

The **Marifa** Fellowship

Applications Now Open

Building the next generation of values-led and impact-driven leaders – through world-class mentorship, professional development, real-world experiences and a community built to last.



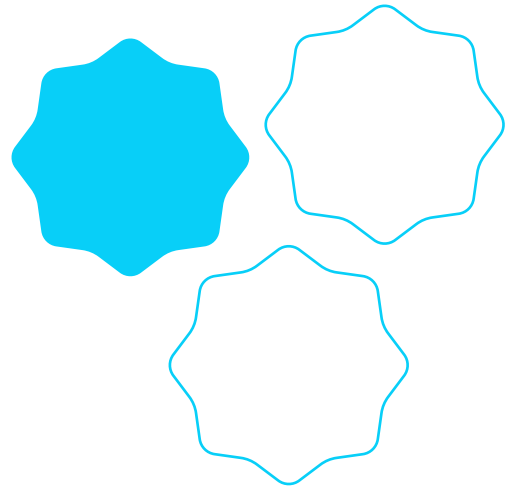
Ma'rifa: Experiential wisdom. Derived from Arabic, "ma'rifa" denotes deep understanding gained through reflection and lived experience.

SCAN FOR
APPLICATION

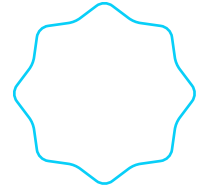


2026/2027 COHORT
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What is the Marifa Fellowship?



The Marifa Fellowship is a leadership and personal development programme for ambitious young people who want to make something of themselves – and something of the world around them.



The name says it all. Marifa – experiential wisdom. Not the kind of knowledge you find in a textbook, but the kind that only comes from doing, from reflecting, and from connecting with people who have travelled the road ahead of you.

We bring together university students from different disciplines and give Fellows access to what most programmes can't offer: real conversations with exceptional leaders, exposure to new ideas and opportunities, practical challenges that test thinking, and a peer group that pushes each other to be better.

Over ten months, from September to June, participants take part in monthly development sessions, exclusive fireside conversations with senior leaders, and a capstone trip to a global destination with a final challenge designed to enrich fellows in ways that other educational programmes never will.

And above all, Marifa is more than a programme, it is a community – one that doesn't end at graduation.



Why Marifa Exists



Too many talented young people are entering the toughest job market in a generation without the mentors, networks or opportunities that are crucial for their careers. They have the ability, but what's often missing is the door.

We at Marifa don't believe leadership is a personality type or a privilege of background. We believe it's a discipline — built through character, through service, through the willingness to grow and to bring others with you.

Our aim is straightforward: equip the next generation with the confidence, skills, relationships and exposure they need to lead with purpose – in their careers, their communities and beyond.

**Who Should
Apply?**





Marifa is open to current third- or fourth-year university students who are ideally based in the West of Scotland.



We are not looking for a polished CV. We're looking for people with leadership potential who are genuinely curious, willing to be challenged and committed to their growth.



If you want to build your confidence, expand your network and figure out what kind of leader you want to be — this programme is for you.

What Makes Marifa Different

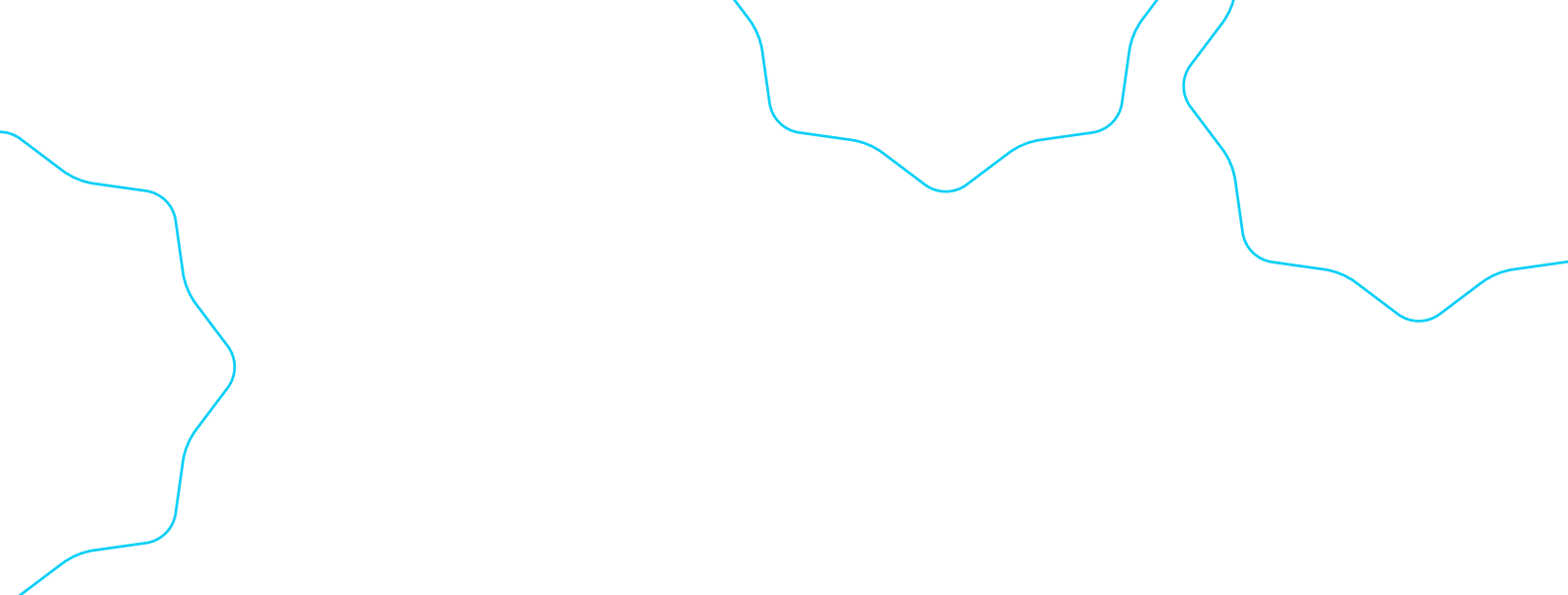


Access to people you wouldn't ordinarily meet

Every month, we bring in a senior leader, such as a CEO, entrepreneur, public sector or global executive, for a candid conversation with the cohort. No soundbites or script, but an intimate and candid dialogue of how they got to where they are today and what they've learned.

A cohort that challenges you

The people you're in the room with matter as much as the content. We carefully select each cohort to bring together individuals from different disciplines, backgrounds and ways of thinking because that's where the real learning happens.



Skills that actually transfer

Alongside meeting global leaders, we deliver carefully curated practical sessions on personal and professional development i.e. communication and presentation skills, public speaking, personal branding, purpose and resilience, financial literacy, professional networking.

Real challenges, real stakes

A final Capstone trip that takes the cohort to a global destination – London, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur – to present solutions to real problems, in front of a panel of CEOs and leaders who are living them.

Opportunities beyond the programme

Outstanding participants in the past have secured internship placements and employment through the mentoring connections and events accessed through the programme. These are earned, not given.

What does the Programme Include?



Opening Launch Day

A full day to bring the cohort together, set the tone for the year and start building the connections that will carry through the programme.



Monthly Development Sessions

Interactive workshops on leadership, communication, career readiness, personal finance and more — with activities designed to challenge your thinking, not just fill a notebook.



Networking Experiences

Structured opportunities to build your professional network — and the confidence to use it.



Capstone Trip and Graduation

The year concludes with a group trip to global city, industry visits, the Final Challenge showcase and a graduation ceremony to mark everything you've built over the year.



Leadership Firesides

Exclusive conversations with leaders from business, politics, media and community. Past speakers have included: Iqbal Khan (CEO, Fajr Capital); Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar (former CEO of Khazanah Nasional Berhad); Peter Gould; renowned designer and entrepreneur; and Rt Hon Humza Yousaf, former First Minister of Scotland, amongst others.

Programme Journey

2026/27

AUGUST

FOCUS

Launch Day

Building connections and beginning the journey. Alumni panel, team activities and a keynote fireside.

SEPTEMBER

FOCUS

Purpose & Priorities

Understanding yourself, your values and your direction. Leadership Fireside with a globally renowned individual.

OCTOBER

FOCUS

Preparing for Opportunity

Interview skills, personal branding and recruitment preparation. Workshop: Recruitment in Practice.

NOVEMBER

FOCUS

Global Careers and Leadership

Leadership Fireside with a globally renowned individual.

DECEMBER

FOCUS

Networking Dinner

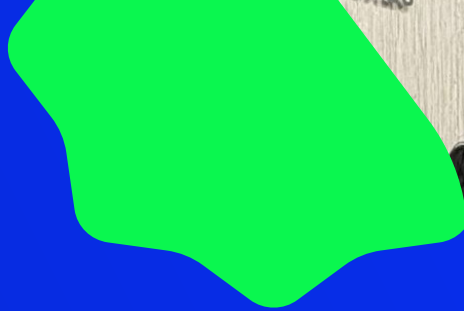
Putting skills into practice with senior professionals and business leaders.

JANUARY '27

FOCUS

Semester 2 Launch Day

Introducing the Final Challenge and the programme's leadership and impact phase.



FEBRUARY '27

FOCUS

Say It So People Listen

Presentation skills,
communication and influence.
Leadership Fireside with a
globally renowned individual.

MARCH '27

FOCUS

Mindset & Momentum

Resilience, motivation and
consistency. Leadership
Fireside with a globally
renowned individual.

APRIL '27

FOCUS

Final Challenge Preparation

Leadership Fireside
with a globally
renowned individual.

MAY '27

FOCUS

Final Challenge Preparation

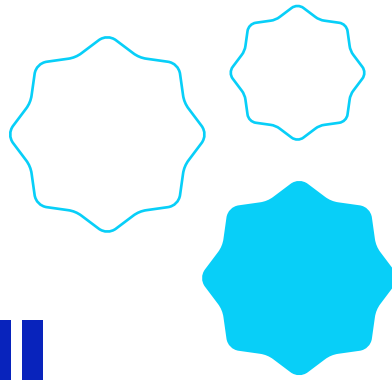
Preparations for
the Capstone Trip.

JUNE '27

FOCUS

Capstone Trip & Graduation

Final presentations, industry
visits, networking and
graduation ceremony.



What Will You Gain?

By the end of the programme,
you will have:





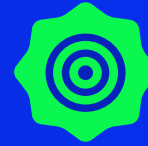
Confidence

Greater confidence in yourself and how you come across.



Resilience

Resilience, self-awareness and the tools to keep growing.



Clarity

A clearer sense of what you want and how to get there.



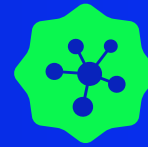
Skills

Practical leadership, communication and networking skills.



Insight

Experience learning directly from senior decision-makers.



Network

A stronger professional network you can actually use.



Friendships

Lifelong friendships built through shared challenges.



Achievement

A recognised achievement that signals genuine commitment.



Access

Access to the Marifa alumni network and future opportunities.

What Participants and Mentors Say



“I met a wonderful group of people this morning from Scotland called the Marifa Leadership Initiative. These are young people, young professionals, budding entrepreneurs – and their whole mission is about unleashing their potential. And they thought they were learning from me, but I was actually learning from them much more than they could imagine – because of their enthusiasm and because of their passion.”

David Vicary

Former President and CEO of INCEIF at
the 10th World Islamic Economic Forum
2014



“Marifa has genuinely been one of the most valuable experiences I’ve had, and it’s something I’ll never forget. The amount of time, effort, and commitment that everyone involved has put into making this what it is does not go unnoticed and is deeply appreciated.”

Marifa Fellow
Class of 2026



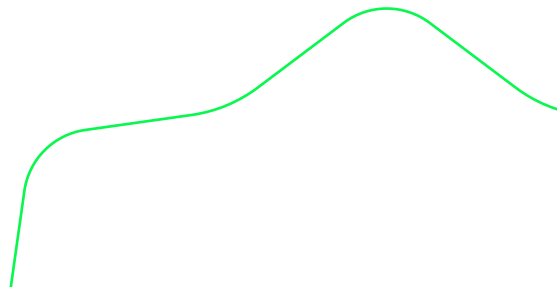
“Marifa has been one of the most valuable programmes I have taken part in during university. The combination of professional development, mentoring, networking opportunities and exposure to successful speakers helped me build both my confidence and career awareness.”

Marifa Fellow
Class of 2026



“The Marifa programme has been extremely invaluable. I have understood what I would like to pursue for my future career and personal development through conversations and advice provided on the course. I have also felt very valued and nurtured by the programme leaders and staff who have provided me with great opportunities and their constant efforts towards my development.”

Marifa Fellow
Class of 2026





Applications Now Open

If you're ambitious, curious, and ready to invest in your own development — **Marifa is worth your time.**

Join a cohort of people who are serious about where they're going, and a programme that's serious about helping you get there.

Applications for the 2026/27 cohort are **now open.**

Scan the QR code or visit
<https://bit.ly/MarifaApp> to apply