APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

IMMIGRANTS RISING
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

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Scholarships and fellowships are a great way to pay for college tuition and other expenses. You might wonder, what's the difference between scholarships and fellowships?

Scholarships are generally funds for students attending educational institutions for the purpose of study at the undergraduate or graduate level. They can be awarded based on merit, financial need, grades, community service, major, class level, city or county of residence, and more.

Fellowships are generally funds for students (or non-students) for the purpose of professional or career development. They can support a variety of things, including study in a specific field, research to advance work on a particular issue, development of a new community-based organization or initiative, training to support a fellow's growth, opportunities to further explore a particular field of work, and more.

Invest in Yourself

Scholarships are free money to pay for school! If a scholarship is worth $1,000 and you spend 10 hours writing an essay and submitting your scholarship application, it can result in $100 per hour invested.

Fellowships can provide you with leadership and professional development, as well as financial compensation for your work. Think of them as excellent opportunities to explore career fields, while developing your skills and building networks to support your academic and professional goals.

Most scholarships and fellowships have similar prompts, so you can rework the same essay for each application you submit. Use our Scholarship or Fellowship Essay Worksheet to improve your essays and ability to receive multiple awards.

Getting Started

There are many scholarships and fellowships that do not require proof of citizenship. Use Immigrants Rising's Scholarship and Fellowship Lists along with additional databases to identify those that you are eligible to apply for. Our lists have about 500 scholarships and 100 fellowships open to undocumented folks, so there's something out there for you!

Use our Scholarship & Fellowship Search Chart to list the ones you are eligible for–including deadlines–and create an action plan today.

Immigrants Rising Scholarship & Fellowship Lists

We offer four different scholarship and fellowship lists:

Undergraduate Scholarship List: immigrantsrising.org/resource/undergraduate-scholarships

Undergraduate Fellowship List: immigrantsrising.org/resource/undergraduate-fellowships

Graduate Scholarship List: immigrantsrising.org/resource/graduate-scholarships

Graduate Fellowship List: immigrantsrising.org/resource/graduate-fellowships

Additional Databases

Check out these additional databases of scholarships and fellowships available for undocumented young people:

Best Colleges: bestcolleges.com/resources/undocumented-students/internships-and-fellowships

Dreamers Roadmap: scholarships.dreamersroadmap.com

MALDEF: maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resources

My Undocumented Life: mydocumentedlife.org

Scholarships A-Z: scholarshipsaz.org

Silicon Valley Community Foundation: siliconvalleycf.org/scholarships

The College Expo: thecollegeexpo.org/resources/scholarships

Expand Access

Have you found other scholarships and fellowships that do require proof of citizenship or residency? Let scholarship and fellowship providers know that they are not required to ask applicants for proof of citizenship, residency, SSN, or work authorization. You can find more information in Immigrants Rising's Overview of Grants to Individuals.