

CURIOUS VINES

Queena Wong

MMD UK Curious Vines Diploma Diversity Bursary 2026



30 April 2026. Curious Vines has partnered with MMD UK, supported by Champagne Louis Roederer, to create a **Diploma Diversity Bursary**. This initiative expands Curious Vines' ongoing efforts to cultivate a wine workforce reflective of today's diverse consumer demographics via education.

Applications are open to **UK-based wine professionals** from Black, Asian, and other minority ethnic backgrounds. Marginalised groups outside of those demographics who have faced barriers to their career progression may also apply.

The design of this bursary aims to overcome the key obstacles faced by those who may encounter barriers to enrolment or career progression. In addition to addressing the financial commitment, it provides dedicated study support and mentoring to guide the recipient through the breadth and intensity of the qualification, connecting them with tutors and study peers who are essential to successfully completing the journey.

One beneficiary will receive:

- Fully funded enrolment onto the two-semester WSET Diploma in Wine course starting September 2026.
- Mentoring from Erica Dent (Enjoy Discovering Wine) and Jim Gore (Global Wine Academy) throughout both Diploma semesters as well as enrolment onto their Diploma support workshops.

“While Curious Vines works to empower women in the sector, there is nothing that stops us from leading the way in helping others rise with us. This bursary embodies Curious Vines’ core commitment to equity, inclusion and connectivity, using education to uplift and retain existing diversity in the wine industry.”

Queena Wong – Founder, Curious Vines

“Champagne Louis Roederer have long believed in the importance of equality and inclusivity in building not only a healthier society, but also a stronger and more sustainable business. It is our aim with this educational bursary to help those meeting barriers to achieve progression within their career, to realise their dreams through education and mentorship.”

Frédéric Rouzaud– CEO, Champagne Louis Roederer

“Having witnessed the personal and professional progress and confidence the WSET Diploma brings to individuals, we are delighted to support this initiative. This bursary provides a valuable pathway to enabling the advancement and long-term retention of diversity within the wine industry, which is important to both of us.”

Erica Dent and Jim Gore

The bursary application can be accessed via [this link](#) with deadline 17.00hr Friday 15th May 2026. The bursary recipient will be selected jointly by Alex Beesley (Champagne Louis Roederer), Mags Jango (MJ Wine Cellars), Chinedu Rita Rosa (Vines by Rosa and Bordeaux Mentor Week) and Queena Wong (Curious Vines).

For further information on Curious Vines' initiatives for industry diversity and inclusion, please contact Queena Wong.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Details of Diploma Education Support and Mentoring

Erica Dent ([Enjoy Discovering Wine](#)) & Jim Gore ([Global Wine Academy](#)) will provide mentoring throughout both Diploma semesters and also enrolment onto the following of their support and workshops:

2026/27 Semester Diploma Support

D4 Sparking Wine Video plus a one to one session with Jim Gore

D5 [Fortified Wine Calibration Pack 12 wines and instructional video 2026](#)

2027/28 Semester Diploma Support

[D3 Match Fit Theory](#) enrolment February 2027 or July 2027

[D3 Calibration pack enrolment - 18 wines and instructional video 2027](#)

D3 Theory Marking one-to-one with Erica Dent DipWSET: At least ten mock papers will be provided, each with detailed feedback and opportunities for remarking until a Distinction-level standard is achieved.

About Champagne Louis Roederer

MMD is the UK subsidiary of Champagne Louis Roederer.

Champagne Louis Roederer is renowned for their commitment to sustainability, their innovative farming and winemaking techniques and the extraordinary quality of their wines.

Such unwavering dedication has resulted in their being recognised as the World's Most Admired Champagne Brand for an unprecedented 7 consecutive years. Furthermore, they are proud to have been honoured with a Royal Warrant by King Charles III.

Though one of the smallest Grande Marques, Louis Roederer farms the largest organic vineyard area in the region, with a total of 135ha of the 250-hectare estate being certified. Across 7 generations of family ownership the emphasis has remained on the quality of estate grown fruit, and a philosophy of 'Haute Couture' viticulture.

<https://www.louis-roederer.com>

About Curious Vines

Curious Vines is a UK-wide community for women and non-binary professionals working across the wine industry. Its work centres on two core pillars—**Community and Connectivity**, and **Education and Development**—focused on improving diversity across the sector. Curious Vines also supports individuals from marginalised and underrepresented backgrounds, partnering with Equal Measures UK to help create pathways into the wine industry and collaborating with MMD UK with Champagne Louis Roederer to deliver supported Diploma-level education opportunities. Through all its initiatives, Curious Vines aims to help build a workforce that better reflects contemporary consumer demographics while encouraging fresh thinking to future proof the category of wine. Curious Vines was founded and is led by Queena Wong.

www.curiousvines.co.uk

Instagram @curious.vines

[LinkedIn: Queena Wong](#)

About Enjoy Discovering Wine

Enjoy Discovering Wine is an award-winning Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) Approved Programme Provider (since 2007), of virtual and classroom-based (Hampshire, UK) wine qualifications.

Specialising in [WSET Level 3](#) and [WSET Level 4 Diploma](#) in Wines, supporting both personal interest, and professional development within the hospitality and drinks industry. Delivering a proficient, engaging, and personalised approach to learning.

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About Global Wine Academy

Jim Gore founded the Global Wine Academy in 2018 to offer additional courses to wine students and enthusiasts. As well as the Tasting Masterclasses and Theory Workshops delivered by the GWA, Jim also teaches Diploma students at WSET Approved programme Providers around the world, including the [WSET School London](#), [Enjoy Discovering Wine](#) in Winchester, [AWSEC](#) in Hong Kong, [Restaurangakademien](#) in Stockholm, [Esprit de Vins](#) in Macon and soon [The Wine Studio](#) in Madrid. He has also been part of the WSET Educator Programme teaching staff, preparing educators to deliver WSET courses worldwide.