

## [AIAA Scholarships and Graduate Awards Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

### **I am interested in applying for more than one award/scholarship. Is that possible?**

Yes. Applicants may select a primary award and up to two secondary awards for which they would like to be considered. Please only select awards in your discipline(s).

### **What is the difference between a scholarship and a graduate award?**

A **scholarship** is a contribution made directly toward a student's education. The check will be made payable to a university to be applied to the student's next semester's tuition balance. A **graduate award** is meant to be a contribution toward a student's research in their graduate studies. As a result, graduate award monies are sent directly to the winning student and are counted as income for tax purposes.

### **Who determines the recipients of scholarships/graduate awards?**

It depends on the award. Awards sponsored by a technical committee provide their own evaluators, while AIAA Foundation Awards are reviewed by a Foundation Committee comprised of professional members representing diverse backgrounds. AIAA staff have no influence on the selection process, so please do not contact a staff member to ask about why an application may have been rejected.

### **If I am in my last semester of undergrad with plans to go to grad school, am I eligible to apply for an AIAA Foundation Graduate Award?**

No. You must have completed at least one quarter or semester of graduate coursework to receive a graduate award. Please refer to the [eligibility requirements](#) for further information. You must also have at least one semester remaining to be eligible to receive the award at the time of the offer. In the past, exceptions have been made to this rule. However, no exceptions will be made in 2022 or beyond.

### **I didn't receive the scholarship/graduate award I applied for or I am not eligible at this time. Can I apply again?**

Yes, you may apply again the next year if you still meet eligibility requirements.

### **If I am on a full-ride scholarship at my University. Can I still get an AIAA scholarship?**

No. These scholarships are meant to provide financial aid and supports to students who do not already have access to those resources.

### **I am a current undergraduate student in my second to last semester. Will I be able to apply for an AIAA Foundation Scholarship?**

If your last semester is the following fall, then YES! You are eligible to apply as awards will be given over the summer in time for the following semester. However, if your last semester is the coming spring you will not be eligible to apply because we will have no tuition to apply the funding against and no coursework to support.

### **I am a high school student that has been admitted to a college and plans to pursue a career in aerospace engineering. I would like to apply for an AIAA Foundation scholarship. Am I eligible?**

No. High school students cannot apply because the eligibility requirements state that you must have at least one semester of undergraduate coursework completed. Dual Enrollment/AP/IB coursework is ineligible, even if accompanied by a college transcript.

**I attend school outside the United States and would like to apply for a scholarship or graduate award. Is this possible?**

Only a certain number of awards are available to international students studying outside the U.S.A. Students and institutions located in North Korea, Crimea, Syria, Cuba, Venezuela, and the Islamic Republic of Iran are not eligible to receive cash awards or scholarship payments at this time.

Non-U.S. based students may apply for the following awards:

- Orville & Wilbur Wright Graduate Award (USD \$5,000) – 2 available
- Luis De Florez Graduate Award (USD \$3,500) – 1 available
- Denise Ponchak Digital Avionics Scholarship (\$3,000) - 1 available

**As an international student, how can I be sure my G.P.A. meets the stated criteria?**

We understand that grading systems may differ from country to country. Therefore, please record your G.P.A. in the box provided and list it in the following manner “xxx/xxx” – for example, 20.0/25.0

**I am a non-U.S. citizen pursuing a degree at a US-accredited school. Am I eligible to receive a scholarship or graduate award?**

Yes. Provided you meet the other [eligibility requirements](#), you may apply as long as you are attending a U.S.-accredited school.

**I have attended more than one school. Do you need transcripts from all schools I have attended?**

Yes. The selection rules require transcripts showing a complete picture of an applicant’s academic career. If you are applying for a graduate award, please only submit graduate transcripts.

**Graduate Awards require a research plan. Does the page limit include or exclude references?**

The page limit includes references.

**How is “cumulative G.P.A.” defined?**

Cumulative G.P.A. is the grade-point average you have achieved over an entire course of study, including previous schools you attended. For example, if you attended UCLA and then transferred to UCSD to complete your undergraduate degree, your cumulative G.P.A. is the combined G.P.A. from both schools up to this point.

**When will winning candidates get notified?**

AIAA staff will notify winning candidates in the summer following the close of scholarship & graduate award application acceptance, however, this is dependent on the review committee’s schedule.

**What are the most common reasons applications are disqualified?**

Applications are commonly disqualified for the following reasons:

- Not enough references – it is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that their references submit letters. References must submit their letters online via the online application system. If you need to change a reference, please write to [scholarships@aiaa.org](mailto:scholarships@aiaa.org)
- Cumulative G.P.A. does not match requirements
- Transcripts are incomplete

**When do I need to have all my completed materials submitted?**

Please ensure you complete your application by 11:59pm EST on 31 January – **this includes reference letters**. Please be sure to check with your references to make sure they submit their letters on time and are aware of the deadline. We will not grant exceptions to this rule.

**Are AIAA Scholarships and Graduate Awards need-based or merit - based?**

All scholarships and graduate awards are merit-based.

**I am a parent and I think my child would be interested in an AIAA scholarship.**

This is great, and we are so happy that you feel an AIAA scholarship is right for your child. Please direct your inquiries to [scholarships@aiaa.org](mailto:scholarships@aiaa.org) and a staff member will assist you. Please note that a student must be a paid AIAA student member and must complete the scholarship application themselves to be considered. Please do not submit materials your child's behalf.

**I have another question that wasn't answered in this document. Is there someone I can ask?**

If you have a question that wasn't answered here, please send that question via e-mail to [scholarships@aiaa.org](mailto:scholarships@aiaa.org) and one of our staff experts will assist you.