

Barcelona GSE Alumni & Friends Merit Award

Purpose

The Barcelona GSE aims to attract the most talented candidates to study in our Master's programs. The Alumni & Friends Merit Award is a new tuition waiver that has been created to expand the existing merit-based financial aid offer in order to help achieve this objective.

In addition, the Merit Award will provide an opportunity for the Barcelona GSE community to participate in the selection of merit-based financial aid recipients.

Donors

Any person connected to the Barcelona GSE community can donate to the Merit Award. This includes, but is not limited to: current students, alumni, staff, professors, relatives, and sponsors.

Donations

Donations can be made at any time of the year through the online donation platform. The minimum amount accepted through the platform will be 5 EUR.

Additional opportunities and methods for making donations will include:

- Recurring donation option (coming soon)
- Donation of 1 EUR per item purchased in the Barcelona GSE online shop
- Purchase of tickets to designated community events

100% of the amount donated will go to the tuition waiver. Receipts will be available for donors who wish to make a tax-deductible donation.

Structure of the Waiver

The donation cycle will close on January 15th of each year. At that time, the total community contribution will be calculated, and the Barcelona GSE will add 1 euro for each euro donated by the community up to 9,000 EUR (half the amount of one full-tuition waiver).

Donations made after January 15th will be part of the community waiver to be allocated for the following admissions period.

Each Merit Award will be a full-tuition waiver. The number of Merit Award waivers disbursed will be determined as follows:

Amount contributed by the community	Number of full-tuition Alumni & Friends Merit Award waivers disbursed
Under 5,000 EUR	No waiver awarded. Donations rolled over to the next donation period.
5,000-9,000 EUR	1 full-tuition waiver awarded. Barcelona GSE will make up the difference if full tuition amount is not reached by matching community contributions.
9,001 EUR or more	1 full-tuition waiver awarded for each multiple of 9,000 EUR donated by the community. Remaining amount rolled over to the next donation period.

List of Candidates

On February 1st, the Admissions Committees for each of the 7 Master's Programs will identify two admitted applicants to be considered for the Alumni & Friends Merit Award tuition waiver.

This process will produce a list of 14 shortlisted Merit Award candidates for the Selection Committee's consideration.

Shortlisted candidates will be requested to submit a one-minute video to effectively apply for the Merit Award waiver. Videos must be received by February 4th.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will be formed by 7 individuals. These individuals will be informed that they have been made part of the Committee via email by January 20th. They will have until January 24th to confirm or decline their place on the Committee.

Every donor can specify if he/she wants to be part of the Selection Committee. Only direct donations for the waiver are eligible for this. Merchandising and events donors will not be able to participate in the Selection Committee (unless they have also donated directly through the online platform and indicated on that occasion that they wished to be considered).

If more than 7 individuals volunteer to be part of the selection committee, a random drawing will be made to select the committee members.

The members of the Selection Committee will be disclosed at the moment of the announcement of the Selected Candidate.

Selection of Candidate

Information Provided

On February 5th the Selection Committee will receive a list with the 14 candidates containing the following information:

- CV
- Statement of Purpose
- Video application for the waiver

Selection Process

Each member of the Selection Committee will choose 3 preferred candidates from the list and communicate this choice to the Barcelona GSE by February 15th.

The selections of all committee members will be tallied, and an ordered list of candidates by number of votes will be created. The results will remain confidential and may not be shared with the candidates.

The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be awarded the waiver. If two waivers are available, they will be awarded to the two candidates with the highest number

of votes, and so on. In case of a tie, a second round of selection considering only the tied candidates will take place.

The Barcelona GSE reserves the right to confirm the choice of the Merit Award recipient(s) and to overrule the Selection Committee's choice in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Awarding of Waiver

The Barcelona GSE will inform the Selected Candidate on February 20th. The candidate will have 7 days to accept the waiver and pay the reservation fee of 1,000 EUR to commit for the waiver.

If the candidate does not accept the waiver or cancels his/her enrollment in the Master's Program at any moment before course registration in September, the award will be offered to the next candidate on the ordered Candidates List.

The Candidate must fulfill all Master's Program entry requirements, including completion of the undergraduate degree, in order to receive the waiver. The waiver must be used during the academic year for which the Candidate has applied.

Important Dates	
January 15	Donation cycle closes for the admissions period
January 20	Selection Committee members informed
January 24	Deadline for Committee members to confirm or decline participation
February 1	Shortlisted candidates informed
February 4	Deadline for candidates to submit video application
February 5	Candidate shortlist and application materials sent to Selection Committee members
February 15	Deadline for Committee members to submit their votes
February 20	Recipient(s) informed by Barcelona GSE
February 27	Deadline for recipient(s) to accept the Merit Award and pay Master's reservation fee
June 1	Candidate and Selection Committee made public
September 1	Candidate matriculates in the Master's Program

Visibility of the Initiative

Donors

Each donor has the right to remain anonymous. Donors that do not wish to “remain anonymous” will appear in the webpage created for the community waiver purpose, ordered alphabetically and clearly marked as donors of the waiver for that particular period. Alumni information such as program and class year will be added.

Candidate

The candidate awarded will be disclosed by June 1st and clearly shown in the webpage of the waiver. The candidate will be part of the Barcelona Alumni Chapter Activities as the recipient of the Community waiver. Also the candidate will have a role in communication and School activities such as, but not limited to:

- Website interview
- Blog participation
- Alumni ambassador duties
- Profile and photo included in marketing and institutional materials

Progress

All donors will be informed of the progress of the awarded candidate during the Master’s Program and through the first position obtained after graduation.