Post-Graduate Scholarships and Fellowships

What are Post-Grad Scholarships and Fellowships?

These are prestigious, competitive, national awards for students who have completed or nearly completed their bachelor’s degree and wish to pursue graduate or professional study at an accredited university.

Why Should I Pursue One of These Scholarships or Fellowships?

The prestige of the award will assist, though not guarantee, placement in graduate or professional school, and often at some of the finest schools in the United States and abroad. The award may also set the stage for future funding after you are in graduate school. Graduate and professional school is expensive and these awards provide good, sometimes outstanding, levels of funding.

How do I Know if I am a Good Candidate for These Scholarships and Fellowships?

Each scholarship and fellowship has unique eligibility criteria, which are used to evaluate applicants based on past accomplishments and future potential. The application process is time consuming and the competition is stiff, so review these criteria carefully to ensure you are eligible. In addition to academic excellence, characteristics of successful applicants include:

- Co-curricular experiences, such as significant independent and collaborative projects, research, or internships
- Evidence of leadership potential
- Study abroad experience
- Engagement in community or public service
- Compelling faculty letters of recommendation
- Official endorsement of the University

How do I Get Started?

1. Identify scholarships or fellowships you are eligible for and committed to:
   a. Explore opportunities on the St. Kate’s Scholarships and Fellowships Table.
   b. Carefully review eligibility criteria for each listed award.
   c. Where you meet eligibility criteria, click on available links to review award website content.
   d. Review the application process to ensure you are committed to fulfilling all the requirements.
   e. Conduct your own research to find opportunities not listed here. SPIN is a tool available through the University that you could use for this purpose.

2. Complete and submit the Self-Screening Form, which indicates your eligibility and commitment.
   a. The Self-Screening Form is available on the website.
   b. Submit your form via e-mail to Assistant Vice President and Dean, Dr. Alan Silva at ajsilva@stkate.edu, with the e-mail subject line, Scholarship/Fellowship Applicant.

3. Dr. Silva will send you a follow-up e-mail to confirm your eligibility and initiate scheduling of an appointment to discuss your application for a prestigious scholarship or fellowship.
How do I Complete and Submit my Scholarship/Fellowship Application Package?

A successful application process is expected to take four to six months.

1. Prior to meeting with Dr. Silva, begin planning how you will meet application requirements:
   a. Review application content requirements and selection criteria from the website of the scholarship/fellowship program where you plan to apply.
   b. Understand the program's mission and purpose as these provide a foundation for how your application will be reviewed by those who select the scholarship/fellowship winners.
   c. Review scholar biographies if posted on the website to get a sense of what recipients have done as undergraduates and what they're preparing to undertake in the future.
   d. Begin to plan how you will tailor each required piece of your application to demonstrate why you are an ideal candidate.
   e. Consider who is in a position to draft strong references on your behalf. Your references need to be able to speak to your potential and past performance with respect to the application requirements.

2. In your initial meeting with Dr. Silva, you will be assigned a mentor to support your application process. This may be Dr. Silva or a faculty member with expertise mentoring applicants.

3. Work with your mentor to draft, review, and refine your application package.

4. Obtain the letter of endorsement or institutional nomination from the University, which is required for submission of most scholarship/fellowship applications. Dr. Silva will advise you on this part of the process.

5. Submit your application. Dr. Silva will advise you on how to submit your application. Some programs require the applicant to submit all materials; others require a combination of the applicant and institutional representative to submit materials.