



Wells Mountain Foundation

WMF Scholarship Information and Frequently Asked Questions

Our website has been picked up by many scholarship sites and some of those sites have posted wrong information. To prevent anyone from wasting time applying when there is little to no chance of receiving a scholarship, we are issuing these guidelines to clarify our requirements.

First of all – We do not require the applicant to pay an admission or processing fee or to buy a number to have the application reviewed. If someone contacts you saying a fee is required, please forward that email to wmfscholars@wellsmountainfoundation.org. We would very much like to prosecute this fraud. All you need to do to apply for a scholarship is to send us a complete 2012 application. The application form is on our website, which is www.wellsmountainfoundation.org

Our Ideal Candidate – A student, male or female, from a country in the developing world, who:

- successfully completed a secondary education, with good to excellent grades
- will be studying in their country or another country in the developing world
- plans to live and work in their own country after they graduate
- has volunteered prior to applying for this scholarship and/or is willing to volunteer while receiving the WMF scholarship
- may have some other funds available for their education, but will not be able to go to school without a scholarship
- submits a complete, legible 2012 application in English (please proof-read). Because we receive so many applications, **incomplete applications will not be considered.**

What we can pay for (our scholarships range from \$300.US to a rare high of \$3000.US):

- tuition and fees
- books and materials
- room rent and meals

We do not fund :

- education at a college, polytechnic or university in the United States, UK, Australia, or Europe (with one exception – see question #2 below). Education in these countries, while excellent, is too expensive for our scholarship amounts to be effective.
- Masters or Doctorate degrees – we prefer to use our limited resources to assist young people in getting their initial tertiary degree. A medical degree, however, is acceptable.
- laptop computers, conferences or trips
- debts or past due tuition bills

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: You ask for two recommendations. What do you mean by that?

A: We need two letters written by someone who knows you, but is not a family member, who can tell us why you deserve to receive a WMF scholarship. What qualities do you possess that will make you an excellent student, a successful graduate and a responsible citizen who will give back to his or her country? These letters of recommendation may come from a teacher, a religious leader, volunteer supervisor, or an employer.

2. Q: What if I study in the UK, US, Europe or Australia, but promise to go back to my country after I graduate?

A: That is fine, but you will not be eligible for a WMF scholarship! The reason we do not fund an education in the UK, US, Europe or Australia is because our scholarships would provide only a fraction of the educational costs in those countries, but can cover almost all educational costs in developing nations. We feel it is a better use of our resources. We do make one exception to this rule. We have a special relationship with Bergen Community College in Paramus, NJ, USA and do accept scholarship applications from foreign students studying there.

Q: If I receive a WMF scholarship, is it guaranteed for the length of my degree program?

A: Generally speaking, yes. But, you must maintain good grades, submit a semester report and your grades each semester to WMF.

3. Q: For what fields of study do you provide scholarships?

A: All fields, although we tend to favor helping professions such as health care, social work, education, social justice, as well as, professions that help the economy and progress of the country such as computers, engineering, agriculture and business.

4. Q: Where do I get an application and can it be sent to WMF electronically?

A: You may download a scholarship application from our website www.wellsmountainfoundation.org. It can be submitted electronically by scanning the pages and then emailing them. Of course, it can be sent by post/mail, which is our preference, since many times we cannot open students' attachments or the files arrive corrupted. We require a photo, which can also be scanned and emailed. All of our correspondence is sent via email, so scholarship recipients will need an email address. **Please print or type your email address clearly on your application!** Otherwise, we are unable to contact you if we cannot read your email address. **Be sure to use the most current form, which is the 2012 Scholarship Application form.** It is posted on our website. Other websites, as mentioned above, may have old copies of our application. If you submit an application on an old form, you will be asked to re-do it on a new form, as we have changed some of the questions and requirements.

5. Q: Must I have been accepted to a school before I apply for the scholarship?

A: You can apply before you receive your official acceptance letter, but you will not be awarded a scholarship until you are accepted. When you receive your acceptance letter, send us a copy and we will attach it to your application. In the subject line of the email when you send this or any additions to your application, type "application addition".

6. Q: How will I know if you received my application?

A: You will get an email acknowledgement when we receive your application by mail/post or email. This will indicate that we received it, but will not inform you whether or not any required information or documents are missing. It is the applicant's responsibility to be sure a complete application is submitted. **Incomplete applications will not be considered for a scholarship!** Be careful to send us everything

7. Q: Does my application have to be in English?

A: Yes. If a recommendation letter is not in English, a verified translation must be provided along with the original recommendation in the foreign language.

8. Q: Will the scholarship cover all my expenses?

A: Probably not. Our scholarship range is from \$300 to \$3000 a year, although we award very few at the \$3000 level. If your costs exceed \$3000 and you have absolutely no other way to make up the difference, we recommend you do not apply for one of our scholarships. Also, it is not wise to inflate your expenses, as you will cause us to think that our scholarship will not be enough to meet your needs. We will then award it to a student whose needs can be met by a scholarship within our range of \$300 to \$3000/ yr.

9. Q: When is the deadline to apply for a scholarship?

A: There is only one deadline a year and that is April 1. We review all applications and notify the new scholarship recipients via email around August 1. We will also post the names of the new WMF scholarship recipients on our website by August 1. Those not receiving a scholarship will not be individually notified. We wish we could communicate with all of you individually, but the number of applicants is just too great.

10. Q: Should I send in my application electronically and by mail/post to be sure that you receive it?

A: Please don't! If you do not receive an email acknowledgement from us within two weeks of your sending in the application, please email us and ask if we have received it before you send in another one. Sending in multiple copies of the same application only wastes paper, clogs up our in box and wastes time as we try to determine if it is the same as the one received before or if new information has been added. Also, in many countries the applicants have three or four names. When corresponding with us, please use the same combination of names, so we can access the correct information.

11. Q: Must I send in grades?

A: Yes. We require an official transcript from secondary school and from any tertiary school classes you have already completed. Be sure the transcript contains a key to interpreting the grades, as different countries use different systems of assessing the quality of the student's academic progress. Do not include grades from primary level.

12. Q: Will my application actually be read?

A: Yes, absolutely. When an application comes in, we first send an acknowledgement to the applicant that we received it. Next, we check it for completeness. If something is missing, it goes in the elimination pile and is not considered. If it is complete, it moves on to the next level. Each application is then read thoroughly and rated by a team of reviewers. The applications receiving the top five scores from each reviewer move on to the next level. These applications are then reviewed by the WMF scholarship committee and rated again. The top scorers move on to the next and final level. In selecting our final candidates, we strive to balance gender, and try to have a variety of fields of study and countries represented.