



# Wells Mountain Initiative

## Scholars Program Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. When can I apply for the WMI Program?

You can begin applying for the scholarship on December 1, 2024. Applications will be accepted for three months. All applications must be received by March 1, 2025 at 11:59 pm EST.

### 2. How do I apply for the WMI Scholarship?

Beginning December 1, 2024, you can access the scholarship application portal via our website. You will find easy instructions on using our online scholarship application management system there.

Visit: <https://www.wellsmountaininitiative.org/>

### 3. Can I email all my application documents to WMI?

No. You must use our online scholarship application process. Submit your application only once. Any application duplication will result in the applicant being disqualified.

### 4. Does my application have to be in English?

Yes. Original documents not in English will require a verified translation. The original document and English translation should be submitted as part of the application.

### 5. Am I required to submit my grades?

Yes. We require an official transcript from secondary school and all tertiary classes you have already completed. Be sure the transcript contains a key to interpreting the grades, as different countries use different systems of assessing the quality of the student's academic progress. If there is no key included, your application will be disqualified. Do not include grades from the primary level.

### 6. Why are two recommendations required?

You must submit two recommendation letters written by someone who knows you well but is not a family member. Their letters should detail why you deserve to receive a WMI scholarship. These letters should include what qualities you possess that qualify you as an excellent student, a future successful university graduate, and a responsible citizen who will give back to your community. Letters of recommendation may come from a teacher, a religious leader, a volunteer service



# Wells Mountain Initiative

supervisor, or an employer and should be printed or written on the recommender's organization's letterhead.

We request that you provide the email addresses of your two recommenders in the application. The recommenders must log onto the scholarship recommendation portal to upload their letters. They must do so by March 1, 2025, at 11:59 pm EST.

Please ensure that the email addresses that you share are correct. Recommenders will receive an automatic email from the application portal with instructions on uploading the recommendation letters onto the platform.

Note that your application will not be complete until we receive letters from both your recommenders. You are responsible for following up with your recommenders to ensure they submit the recommendation letters by the deadline.

## **7. What happens if I don't submit all the required documents?**

Our online application management system will only accept completed applications. **However, the system cannot distinguish if you have uploaded the required documents. Be careful not to upload the same document twice.** The online software will think your application is complete, but you will be disqualified in the review process because you did not submit all the required documents.

## **8. For what fields of study do you provide scholarships?**

All fields, though most of our scholars are in fields such as health care, social work, education, and social justice, as well as professions that help the economy and progress of the country, such as IT, engineering, agriculture, and business.

## **9. What if I study in the UK, US, Europe, or Australia but promise to return to my country after I graduate?**

You will not be eligible for the WMI scholarship program. We do not fund education in the UK, US, Europe, or Australia because our scholarships would provide only a fraction of the educational costs in those countries. However, our scholarships can cover almost all educational expenses in developing nations. We feel this is a better use of our resources and helps bright young people remain in their communities to make an impact.

## **10. Do I need to be accepted to a school before I apply for the scholarship?**

No, you can apply before you receive your official acceptance letter, but you will not be awarded scholarship funding until you are accepted. If you do not have your acceptance letter when you submit your application, do not send it to us via email unless we contact you directly.



# Wells Mountain Initiative

## **11. Will the scholarship cover all my expenses?**

Probably not. Our scholarships range from \$300 USD to \$3000 USD a year, although we award very few at the \$3000 USD level. Our average scholarship amount is \$1500 USD a year. If your costs exceed \$3000 USD and you have absolutely no other way to make up the difference, we recommend you do not apply for one of our scholarships. Also, it is not wise to inflate your expenses, as you will cause us to think that our scholarship will not be enough to meet your needs.

## **12. If I receive a WMI scholarship, is it guaranteed for the length of my degree program?**

Generally speaking, yes. But you must maintain above average grades, volunteer within your community 100 hours per year, and meet all reporting requirements as directed by WMI. Reporting requirements include submitting an academic report and a community service report.

The academic report consists of semester grades, current school ledger, current academic calendar, a scholar expense tracker detailing how the funds sent in the previous period were spent together with receipts of how funds were spent.

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.

## **13. How will I know if you received my application?**

Applicants will receive an automatic email once they have submitted their applications. This email will serve as confirmation that we have received the application.

## **14. Will my application be reviewed?**

Yes, absolutely. Each application is read thoroughly and rated by a team of reviewers. During the first, second, and third stages of review, applications receiving the highest scores from each reviewer move on to the next level. The top-scoring applications in stage three move on to the next and final round. In selecting our final candidates, we strive to balance gender and try to have a variety of fields of study and countries represented.

## **15. What are my chances of securing a WMI Scholarship?**

We receive a much greater number of applications each year than the year before, but our scholarship funds are not growing at the same rate. Last year, we received



# Wells Mountain Initiative

over 1600 complete applications and accepted 102 new WMI Scholars, representing an acceptance rate of 6%. The competition is stiff, so be sure your application is complete and received before the deadline.

## **16. When is the deadline to apply for a scholarship and when are awardees announced?**

There is only one deadline yearly: March 1 at 11:59pm EST. We review all completed applications and email the new scholarship recipients on August 1. We also post the names of the new WMI scholarship recipients on our website and on our Facebook page on August 1. Those not receiving a scholarship will also receive an email from us. If you receive no email from WMI on or shortly after August 1, check our website for the list of new WMI Scholars.