

Welcome to the 2025 Wells Mountain Initiative (WMI) Scholars program application.

Introduction

The Wells Mountain Initiative (WMI) is a public charitable foundation based in Bristol, Vermont, USA, which has been approved under the United States Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3). WMI works to create social change through education and community building by providing bright young people in the developing world with student scholarships and skills training, building a network of grassroots leaders who are catalyzing community transformation.

Each year WMI provides support to students as they pursue various educational objectives. Support is provided for post-secondary school (university, polytechnic, trade school). Financial support primarily covers:

- Tuition and fees
- Books and course materials/supplies
- Accommodation and meals
- Transportation

The WMI scholarship does not always cover the full cost of tuition and associated educational expenses. Please note that it is not intended to be a full scholarship.

Scholarships are generally granted for the full period of study; however, recipients must maintain above-average grades, participate in 100 hours of community service per year, and meet WMI deadlines for submitting academic and community service reports.

- The academic report consists of semester grades, current school ledger, current academic calendar, a scholar expense tracker detailing how the scholarship funds were spent in the previous period together with receipts.
- The community service report details how the scholar was involved in community service activities, and scholars are required to attach photos of their community service activities to this report.

The scholarship can be discontinued anytime in the event of unsatisfactory performance, dishonesty or misuse of scholarship funds.

The scholarship awards are determined by volunteer reviewers and the Scholarship Committee of the Board of Directors and are awarded once a year on August 1.

Please note: You will be required to write personal statements and an essay.

- Ensure that the work that you submit fully originates from you. If you borrow ideas from another source, cite any quotations or references, or the essay will be deemed plagiarized.
- The use of AI-generated text or outline structures is not allowed.
- Using uncredited ideas, content created by other persons, and AI-generated text directly violates the scholarship application policy. Your personal statements and essay will be checked for plagiarism and the use of AI-generated text. Any applicants found to have plagiarized or used AI-generated content will be considered ineligible for a scholarship.

Eligibility Our ideal candidate is a student, male or female, from a country in the developing world who:

- Will be 35 years of age or younger as of August 1, 2025
- Has completed or is in the final year of secondary education, with above-average to excellent grades ^[1]_[SEP]
- Is applying to university or is currently enrolled and taking classes towards completion of their first undergraduate degree
- Will be studying in their home country or another country in the developing world
- Plans to live and work in their own country after graduation ^[1]_[SEP]
- Has participated in volunteer service before applying for this scholarship and is committed to volunteering within their community during their studies
- Has some funding available for their education but will not be able to go to university or continue without assistance. The

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Additional Details

- We highly recommend that you review the [WMI Scholars Program Information Flyer](#), [WMI Scholars Application Frequently Asked Questions Guide](#), and the [WMI Scholars Recommendation Letter Guidelines](#) documents on our website to assist you in preparing the most complete and competitive application possible.
- Applications must be received by March 1 each year to be considered for the following academic year. WMI Scholars are selected through an in-depth multi-step review process. The selected WMI Scholars will be emailed on August 1. Their names will also be published on our website homepage and the WMI Facebook page. Those who are not selected will also be notified after August 1.
- Please DO NOT type in all capital letters.
- Scholars planning to study in the United States, Canada, Australia, the UK, or Western Europe will not qualify for a WMI Scholarship.
- We won't consider applications sent by email. All applications must be submitted through the online application portal.
- Family members of WMI staff and of WMI Scholars are not eligible to apply.
- Applications must be received by 11:59 PM EST on March 1, whether mailed or submitted through our online scholarship application process via the website, to be considered for the next academic year.

You will need the following information to complete this application:

- Grade transcripts from schools attended
- National exam results, if applicable
- Tuition fees structure (can find on target school website if not accepted yet)
- Personal statements
 - Personal statement on your background
 - In 500 words or less, please write a personal statement about your background, including family and life experiences. Ensure that you describe the circumstances leading you to apply for this scholarship and why you believe you should be favorably considered.
 - Personal statement on the relevance of your field of study
 - In 500 words or less, please explain what inspired you to pursue your selected field of study. What makes you well suited to this field, and how would you like to use your degree to help your community, nation or region in the future?
- Essay question
 - 500 - 1000 word essay question
 - Essay prompt: If you were given \$1500 to fund a service project to support your community, what project would you propose? What issue would the project focus on and why is this issue relevant in your community? What makes this issue personally important to you? How does the issue relate to your field of study? Who would benefit from the project, and what impact would it have on you, your community, and your nation? How would you evaluate the success of the initiative? Provide 3-5 indicator matrices for monitoring and evaluation of the initiative. Please provide a detailed budget in USD for all anticipated expenses.
- Names and working email addresses of two recommenders
 - [Click HERE for Recommendation Guidelines](#)
- Headshot photo
- National ID or alternative form of ID
- [Click HERE for a PDF version of the application](#)

Opens: December 1, 2024 at 12:01AM EST

Closes: March 1, 2025 11:59PM EST

SECTION 1: PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide us with your personal contact information. Please DO NOT write in all capital letters (only capitalize the first letter)

Given name:

Family Name:

Email address:

Date of Birth – month/date/year

Eligibility

Do you plan to study in Australia, the US, Canada, the UK, or any countries in Western Europe? (Yes/No)

Are you seeking this scholarship for a Master's or PhD program? (Yes/No)

Have you completed a Bachelor's Degree? (Yes/No)

Additional Information:

What city do you live in?

What country do you live in?

Gender

Country of Origin

Primary Mobile Telephone

Secondary Mobile Telephone (Optional)

SECTION 2: FAMILY MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide us with the contact details of someone you trust. If we cannot contact you by the phone number(s) and email address you provided, we will try to contact this person. We will only contact him/her if we cannot reach you.

Family member contact full name: _____

What is their relationship to you? Please select from the options below.

- Mother Father Sister Brother Spouse
- Grandparent Uncle Aunt
- Other (Please specify): _____

Where does your family member live?

City:

Country:

Mobile telephone number:

Email address:

Confirm Email address:

SECTION 3: PROPOSED PROGRAM OF STUDY

This is your opportunity to share your tertiary education plans with us. All responses should be accurate and reflect your current situation as a student and an applicant to university. Please DO NOT apply if you plan to study in a developed country (US, Canada, UK, Western Europe, Australia, etc.) or seek a scholarship for secondary school, Master's or PhD degree. This scholarship opportunity is for students pursuing their first higher education degree (diploma, Bachelor's degree, Medicine and Surgery, etc.).

Program (subject) of study:

If Other, What is your Program of Study?

Please specify the level of your program of study

- Diploma
- Degree

Where do you plan to study?

Name of school:

City:

Country:

Website URL of your school:

Duration of Studies

Total duration of the program (start to finish in years):

What date will or did your studies begin (this is when you first attended university classes OR when you will first attend university classes, not when your next semester begins)?

What is your current enrollment status? Please select from the options below.

- Not yet accepted Accepted
- Currently enrolled and attending classes
- Began program of study, but currently in a dead year/not taking classes

If you are currently enrolled, how many years have you completed?

When do you expect to finish your required coursework? Please write a date in Month-Year form.

SECTION 4 FAMILY BACKGROUND

Marital Status Information

What is your current marital status? Please select from the options below.

- Single Married Widowed Divorced

What is the highest level of schooling your spouse completed? Please select from the options below.

- Primary Secondary Diploma Degree Master's PhD
- Unsure
- I do not have a spouse

Spouse's employment status. Please select from the options below.

- Self-employed part-time Self-employed full-time Employed part-time Employed full-time Casual labor Unemployed
- Retired Deceased
- I do not have a spouse

Spouse's average current monthly income (in USD-please convert using current exchange rate) _____

Spouse's current or last job/title (For example: primary school teacher, tailor, house help. etc.)

Children Information

How many children do you have?

Number of dependents - How many dependents are you responsible for? (any additional people who you provide financial support for, NOT including your spouse and children)

Parent Information

Are your parents alive? Yes

Only mother Only father

Both deceased

What is the highest level of schooling your mother completed? Please select from the options below.

Primary Secondary

Diploma Degree

Master's PhD

None Unsure

Mother's employment status. Please select from the options below.

Self-employed part-time or self-employed full-time

Employed part-time Employed full-time

Casual labor Unemployed Retired

Deceased

Mother's average current monthly income (in USD-please convert using current exchange rate) _____

Mother's current or last job/title (For example: primary school teacher, tailor, house help. etc.)

What is the highest level of schooling your father completed? Please select from the options below.

Primary Secondary Diploma Degree

Master's PhD None

Unsure

Father's employment status. Please select from the options below.

Self-employed part-time Self-employed full-time Employed part-time Employed full-time

Casual labor Unemployed Retired

Deceased

Father's average current monthly income (in USD-please convert using current exchange rate)

Father's current or last job/title (For example: primary school teacher, tailor, house help. etc.)

Do you have any siblings?

Yes

No

Are you the oldest sibling?

- Yes
- No

How many siblings are older than you?

SECTION 5: YOUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES

We understand that all applicants come from different financial backgrounds. We ask that you complete the following section honestly. Students selected for a WMI scholarship are chosen based on many aspects, not financial need alone. The WMI scholarship does not always cover the total cost of tuition and associated educational expenses. In this section, please detail how you will pay for the remainder of your academic expenses.

Do you have any prospects for employment part-time or otherwise while you are in school or between semesters, where you can earn income towards your educational costs?

- Yes (please explain) _____
- No

Our maximum scholarship is \$3000 USD, but we do not usually award that high an amount. If we provide less than the total yearly amount you have asked for in this scholarship application, is there any way you can make up the difference?

- Yes
- No

List all sources of income or support and the amount you expect to receive to help pay for your education from each source on an annual basis (in USD-please convert using current exchange rate)

Job:

Family:

Savings:

Awarded scholarships (do not include what you hope to receive from WMI):

Government loans:

Other loans:

TOTAL:

Have you received scholarships from any other organizations/institutions?

- Yes
- No

If you selected yes, please list the name and amount of each scholarship below.

Do you have debts with your university?

Yes No

How much debt do you currently owe your school?

SECTION 6: YOUR ACADEMIC COSTS

In this section, you will provide your best estimate of the costs for your academic program for ONE ACADEMIC YEAR. Please do not overestimate your financial costs; all calculations will be checked for accuracy in the final review stage.

Name of local currency:

Date the current exchange rate was calculated - month/day/year:

Please enter estimated costs in your local currency Tuition:

School fees, other than tuition. For example: lab fees, uniforms, activity fees: _____

Cost of accommodations:

Cost of meals:

Books & school supplies:

TOTAL:

Please enter estimated costs in US Dollars Tuition:

School fees, other than tuition. For example: lab fees, uniforms, activity fees:

Cost of accommodations:

Cost of meals:

Books & school supplies:

TOTAL:

SECTION 7: ABOUT YOU

Here is a chance to tell us more about your future and what you hope to do, which will help us learn more about you. Please provide a short answer on the lines provided.

What do you plan to do after you complete your education, including where you hope to live?

Do you know any current or past WMI Scholars?

- Yes
- No

If you selected yes, please provide the name(s) of the scholar(s) and what your relationship is.

Have you applied for a WMI scholarship in the past?

- Yes
- No

If you selected yes, please provide the years you applied: _____

SECTION 8: EDUCATION HISTORY

In this section, we will ask you to provide information on your past schools. Please enter your primary, secondary, and postsecondary school information.

Primary school name:

Location of school (city, country):

Year completed:

Secondary school name:

Location of school (city, country):

Year completed:

If you have started post-secondary education, please provide your school information below.

Post-secondary school name:

Location of school (city, country):

Year completed:

Level (Certificate, Diploma, Degree, etc):

SECTION 10: WORK/EMPLOYMENT HISTORY In this section, provide information on your current/past employment. If you do not have any current or past employment, you may skip this section.

Name of company/organization:

Employment Status. Please select from the options below

- Employed part-time
- Employed full-time
- Casual labor

Start date:

End date (if you are currently working here, write "current"):

Brief description of responsibilities:

Monthly salary (in USD-please convert using current exchange rate):

Name of company/organization:

Employment Status. Please select from the options below

- Employed part-time
- Employed full-time
- Casual labor

Start date:

End date (if you are currently working here, write "current"):

Brief description of responsibilities:

Monthly salary (in USD-please convert using current exchange rate):

Name of company/organization:

Employment Status. Please select from the options below

- Employed part-time
- Employed full-time
- Casual labor

Start date:

End date (if you are currently working here, write "current"):

Brief description of responsibilities:

Monthly salary (in USD-please convert using current exchange rate): _____

SECTION 11: VOLUNTEER HISTORY In this section provide information on your volunteer history.

Volunteer activity

Name of organization (if volunteering in an organization)

Brief description of responsibilities:

Start date - month/year:

End date - month/year (if you are currently volunteering here, write "current"):

Total hours volunteered (estimated):

SECTION 12: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR YOUR APPLICATION The following documents are required for your application to be complete

Personal Statements & Essay Question

Please provide responses to the two personal statements and an essay question. All documents must be your own work in English, cannot be created using AI and must meet the word count. Cite any quotations or references; please do not plagiarize another's work.

The personal statements are very important in the review process. Please do not fabricate your life experiences. We can tell.

The essay question is your opportunity to share your ideas and feelings regarding issues impacting you and your community.

- a) Personal statement on your background (500 words maximum)

Please write a 350 - 500-word personal statement about your background, including family and life experiences. Ensure that you describe the circumstances leading you to apply for this scholarship and why you believe you should be favorably considered.

- b) Personal statement on your chosen field of study (500 words maximum)

In 500 words or less, explain what inspired you to pursue your selected field of study. What makes you well suited to this field, and how would you like to use your degree to help your community, nation or region in the future?

The essay question allows you to share your ideas regarding issues impacting you and your community. (*Note: This is a hypothetical scenario and is not a funding request.*)

- Question: If you were given \$1500 to fund a service project to support your community, what issue would you focus on? Why is this issue relevant or ongoing in your community? What makes this issue personally important to you? How does the issue relate to your field of study? Who would benefit from the project, and what impact would it have on you, your community, and your nation? How would you evaluate the success of the initiative? Provide 3-5 indicator matrices for monitoring and evaluation of the initiative. Please provide a detailed budget in USD for all anticipated expenses.

Additional documents required

- Clear personal photo (similar to a passport photo).
- Official transcript of grades from secondary school, and if you have already completed one or more semesters at the tertiary level, it is required to submit an official grade report. Do not include grades from primary or junior high school.
- An official key or explanation to interpret your secondary AND tertiary grades (if applicable) issued by the institution. Ask your previous and current schools for a copy of this document. If they do not have an official version, you must provide a typed document with their seal and signature of authenticity.
- Results from your national exam.
- An official key to interpret your national exam results. Ask the national exam board for this document. If they do not have an official version, you will need to provide a typed document with their seal and signature of authenticity. For example, in some countries, "D" means below average, and in others, it stands for "Distinction".
- Official fee structure from your university (can be provided from the school's website if not yet accepted)
- Full names and contact details of two recommenders. Recommenders are people who know you, but are not family members, such as employers, teachers, clergy, volunteer group leaders, etc., who can tell us about your character and abilities. Please ensure that the email addresses provided within the application are correct. The application software company will contact your recommenders directly using these email addresses. Please note that your application will not be complete until we receive letters from both your recommenders.

Guidelines for Effective Application Recommendation Letters

Providing TWO recommendation letters written by different individuals is a requirement of the WMI program application. Please note, the entire application will be reviewed and evaluated as a whole. Letters of recommendation are one element that assists reviewers in learning more about the applicant from someone who knows him or her and his or her accomplishments well.

Tips for Those Writing Recommendation Letters for an Applicant

Letter Requirements

- Include the full name of the applicant.
- Indicate how long you have known the applicant.
- Describe the capacity and nature in which you have known the applicant.
- Most effective letters are not less than 400 words nor more than 500 words.
- Provide your letter on official stationery with your contact information listed, i.e.,
- phone number, WhatsApp number (if different), and email address.
- Please include your ink signature and date the letter. We do not accept recommendation letters that are more than a year old.

Suggested Areas to Write About

- Discuss why the applicant is a strong candidate for this specific scholarship. How does this applicant exemplify the personal qualities or selection criteria specified by the scholarship? Specific examples are critical.
- Discuss the applicant's personal characteristics, capacity to work with others in a team, leadership skills, commitment to their community/country, and communication skills.
- Comment on the applicant's proposed plan of study at the tertiary level and what past experiences witnessed by you that relate to the applicant's aptitude, retained interest, completion of a degree in the subject matter, and benefit given to society upon graduation within this program.
- From your perspective, how effective is the applicant in establishing and maintaining relationships.
- To what extent does the applicant possess the traits of motivation and persistence.
- Share documented evidence of the applicant's academic, leadership, or community service achievements.
- Does the applicant have any unique competencies, talents, or leadership abilities?