BVO Scholarship Application: Summer 2027

Background Information

Each year, the Brittingham Viking Organization (BVO) invites students from UW-Madison to study abroad at universities in Finland, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway; and welcomes Scandinavian students from these countries to study at UW-Madison. For over 70 years, the BVO's cultural exchange program has provided valuable and unique study abroad experiences and welcomed scholars into its active alumni organization. The BVO is recognized by UW-Madison as an independent scholarship program.

In summer 2027, the BVO will send UW-Madison students to Oslo, Norway. **The entire program runs from early June through August 2027, including a weekend in late August 2027 to attend the annual Brittingham Viking Organization Convention in Helsinki.** The total value of the program is approximately $10,000, depending on residential status.

All scholarships are designed to cover housing, roundtrip flights to Scandinavia, insurance, a generous living and travel stipend, and tuition. Scholars travel together around the Nordic countries to visit Viking alumni and celebrate cultural holidays.

All our scholars become lifelong members of our alumni network consisting of around 500 scholarship recipients from the last seven decades. Our alumni serve as a valuable support system for our scholars while they are abroad and can provide connections for academic and professional opportunities during and after the scholarship period has ended. The people you meet might become your lifelong friends, and the social, academic, and professional contacts you gain make the Brittingham Viking Organization unique.

Important Notes (READ BEFORE APPLYING)

- Scholarship funds are deposited into the recipient's student account. Scholars may be asked to pay some costs prior to arriving in Scandinavia but will be able to reimburse themselves after receiving scholarship funds. Scholars assume responsibility for additional study abroad expenses outside of the scholarship budget (e.g., entertainment, personal travels, clothing, etc.).
- Scholarship requires student availability from early June through August 2027, including a weekend in late August 2027 to attend the annual Brittingham Viking Organization Convention in Helsinki.
- **Scholars must be planning to return to the Madison area for one full academic year after scholarship, either to study or for employment.** We expect that returning scholars will be involved in welcoming new Scandinavian scholars to Madison in September 2027 and selecting the next group of American BVO scholars in winter 2027 and spring 2028.

- Applicants must be US Citizens. This scholarship is open to Wisconsin residents, Minnesota residents, and out-of-state students. It is designed to cover tuition and fees at any of these levels.
- Applicants are strongly discouraged from using AI to complete this application.
- This application is intended to gather a breadth of information about who you are as a person - we hope to gain insight into your academics, interests, passions, and personality.

Application Instructions

- Complete the scholarship application thoroughly and with respect to the word limits.
- Create **a single PDF** of your written application with the file name *FirstnameLastname.pdf* (e.g., BuckyBadger.pdf) and submit it here. (https://forms.gle/4Z4e8prnUGg3dyWr7)
- Applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday, November 8, 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Applicants who are selected for a first round interview will be notified by Saturday, November 14, 2026. Selected applicants must be available for interviews on Saturday, November 21, 2026 (virtual) and Saturday, December 5, 2026 (in-person in Madison). Please note that not all first round interviewees will be invited to the second interview.
- Any questions about the scholarship or the application should be directed to us.scholarships@brittinghamvikings.org with the email subject “Application Question.” A member of the selection committee will get back to you as soon as possible.

Summary of Timeline

- November 8 at 11:59 PM — applications due
- November 14 — all applicants are notified via email of their interview status
- November 21 — first interview for selected applicants (virtual)
- December 5 — second interview for selected applicants (in Madison, WI)
- December 5 evening — celebratory dinner for selected scholarship recipients

Save your written application as a PDF with the file name *FirstnameLastname.pdf*.
File size for upload is limited to 10MB. You may delete the instruction pages.

Upload your completed written application here and answer the brief questions in the Google Form to finish your application.

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When you are finished, save this document as a PDF (FirstnameLastname.pdf). Submit your completed application as a PDF at https://forms.gle/dynGU1thgeeYGguVA.

1. **Full Name:**

2. **Contact Information:**

Email:

Phone Number:

3. **Academic Information:**

Current degree and/or major in progress (e.g., B.S. in Psychology):

Numeric year in school (e.g., first, second):

Classification based on credits (e.g., junior, senior):

Cumulative GPA:

GPA in most recent semester:

Expected graduation date:
Scholars must plan to return to the Madison area for one full academic year after scholarship, either for work, school, or to live. If your expected graduation date is before May 2028, please explain your plans to stay in the Madison area for this duration:

If applicable, other universities attended (include university name, year(s) attended, and degree pursued/received):

4. **Have you applied for a Viking scholarship before? If so, please list the year and whether you were invited for an interview.**

5. **List 3 recent (the past three years) extracurricular activities, work experiences, awards, hobbies, or interests that you think tell the scholarship committee the most about you. For <u>each</u> listed item, provide up to a 150-word description of what it is and how it has shaped who you are today.**

Experience #1:

Experience #2:

Experience #3:

6. **What appeals to you about this scholarship over other study abroad scholarships? How will it benefit you and why would you be a good choice?** (250 words or less)

7. **During your scholarship you will have the privilege of traveling across Scandinavia to visit Vikings, attend Viking gatherings, and experience local cultural events. What about your personality or prior experiences makes you feel prepared for this aspect of our scholarship program?** (250 words or less)

8. **As part of the Viking scholarship experience, you become a member of a close-knit alumni community which continues far past your scholarship. Vikings routinely get together in Madison and across the world for social gatherings and to reunite with close friends. What unique perspectives or other contributions could you bring to this group?** (250 words or less)

9. **Returning Viking scholars are expected to play a significant role in welcoming and supporting new Scandinavian Viking scholars during their academic year at UW-Madison. This may include activities like offering informal tours of Madison, introducing scholars to campus organizations, and planning and attending social events for Vikings. What steps would you take to ensure that Scandinavian Vikings' experience is robust, both socially and academically?** (250 words or less)

10. **Describe something about yourself, your interests, or your thoughts <u>beyond what you have expressed in the questions thus far</u>.** (250 words or less)