



ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION (IAHF)

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SAN JOSE, CA 95112

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ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

The information and step-by-step instructions in this document are designed to help applicants successfully complete their online scholarship application using Google Forms. Each year, the IAHF awards multiple scholarships, generally ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

KEY DATES and DEADLINES

- Application Opens: **December 17, 2025**
- Application Submission Deadline: **Saturday, February 28, 2026** (by 11:59 p.m. PST)
- Applicant Notification: **by the end of March 2026**
- Awards Ceremony: **Sunday, May 3, 2026**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicant Status & Affiliation

- *Italian Heritage or IAHF Membership:* Applicants must be of **Italian descent** **OR** be a **current IAHF family member** in good standing for at least six months. (Applicants must clearly identify eligibility of their Italian heritage or through an IAHF member).
- *Location/Affiliation:* Applicants must reside in Santa Clara County **OR** be the child or grandchild of a current IAHF member in good standing for at least six months.

2. Academic Status

- *Current Status:*
 - A. Must be a high school student graduating in 2026, **or**
 - B. Community college student starting a four-year advanced degree, **or**
 - C. High school student or community college student pursuing vocational training, certification, or license, **or**
 - D. An undergraduate or graduate student pursuing **Italian Studies** at one of these Bay Area Universities: University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University, Santa Clara University, San Jose State University, and San Francisco State University (Applies only to the Il Cenacolo scholarship).
- *Future Enrollment:* Submit a written acceptance to an accredited institution of higher education for the 2026–2027 academic year.

3. Cultural & Submission Requirements

- *Italian Cultural Engagement:* Demonstrate an interest in or commitment to Italian culture and heritage.
- *Required Documents:* Submit all required application documents by the deadline date.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The IAHF offers scholarships in **three categories** to eligible Italian American students representing a wide range of academic disciplines and backgrounds. Applicants should review the description of each scholarship to understand its specific eligibility requirements, and select the scholarship that best aligns with your qualifications and goals.

1. **Merit-Based Scholarship:** This scholarship is directed to students demonstrating academic excellence, community involvement, or leadership skills.
2. **Opportunity scholarship:** This scholarship is a need-based scholarship designed to assist applicants experiencing economic, educational or personal challenges.
3. **Il Cenacolo scholarship:** This scholarship is awarded to qualified graduate or undergraduate college students who are actively pursuing graduate studies in *Italian Arts and Culture* and are currently enrolled at one of the universities identified under the Eligibility section.

PERSONAL DATA

Applicants are required to provide the following **contact information** through the secure application portal: Full Name, Current Address, Personal Phone Number, and personal Email Address. All information submitted will be held in confidence and used solely for scholarship administration.

ESSAY, VIDEO, OR MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

Prepare a response to the following prompt that reflects your insights and discusses your personal experiences or ideas.

Prompt

Clearly describe a specific person or event that has shaped your life experiences, values, and especially, your heritage and that has inspired your personal and academic ambitions. Describe your plan to achieve your aspirations and goals.

Applicants must prepare an original response to the prompt using one of these formats:

1. Written Essay: A polished, cohesive essay of 700 to 1,000 words.
2. Video Submission: Between three (3) and five (5) minutes in length.
3. Multimedia Presentation: A short original multimedia project (e.g., a website, digital scrapbook, or interactive presentation) either in PDF, PowerPoint, or public domain software.

Originality and Authenticity Standards: You certify that the work is your own, and the concepts, language, and conclusions are your individual effort and reflection. The use of AI-powered tools (such as ChatGPT, Gemini, or similar large language models) to generate any portion of the essay or media script is strictly prohibited and will be invalidated.

AWARDS AND NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Applicants must list and describe any interests and skills developed through involvement outside of the classroom, including extracurricular activities, community service, volunteer work, leadership experience, sports, and employment.

The following is required information for each activity listed:

- Your role and responsibilities
- Length of involvement (example: three years, Summer of 2024)
- How the experience contributed to your personal growth
- What you learned from the experience
- Any interests or skills you developed outside the classroom

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

All documents must be uploaded to the secure application portal. Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Save each document as a separate file using these formats: PDF, JPG, MP3, MP4, or Word. Use short, descriptive file names (e.g., *Transcript_ApplicantName.pdf*). Verify that each document is properly uploaded, and that the file opens correctly.

Document	Requirement	Upload Details
Letter of Acceptance	An official letter confirming your acceptance to an accredited institution of higher education for the 2026–2027 academic year .	Applicant uploads
Letter of Recommendation	One (1) letter of recommendation from an academic staff member, schoolteacher, counselor/advisor, nonacademic (work supervisor), employer, or other individuals who can attest to your strengths, abilities, achievements, character, talents, relevant skills, and potential. The letter should indicate how long and in what capacity the writer has known the student. Letters must be provided on school/organization letterhead and include the name and title of the person writing the letter of recommendation. Letters from family members will NOT be accepted.	Applicant instructs recommender to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email: Marie Dalldorf, Scholarship Chair at scholarships@iahfsj.orgOR• Mail: IAHF at 425 N. Fourth Street, San Jose, CA 95112

Student Photo	A high-resolution .jpg photo appropriate for 5x7” printing. Photo does not have to be a high school graduation photo, but a suitable headshot photo of just you with a neutral background, and business casual attire.	Applicant uploads
Official School Transcript	An academic transcript from your current educational institution is required. It must include the registrar's seal. Only the total non-weighted cumulative GPA will be considered. To obtain, instruct the school to use an electronic platform (e.g., Parchment). Transcripts sent directly to students will not be accepted.	Applicant instructs school/service to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Email: Marie Dalldorf, Scholarship Chair at scholarships@iahfsj.org OR ● Mail: IAHF at 425 N. Fourth Street, San Jose, CA 95112
Essay, Video, or Multimedia Project	Respond to the prompt using one of the three formats.	Applicant uploads
Extenuating Circumstances	Applicants are strongly encouraged to include a statement describing any personal or family circumstances, significant challenges, or hardships they have faced or overcome. The statement can be in a separate document or integrated into their prompt project. This statement is beneficial for all scholarships but is especially important for the Opportunity Scholarship.	Applicant includes as part of their prompt project or uploads as a separate document.
Awards & Non-Academic Activities	Provide a list of your extracurricular activities, community service, leadership roles, employment, and awards.	Applicant uploads

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Complete and submit your application directly using the Google Forms link: <https://IAHFsj.org/IAHFScholarship2026>. You can find additional details and scholarship requirements on the IAHF secure website: IAHFsj.org/Scholarships.

Review all the guidelines to ensure that you have completed all requirements, responded to all questions, and provided all required documents. Knowingly providing erroneous or misleading information in your application will render your submission ineligible for consideration. Submittals deemed unoriginal, demonstrating plagiarism, or previously used for other applications or competitions will be invalidated.

By submitting this application, you acknowledge that the scholarship award is contingent upon your commitment to:

- Attend the scholarship awards ceremony. Failure to attend may result in forfeiture of the scholarship.
- Grant permission to the IAHF to publish their project and photograph in the IAHF newsletter and/or use them for IAHF events and promotional purposes.

You are encouraged to remain actively connected with the IAHF to demonstrate your ongoing interest in and commitment to Italian culture. Continued involvement helps strengthen and sustain the scholarship program for future students. Opportunities to stay connected include:

- Volunteering at IAHF events (such as Festa and hall events).
- Writing articles for the IAHF newsletter or blog to share updates, milestones, and personal experiences.
- Mentoring new scholarship recipients, participating in the Youth Engagement Committee, and/or serving as an IAHF Ambassador.

QUESTIONS AND SUPPORT

For questions or technical issues related to completing the online Google Forms application or required documents, please contact the Scholarship Chair, Marie Rose Peirano Dalldorf at scholarships@iahfsj.org.

Thank you and Good Luck!

