

Welcome to the 2024 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 is primarily to cover tuition and school fees and directly related expenses including books and supplies. The WMI scholarship does not always cover the full cost of tuition and associated educational expenses.

Scholarships are generally granted for the full period of study; however, recipients must maintain good grades, participate in community service and meet WMI deadlines for submitting an official copy of school/course grades, completing the semester report, and validation of community service hours. The scholarship can be discontinued at any time in the event of unsatisfactory performance and/or dishonesty.

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: Use of uncredited ideas and content created by other persons and use of uncredited AI-generated content is plagiarism and goes against the policies and ideals of WMI. Any applicants found to have plagiarized their essays will be considered ineligible for a scholarship.

Eligibility 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
- Is 35 years old or under on August 1, 2024
- Will be studying in his or her country or another country in the developing world
- Is pursuing his or her first bachelor's degree or diploma
- Will be enrolled in a program of study that will benefit the community and/or contribute to the continued growth and advancement of his or her home country
- Plans to live and work in his or her own country after graduation
- Has demonstrated his or her commitment to giving back and has volunteered prior to applying
- May have some other funds available for his or her education, but will not be able to pursue his or her tertiary degree without financial assistance

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 that are located on our website to assist you in preparing the most complete and competitive application possible.
- Applications must be received by March 1 of 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, UK or Western Europe will not qualify for a WMI Scholarship
- Applications must be received by 11:59 PM EST on March 1, whether mailed or submitted through our online scholarship application process via website, to be considered for the next academic year.
- Applications may be submitted via the postal service, but we prefer you use our online application process. If you do mail in your application, it must arrive (not postmarked by) on or before March 1. Please allow three weeks for delivery to ensure your application's arrival by March 1.
- We won't consider applications sent by email
- Family members of WMI staff and of WMI Scholars are not eligible to apply

You will need the following information in order 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 statement
- Essay question

- Two recommendation letters
- Headshot photo

Opens: December 1, 2023 at 12:01AM EST

Closes: March 1, 2024 11:59PM EST

Scholarship application mailing address:

Wells Mountain Initiative

25D Main Street

Bristol, Vermont 05443

United States of America

SECTION 1: PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide us with your personal contact information. Please DO NOT write in all capital letters.

Given name:

Family Name:

Email address:

Date of Birth – month/date/year

Eligibility

Do you plan to study in Australia, US, Canada, 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 and can count on. If we are not able to contact you by the phone number(s) and email address you provided, we will then try to contact this person. We will only contact him/her if we are unable to 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 reflective of your current situation as a student and as an applicant to university. Please DO NOT apply if you are planning to study in a developed country (US, Canada, UK, Western Europe, Australia, etc.) or are seeking a scholarship for secondary school, Master's or PhD degree. This scholarship opportunity is for students seeking their first higher education degree (diploma, Bachelor's degree, Medicine and Surgery, etc.).

Program (subject) of study:

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 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 with honesty. Students selected to receive a WMI scholarship are chosen based on many aspects, not financial need alone. The WMI scholarship does not always cover the full 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 names of the scholar 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 your 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 we will ask you to 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 we will ask you to provide information on your volunteer history. If you do not have any volunteer history, you may skip this section.

Name of 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):

Name of 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):

Name of 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 Statement & Essay Question

Please provide a personal statement and an essay question. All documents must be your own work in English, with a minimum of 500 words and a maximum of 1000. Cite any quotations or references and please do not plagiarize another's work.

The personal statement is a very important part of our decision-making process. Please do not fabricate your life experiences. We can tell.

- A personal statement of 500-1000 words, telling us about your background, your family, your life experiences, why you chose to study the particular field you are studying, and why you believe you should be favorably considered for this scholarship.

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

- If you were awarded \$1500 to support a service project to help your community, what issue would you address? Why is this a current or continuing issue within your community? Why is this issue important to you? Who would benefit and what would be the impact? How would you measure the success of the activity? Please provide a detailed budget in USD for all expenses. Note: this is a hypothetical situation and should not be considered a request for funding

Additional documents required

- Clear personal photo (head only).
- Official transcript of grades from secondary school and if you have already completed one or more years at the tertiary level, please include an official grade report for these studies. Do not include grades from primary or junior high school.
- An official key or explanation to interpret your secondary AND tertiary grades (if applicable) as 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 will need to 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 fees structure from your university (can provide from the school's website if not yet accepted)
- IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN TERTIARY STUDIES it is REQUIRED for you to submit all of your recent transcripts. *Please also submit an official key to interpret them.
- Two letters of recommendation. These letters need to be from 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. We strongly suggest the recommendation letters be on official stationery from the organization, school or business of the person writing your recommendation. We suggest that you provide your recommender our "Guidelines for Recommendation" available below.

Guidelines for Effective Application Recommendation Letters

Providing TWO recommendation letters written by different recommenders 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.

Be careful not to upload the same letter twice. If you do this, you will have submitted only one letter of recommendation and will be disqualified.

Feel free to send these tips to your recommender:

Tips for Those Writing Recommendation Letters for an Applicant

Requirements

- Letters should be written within a year of the application submission.
- The recommender CANNOT be a family member of the applicant.
- 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 1000 words.
- Provide your letter on official stationery with your contact information listed.

Suggested areas to write about

- Discuss why the applicant would be a strong candidate for this specific scholarship. We are looking for someone who is passionate about working with his or her community and committed to helping improve the quality of life within his or her country. Specific examples are critical.
- Discuss the applicant's personal characteristics, ability to work with others in a team, leadership skills and communication skills.
- Comment on the applicant's proposed plan of study at the tertiary level and the past experiences witnessed by you that may 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?
- Is there any reason to doubt the applicant's diligence as a student and his or her honesty?
- Share documented evidence of the applicant's achievements in academics, leadership or community service.
- Does the applicant have any unique competencies, talents or leadership abilities?
- What motivates this person? What excites him or her?
- Are there any specific family or community circumstances of which we should be aware?