The FirstRand Foundation has entered into a partnership with the University of Cambridge as part of its new Global Leaders’ scholarship programme. The aim of the project is to allow outstanding South African students to undertake postgraduate study at one of the world’s foremost universities. Preference will be given to previously disadvantaged students.

The FirstRand Foundation, in collaboration with Canon Collins Educational and Legal Assistance Trust and the University of Cambridge, will provide full funding for one student each year for five years to study a one-year Master’s degree at the University of Cambridge across a wide range of subjects including those relevant to further development of the country.

Sizwe Nxasana, Chairman of the FirstRand Foundation explained that*: “South Africa needs passionate youngsters to expand their skills base and return home to make a difference here”.* This scholarship is designed to do just that.

FirstRand and Canon Collins Trust will jointly conduct the interviewing and selection process that will run concurrently with the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship for international postgraduate study; a scholarship that is awarded annually based on academic excellence, leadership ability, community involvement and the candidate’s potential to be a destiny changer.

*“The candidates that we interviewed are blessed with the finest intellects I have encountered anywhere. They all have excelled academically, have strong leadership characteristics and have contributed to the upliftment of people less fortunate than themselves. It is an extremely rewarding and humbling experience conducting the interviews. I have learnt that we have phenomenally talented young people in South Africa.”*

~ Laurie Dippenaar, Chairman, FirstRand.

FirstRand, Canon Collins Trust and Cambridge are looking for the best applicants who will benefit from the opportunity and contribute towards positive change in South Africa on their return. The Global Leaders programme will not only provide support for scholars during their year in Cambridge, but will continue to do so after graduation to ensure students have contacts and opportunities when they come back home.

Global Leaders will be based at Clare Hall, Cambridge University’s most international college, and will educate over 100 students across an initial five-year programme from the developing and emerging world. Global Leaders is working with charitable, corporate and governmental institutions worldwide to help foster the empowerment of young men and women, with a particular emphasis on Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The University currently educates very few students from these regions and the intention of Global Leaders is to change this. This exciting new scholarship will allow disadvantaged students to develop their full potential in the international academic atmosphere at Cambridge University.

**Applications for the FirstRand/Canon Collins Scholarship to Cambridge and the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for international postgraduate Study for 2015 will open on 16 December 2014 and close on 26 February 2015.**

Cambridge graduate applications will be accepted from 1 September 2015. It is recommended that all Cambridge applications are completed by 31January 2015.

All information and application forms will be on the FirstRand website, www.firstrand.co.za, and the Canon Collins Trust website, [www.canoncollins.org.uk](http://www.canoncollins.org.uk), from end November 2014.

The Canon Collins Educational and Legal Assistance Trust was founded in 1981. It is named in honour of Canon John Collins, a keen campaigner for freedom, equality and social justice. Originally established to aid exiles from South Africa with skills and education, the trust now focuses on the provision of scholarships, production of legal research, public advocacy for marginalised communities and projects in public interest law and education. It is committed to widening access to education at all levels, applying academic research to development issues, and fostering and supporting future leaders throughout southern Africa.

For more information on Cambridge University’s Global Leaders programme, go to: www.global-leaders.co.uk