



## [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 comprising 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 graduate school, am I eligible to apply for an AIAA Foundation graduate award?**

If you are in an accelerated master's program (5-year master's), then yes, you may. You need to attach a letter to your transcript written by your advisor attesting to your participation in an accelerated master's program. If you do not have any master's coursework on your transcript, you will need to make sure you have completed at least one semester of master's-level work to be considered. AIAA will not give scholarships or graduate awards to students who do not have any master's coursework completed.

### **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 next year if you still meet eligibility requirements.

### **If I am on a full scholarship at my university, can I still receive an AIAA scholarship?**

No. These scholarships are meant to provide financial aid and support 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?**

There are designated scholarships for High School students. Please go to <https://www.aiaa.org/get-involved/k-12-students> to find out more about these scholarships. For undergraduate scholarships you must have completed one semester of undergraduate education at either a four- or two-year institution (community college). Dual enrollment does not count toward this requirement because not all areas offer dual enrollment programs and not all requirements are the same.

**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 Russia, certain areas of Russian-occupied Ukraine, 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 studying at schools overseas 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 Undergraduate Scholarship (USD \$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 U.S.-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.



**If I am in my last semester of undergrad with plans to go to graduate school, am I eligible to apply for an AIAA Foundation graduate award?**

If you are in an **accelerated master's program (5-year master's)**, then yes, you may. You need to attach a letter to your transcript written by your advisor attesting to your participation in an accelerated master's program, and you should show enrollment in or intent to enroll in graduate-level courses.

If you do not have any master's coursework on your transcript, you will not be able to apply for a graduate award until you have completed at least one semester of master's-level work.

**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 1159 hrs ET on 31 January. References will be due by 1159 hrs ET on 14 February. 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 based on the quality of applicants?**

All scholarships and graduate awards are merit-based and based on whether the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for the award for which they are applying.

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

We are 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. All applications must be submitted online.

**My recommender is having difficulty submitting a letter of recommendation. What do I do?**

Email us! Have your recommender send their letter in .pdf format to [scholarships@aiaa.org](mailto:scholarships@aiaa.org).

**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 email to [scholarships@aiaa.org](mailto:scholarships@aiaa.org) and one of our staff experts will assist you.