Getting Started

Use this quick guide as a starting place for your scholarship engagement, but please also use the additional guides arranged by academic disciplines interest areas! As an undocumented student, the search process can be frustrating due to eligibility limitations. Take a broad approach, looking for scholarships open to all, in addition to those specifically for undocumented students.

01 START YOUR SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

**DEFINE**

Define your study field(s) and interests

**INCLUDE**

Include your heritage, gender, future goals and other personal aspects of you

**CONSIDER**

Consider your options broadly

Make a list of **keywords** that describe **YOU** and your interests within each of these categories:

- Studies
- Future
- Identities
- Activities

**Keywords**

- DREAMers
- DACA
- Undocumented
- Community
- Projects
- Creativity
- Advocacy
- Resilience
- Engagement

**Scholarship Matches:**
- Mary Gates Research Scholarship
- Mary Gates Leadership Scholarship
- Golden Door Scholarship
- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
- And more!
02

STAY ORGANIZED, IT’S AN ON-GOING PROCESS!

TAKE TIME TO SEARCH

Searching & applying takes time! Make an effort to schedule it! For example, put an entry on your calendar for 1 hour on the first day of the month to search for scholarships. OMSFA hosts monthly scholarship search parties.

KEEP TRACK OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Record and track scholarship opportunities that interest you. Past students suggest spreadsheets, online calendars and personal planners to keep yourself on track. Try OMSFA's tracking tool.

Though you may not be ready for every opportunity right now, be sure to note experiences & awards you’ll apply for in the future.

03

EXPLORE AND DREAM

Scholarships often provide more than financial support. Some awards offer opportunities to gain specific experiences or access to networks curriculum. Consider how the program might connect to your longer-term goals.
Follow social media accounts that post consistent content

- Higher Ed Immigration Portal provides information on policies, resources about DACA, undocumented, and other immigrant students in higher education
- Immigrants Rising supports undocumented students, providing financial, legal, and leadership support.
- United We Dream provides multiple resources in various avenues.
- Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

Secure your financial aid package

- Apply for financial aid by completing the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)
Scholarships

MARY GATES ENDOWMENT FOR STUDENTS

The Mary Gates Endowment offers scholarships that provide an opportunity to articulate goals, identify mentors, reflect on experiences, and actively engage in learning processes. These scholarships are open to all UW undergraduate students (all majors, years, & campuses) regardless of citizenship status.

Research Scholarship: A $5,000 scholarship that enables students from any academic discipline to deepen their involvement in work with faculty on research, curricular design, the creative arts, and other forms of scholarly endeavor. Deadlines: October & January.

Leadership Scholarship: A $5,000 scholarship designed to foster students' growth as leaders by supporting them in pursuing a challenge or project, often focused on public service in the community or on campus. Deadlines: October & January.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP EDUCATION CENTER (CELE)

CELE has a variety of resources for getting engaged in community and leadership work, along with different types of funding opportunities for that work.

Community-Based Internships: for UW undergraduates who share an interest in learning more about non-profit and public sector careers, social justice, and asset-based community development. Deadline: October

Ellis Civic Leader Fellowship: for incoming UW 1st year undergrads with financial need and committed to weaving public service and civic leadership development into their Husky Experience. Deadline: Late Summer/early Fall

Jackson Munro Public Service Fellowship: encourages a life-long commitment to public service by providing undergraduates with the opportunity to develop their civic leadership capacity through work in the non-profit government sectors. Deadline: Spring Quarter
Levinson Emerging Scholars Award: supports talented and highly motivated UW juniors and seniors in pursuing creative and advanced bioscience and related research. Deadline: August

WA Research Foundation Fellowships: for advanced undergraduates who work on creative and sophisticated science and engineering research projects under the guidance of UW faculty. Deadline: August

Undergraduate Research Conference Travel Award: provides funding toward national conference travel expenses and registration fees. Deadline: Rolling

Summer Institute for the Arts & Humanities: a research opportunity for undergraduates to engage in scholarly research with accomplished scholars and peers while earning full-time academic credit. Deadline: February

UW LIBRARIES UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

For undergraduates who demonstrate outstanding library research in the writing or creation of course projects. Deadline: May

UW HARRY BRIDGES CENTER FOR LABOR STUDIES SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you an undergrad passionate about social justice? A graduate student writing a dissertation on a labor-related topic? A busy activist building a student group or union campaign? Consider applying for Labor Studies Scholarships, regardless of your major. Deadline: April

UW CAREER INTERNSHIP CENTER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNPAID INTERNSHIPS

For students interested in doing an internship with a non-profit or government organization in summer. Deadline: December
UW RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION
SCHOLARSHIP IN AGING

For UW undergraduate, graduate and professional students with a focus on research related to aging or on the provision of services to older adults. Deadline: January

MORTAR BOARD ALUMNI/TOLO FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

For UW students, based on distinguished achievement in scholarship, leadership & service to the campus & community. Deadline: April

UWAA HOMECOMING SCHOLARSHIP

For UW undergraduates and graduate students who have made an impact and exemplify the difference, UW makes for students. Deadline: Spring Quarter

MULTICULTURAL ALUMNI PARTNERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

MAP awards scholarships to deserving UW students who need financial assistance to assist their progress toward a degree at UW. Deadline: Spring Quarter

UW ALUMNI REUNION, CLASS GIFTS, AND SPENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships in this group range from $1,000-$2,000, and students can submit a single application to be considered for any of the seven scholarship programs included. Undergraduate students in all fields, all years, and all campuses are encouraged to apply. Deadline: April

The Gates Scholarship

The Gates Scholarship (TGS) is a highly selective, last-dollar scholarship for outstanding, minority, high school seniors from low-income households. Deadline: September
VOYAGER SCHOLARSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

The Voyager Scholarship is a two-year leadership development and scholarship program. Open to 2nd-year students with a commitment to public service.

Deadline: March

Departmental Scholarships

Your academic department is an important connector for scholarships and a source of funding! Most departments at UW have their own scholarships and awards they administer each year. Things to keep in mind:

- **Check your department’s website for eligibility and deadlines**
- **Read emails from your advisor**

Each department sets its time line, some throughout the year and others with single deadlines. Many have deadlines from February to May.

They often share information about scholarships & awards that are specific to your major.

UW CENTERS

Explore UW programs, units, centers, etc. whose work aligns with your interests. Scholarships are available from a variety of university sources, **beyond your major department**.

SEA MAR SCHOLARSHIPS

Sea Mar offers a Latino/a Educational Achievement Project Scholarship, Farmworker H.S. & College Scholarships, & Sea Mar Family Scholarship.

Deadline: April
Database

Use a variety of resources in your search!

The Office of Merit Scholarships, Fellowships & Awards scholarship database is a great place to search with keywords you identified. Use additional databases to supplement.

For best results, consider scholarships that don’t mention citizenship status, rather than searching for scholarships only for undocumented students.

External Databases

There are many good, free, online scholarship search tools. Research your options and use the resources that work best for you. Here are a few tools to consider:

- **The WashBoard** – search for scholarships for students in Washington
- **Nationally Coveted College Scholarships, Graduate Fellowships & Post-Doctoral Awards** – a helpful listing of national scholarships at all levels
- **UW Libraries Graduate Funding Information Service** office provides access to several databases helpful for undergraduates, alumni, and graduate undocumented students
- **Scholarships.com** – an extensive, commercial scholarship database
- Careers and Colleges: [www.careersandcolleges.com/](http://www.careersandcolleges.com/)
Connect with us!

Meet with an advisor to receive one-on-one appointments for support/feedback.

Attend a workshops + information session for more tips. See the OMSFA events calendar.

Ask for help!

Scholarship searching can be hard, and time-consuming. You are not alone in this journey, feel free to involve your friends, family, and mentors and reach out to our OMSFA advisors!
Additional Resources

Graduate School Resources

The Graduate Student Equity & Excellence (GSEE)
- Supports graduate students of color at UW
- Outreach, recruitment, and graduate student success
- Professional development and community building
- Funding opportunities
- Scholarship and research
- Advocacy, consulting, and advising

UW Undocumented Graduate Students
- Information and resources on graduate study at UW for undocumented students and DACA recipients
- Jobs across the university for UW graduate students in many disciplines
- Teaching, research, and graduate staff assistantships

Graduate School Office of Fellowship & Awards
- Staff administers discretionary tuitions waivers
- Staff also help to provide application support for fellowship opportunities

Leadership Without Boarders
- Serves and empowers undocumented students at the University of Washington
- College success navigators
- Husky Lending Library for textbooks
- Connections to other campus and community resources
- Contact us at undocu@uw.edu or visit the third floor of the Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center

Study Away Resources

- CELE Center
- Domestic Travel
- Cultural Leadership Fellowship
- Scholar Fund

Student Legal Services
- Student Legal Services is a resource for immigration matters. You can Schedule a 40-minute consultation when filling out their intake form.
- SLS can help with cases of immigration, landlord, protection orders, criminal cases, divorce, traffic tickets, auto collision and insurance issues, discrimination, name and gender marker changes, and will and power of attorney.

Finding Allies
- Leadership Without Borders works to connect undocumented students with allies across campus.
- UndocU Ally Directory
- Sign up to participate in an UndocU Ally Training: You can work with LWB Staff to attend or present at a LWB UndocU Ally training.

Immigrants Rising
- A California-based organization that provides resources and advocacy for undocumented people and those navigating the immigration system
SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

OFFICE OF MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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