



September 2020

Dear Scholar,

Let me warmly welcome you to the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program. We are absolutely delighted that you are a Mastercard Foundation Scholar. You were selected not only because of your academic achievements, but also because we see and believe in your leadership potential. Congratulations from all of us at the Foundation on your hard work and dedication. It has led you here.

So what does it mean to be a Scholar? It goes well beyond a scholarship. When you join the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, you become part of a family that is spread across the continent – and the world. A family that's made up of more than 35,000 young men and women like yourself, hailing from all across the world. Like a family, we walk with each other, support one another, and grow together. Through the Scholars Program, you'll be exposed to opportunities to volunteer, intern, and develop as a leader. Here, you will also build life-long relationships.

I encourage you to register on a unique Mastercard Foundation Scholars platform—Baobab—that will be crucial to building these relationships. Baobab is a social learning network created by Scholars and available to the entire community of university-level Mastercard Foundation Scholars. Please make full use of everything it offers to share your experiences, exchange ideas, and connect.

There is a wonderful and life-changing journey ahead of you. A journey of self-discovery, learning, and growth. The key to traveling well is to remain anchored in the values that led you here: humility, integrity, respect for others, compassion. Think deeply. Ask questions. Take the first step to build friendships. These values will prepare you not just for academic and professional careers, but for leadership.

Please feel free to share feedback about the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program. Email us at scholars@mastercardfdn.org. We are always willing to listen and consider new ways we can support you.

Once again, welcome to the family. I am thrilled that you are a Mastercard Foundation Scholar. I look forward to everything you are becoming and to all the good I know you will continue to contribute to our world.

In the meantime, stay well, safe, encouraged—and inspired.

With warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reeta Roy".

Reeta Roy
President and CEO, Mastercard Foundation