



National and International
Scholarships and Fellowships

Application Tips

Plan Ahead

- Schedule a [Discovery Appointment](#) with the office of National Scholarships, where you will be guided on:
 - Scholarship options that best fit your educational and career goals
 - Building a nationally competitive profile
- Narrow your Scholarship(s) Applications
 - Make notes about possible scholarships, paying attention to eligibility, criteria, and application due dates
 - Schedule your National Scholarships Narrowing Appointment with the NISF Success Coordinator
- Schedule Your Application Timeline
 - 6-12 months minimum is the recommended prep period prior to application submission
 - If your scholarships require nomination/endorsement from NAU, you may also have to complete the university pre-application process
 - Set your calendar reminders based on your Narrowing Appointment

Know Your Application

- Read all the award details on each award's website.
- Print the sample application and highlight key points that will require more time to prepare such as:
 - Personal Statement
 - Statement of Purpose/Proposal
 - Short Answer Questions about leadership, future plans, etc.
 - Resume

- Transcript(s)
- Letters of Reference
- Interview

Use Your Resources

- Gather feedback from friends and mentors who have won national scholarships
- Utilize previous application essays or recent academic papers and research that fit with the award's mission and application prompts
- If applying for multiple scholarships, make a list of the common application components
- Read examples online of winning essays and scholar profiles
- Request frequent reviews of your drafts from NAU STaR Center, NAU Writing Commons, the National Scholarship Coordinator, and your faculty and mentors

Letters of Recommendation

- For the applicant
 - Ask early (1+ month in advance)
 - Don't push references - make sure they are enthusiastic about writing for you
 - Give "friendly reminders" close to deadlines, with thanks
 - Give them pertinent information
 - Resume, transcript, drafts, scholarship information
 - Remind them about your work in their class, lab, etc., and how you think that demonstrates that you are a good candidate for the scholarship to which you are applying.
 - Be kind to your letter writers!
 - Send them a simple, bullet-point format email
 - Provide top 3-5 points you would like them to cover in their letter
 - Share the URL of the award page with them
- Letter-writers might include the following in their recommendations:

- Nature/length of relationship with student
- Description and evaluation of student's scholarly work
- Description of student as a person (i.e. personality, disposition, work ethic, etc.)
- Numeric ranking of student compared to others
- Supporting quotes or stories about student from your colleagues

Brainstorm, Outline, Freewrite & Submit!

- Utilize Microsoft Word doc or Google doc to:
 - Track your word/character counts
 - Spell and grammar-check often
 - Reread prompts and reverse outline in the right margin
 - Date and save all versions of your draft in NAU Microsoft One word using auto-save
 - Copy/paste final draft from Word to the application portal

Still have questions? Contact the National Scholarships Coordinator at
Natl_Scholarships@nau.edu