humanities at universities in North America, Europe, and other international destinations.

The Fellowship recognises that the primary barriers to graduate study abroad are not intellectual but **financial and navigational**. It therefore combines direct financial support with rigorous academic preparation, personalised mentorship, and peer community-building. The Programme is open both to applicants who require financial assistance and to those who seek structured guidance through the application process.

The 2026 cycle runs from late July to late December, anchored by an Opening Retreat and a Closing Retreat, with all programme activities conducted in the intervening months.

Programme Components

The KI Fellowship Program 2026 comprises four integrated components:

1. Opening and Closing Retreats

The programme is bookended by two residential or semi-residential retreats. The Opening Retreat in late July formally launches the Fellowship, orients participants to the programme structure, and initiates intellectual community among cohort members. The Closing Retreat in late December marks the conclusion of the application cycle, offering a space for collective reflection, documentation of outcomes, and network consolidation.

2. Master Classes (Three Sessions)

Three targeted Master Classes will be conducted between August and October 2026, each addressing a distinct dimension of the graduate application process:

- **Communicating with Professors:** Participants will develop the skills to write effective, professional emails to prospective supervisors, negotiate research fit, and build early academic relationships that support their applications.
- **Statement of Purpose (SOP):** Participants will learn to craft compelling, academically grounded personal statements tailored to their chosen programmes and institutions.
- **Letters of Recommendation (LOR):** This session covers how to identify, approach, and cultivate relationships with referees, and how to provide referees with the information necessary to produce strong, targeted letters.

Each Master Class will be interactive, drawing on experienced alumni, academic practitioners, and subject experts.

3. Guided Mentorship

Each participant will be paired with a dedicated mentor for the duration of the programme. Mentors will work with participants through three structured, iterative sessions spanning August through November. Mentorship is designed not as a one-off consultation but as a sustained, evolving relationship that aligns application materials with programme expectations, supports timeline management, and provides feedback across successive drafts.

4. Funding Support

The Fellowship offers a targeted financial scholarship to cover direct application costs, including fees for standardised tests (GRE, TOEFL, IELTS) and university application fees. The scholarship is awarded to candidates who demonstrate strong academic potential and full commitment to programme activities and timelines.

Programme Timeline: July – December 2026

All core activities are scheduled between the Opening Retreat (late July) and the Closing Retreat (late December). The timeline below outlines the sequence, rhythm, and focus of each phase.

Period	Activity / Milestone	Component
Late July (25–27 July)	Opening Retreat Formal launch, cohort orientation, intellectual framing seminars, scholarship announcement	Opening Retreat
August (Week 1–2)	Mentor matching and first mentorship session Goal-setting, application strategy, materials audit	Guided Mentorship (Session 1)
August (Week 3–4)	Master Class I: Communicating with Professors Email outreach to prospective supervisors, establishing research fit, professional correspondence	Master Class I – Professors
September (Week 3–4)	Master Class II: Statement of Purpose Crafting the SOP, programme fit, narrative structure	Master Class II – SOP
October (Week 1–2)	Second mentorship session SOP draft review, application materials, institutional shortlisting	Guided Mentorship (Session 2)
October	Master Class III: Letters of Recommendation Identifying referees, briefing referees, managing timelines	Master Class III – LOR
November (Weeks 1–4)	Application finalisation and mentorship session (3) Final document review, submission tracking, deadline management	Guided Mentorship (Session 3)
Ongoing (Aug – Nov)	Funding Support disbursement GRE / TOEFL / IELTS registration and university application fees	Funding Support

<p>Late December(19 –21 Dec)</p>	<p>Closing Retreat Reflection, outcome documentation, network strengthening, community celebration</p>	<p>Closing Retreat</p>
---	--	-------------------------------

Eligibility and Selection

The KI Fellowship Program 2026 is open to prospective graduate students in Bangladesh who meet the following criteria:

- Intend to apply for postgraduate programmes (Master’s or PhD) in the social sciences or humanities at universities in North America, Europe, or other international destinations in the 2026–2027 application cycle.
- Demonstrate strong academic potential and readiness to engage actively with all programme components.
- Are available to participate in both the Opening Retreat (late July) and the Closing Retreat (late December), as well as the scheduled Master Classes and mentorship sessions throughout the cycle.
- For scholarship applicants: demonstrate that financial constraint is a primary barrier to application, and commit to full participation in programme activities.

Applications from individuals who do not require financial support but seek structured guidance are also welcomed.

Broader Purpose

The Khaldun Initiative’s Graduate Application Support Program seeks to build a small but committed academic community in which no aspiring scholar has to navigate the path to graduate education alone. By integrating financial assistance, structured learning, and personalised mentorship within a coherent programme cycle, the KI Fellowship aims to make the graduate application journey more intentional, better informed, and ultimately, in service of a broader commitment to knowledge and the Ummah.