

Opportunity Funds Scholarship Apply today!



What is the U.S. Department of State EducationUSA Opportunity Funds? It is a program that provides economic support to highly qualified students to cover the up-front costs of applying for an undergraduate or graduate program in a U.S. institution. Candidates must have an academic profile suitable to be awarded full financial aid from a U.S. institution to start in Fall 2024, but lack the financial resources to cover testing, application fees, and airfare.

This program is open to all fields and disciplines with the exception of clinical fields in medicine, veterinary and odontology. Priority will be given to STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). The program does not cover tuition, housing, health insurance, or books. However, grantees will receive support from EducationUSA to find a full financial offer directly from a U.S. university or college. The program is not designed for students who are currently studying at the university level and hope to transfer to a U.S. institution.

Learn about our grantees experiences [here](#).

Requirements:

- 1. Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 9/10 or 90/100.**

All applicants must provide their grades as evidence of a cumulative GPA of 9 or 90: for undergraduate candidates, in the previous years of study; for graduate candidates, in their last degree.
- 2. Proved financial need**

Candidates will be required to share financial information through this application form so their current financial status can be assessed. Candidates who continue to phase two of the selection process will be required to provide additional information and documents as evidence of financial status.
- 3. Advanced level of English**

Candidates must demonstrate English proficiency equivalent to 90 points on the TOEFL iBT (B2 level in the Common European Framework of Reference). An official test score is not required at this time, but if you have taken an official English test in the

last two years, we ask that you submit a copy of your score. For candidates without an official English test score, an English test will be administered if you continue to phase three of the selection process. Candidates must already have an advanced level of English at time of application as this program does not provide support for students to improve their English skills over its duration.

4. Additional requirements:

- This scholarship program is highly demanding: you should be able to invest 15-20 hours per week to successfully complete the program.
- Mexican citizenship. Dual U.S./Mexican citizens are not eligible for this program. Mexico must be your current place of residence
- Commitment to finish the study program in the United States.
- For undergraduate applicants: evidence of your participation in extracurricular activities, such as community or social service, leadership accomplishments, athletic or artistic activities, etc.
- For graduate applicants: evidence of your academic and professional path, such as experience in research and/or teaching; participation in conference; publications; volunteering; lectures; etc.
- For high school students: be currently enrolled in your second year (4th semester) of high school. If you are in your last year (6th semester), you should be aware that participation in this program would require taking a gap year from school. If you already graduated from high school and have begun your studies in a university or college, you are not eligible for this program.

As part of the application, candidates must submit their grades, an essay, and a resume or CV and letter of recommendation in PDF. See next section for further details.

Grades in PDF format:

- Name your file with your first and last name, and the type of document, for example:
ArturoFlores_HistorialAcademicoLicenciatura.
You may download your unofficial grades from your institution's website.
- Undergraduate candidates in their 4th semester of high school, must submit their grades (historial académico) from 1st to 3rd semesters of high school and grades from their last year of middle school (secundaria). Students in their 5th semester of high school, must submit grades from semesters 1st to 5th of high school.
- Graduate candidates must submit a school document that shows the last degree awarded (bachelor or master) including GPA, such as kardex, historial académico, or certificado de estudios. Applicants currently completing their degree must submit a recent document which includes all grades received and cumulative GPA up to the last period (quarter, semester) completed in their current academic program.
- If you have taken any official English tests in the last two years, submit a copy of your scores. If scores are online, a screenshot of the official scores including the applicant's name is enough.

Essay in English in PDF format:

- Name your essay with your first and last name, and the kind of document, for example: ArturoFlores_PersonalStatement
- Briefly explain your background, what makes you unique and qualifies you for this scholarship.
- Use this essay to talk about the development of your mind, your interests, your ambitions, and your priorities.
- Think about people, books, experiences, and ideas that have shaped your interests, especially as they are related to your field of study.
- Think about your own experiences working in related fields and cross-cultural experiences in particular.
- You may mention a few U.S. universities you are interested in, but it is not mandatory.
- It must be 1 to 2 pages. Use Times New Roman, size 12, single-spaced.
- Make sure that your essay is well organized, you clearly describe your academic and career objectives, include your reasons to study in the US, and use proper English and grammar.
- Check out these resources: <https://bit.ly/edusawritingresources>

CV in English in PDF format:

- Name your resume or CV with your first and last name, and the type of document, for example: ArturoFlores_Resume.
- Your document must include at least the following categories: Education (high school for undergraduate candidates, or university for graduate candidates), Experience (work-related or volunteering), and Extracurricular Activities.
- Do not include your photo.

- Check out these resources: <https://bit.ly/edusawritingresources>

Letter of Recommendation in PDF format:

- Name your letter of recommendation with your first and last name, and the kind of document, for example, ArturoFlores_Letter of recommendation.
- You need to submit only one letter of recommendation, 1.5 pages maximum.
- Your letter can be submitted in Spanish.
- Your recommender should be someone that knows you well and can attest your academic or professional performance. This person may be a current or former teacher or professor; a current or former supervisor (in a job or internship); or someone who has academically evaluated you. Personal letters of recommendation from family and friends are not allowed.
*For graduate candidates, it is up to you to submit an academic or professional letter of recommendation.
- It is important to highlight the abilities, qualifications and strengths of the candidate.
- Your recommender should provide specific examples to support your claims and show credibility and why you are the perfect fit for the scholarship.
- If your recommender asks you to write the letter for him/her to sign, find another person willing to prepare this document!
- Check out these resources: <https://bit.ly/edusawritingresources>

How to Apply

- This program is open to all fields and disciplines with the exception of clinical fields in medicine, veterinary and odontology.
- To complete the application, fill out the online form at <http://bit.ly/opponlineform23> (you need to use a Gmail account).
- As you cannot save data in the online form, we strongly suggest that you **download** this [PDF file](#) and print it. You will be able to fill out this form by hand and collect the information that you need to provide in the online form in advance.
- Please note that you do not need to submit the PDF. The online form is the only application required.
- Before filling out the financial aid section, we strongly suggest to watch [this recording](#).
- You are encouraged to join our Kick-Off Event Facebook Live through the account [EducationUSA Mexico](#) on December 14, 2022 at 6 pm CST where we will talk general information about the scholarship.
- Register to our online event [Bootcamp: Opportunity Funds Scholarship | Polish your application](#).
Dates: January 23 to 27, 2023 | 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm CST.
***Participation to our Bootcamp is optional, not mandatory.**
- Participate in our virtual Q&A Session Facebook Live through the account [EducationUSA Mexico](#) on January 28, 2023 at 6 pm CST.

Selection Process

- **Phase 1. Academic Profile.** Once the call closes, the selection committee will evaluate the academic credentials of each applicant.
- **Phase 2. Proof of Financial Need.** Candidates will provide detailed information and documentation, so the selection committee completes the assessment of each candidate's economic status and need (details will be provided to selected candidates).
- **Phase 3. English skills.** Candidates will complete an English exam (details will be provided to selected candidates).
- **Phase 4. Final interview.** Candidates will participate in a virtual interview in English (details will be provided to selected candidates).

The Selection Committee will notify the selected candidates, by email, once the final selection of scholarship recipients is completed.

Important Dates (subject to change)

- **February 13:** Opportunity Funds Call closing
- **February 24:** Notification to selected phase 2 candidates
- **March 10:** Notification to selected phase 3 candidates
- **March 27-30:** Phase 4 (selected candidates' online interviews)
- **April 26:** Notification of acceptance to the Opportunity Funds 2023 program to selected candidates
- **May 3:** Beginning of the Opportunity Funds 2023 program

Description of the Program

The EducationUSA team will provide orientation, advice, and intensive follow-up to scholarship recipients in each step of the search and selection process for universities in the United States; and the necessary tools to find financial aid opportunities available to cover the expenses of studying their degree in the United States.

Specific details of the program will be provided to Opportunity Funds grantees at the first meeting. You will find a general overview, expectations, and benefits here:

General Overview

Selected students will work during one year to prepare for starting their studies at an accredited U.S. institution with the help and support of the EducationUSA advisers in Mexico. The Opportunity Funds scholarship is divided in two stages: stage I goes from acceptance to the program until submission of applications to U.S. universities, and stage II starts when students receive a full economic offer from a U.S. institution until students travel to the United States to start their studies.

Scholarship grantees must have the time, availability, and commitment to fulfill the tasks and assignments of the whole process. A calendar with all tasks, activities, and deadlines will be provided to selected candidates, so they can accept or reject the scholarship.

Expectations:

Grantees are expected to:

Stage I

- Attend all virtual sessions and meetings during the program

From April to October 2023:

- Prepare for standardized admissions tests
- Complete admissions essays and follow a revision process with EducationUSA advisers
- Request letters of recommendation
- Fulfill other admissions requirements

From November 2023 to February 2024

- Submit applications to U.S. institutions
- Fill out applications for financial support
- Attend virtual advising sessions as requested

Stage II

- Attend all virtual sessions and meetings during the program

From February to June 2024

- Receive acceptance letters from U.S. institutions
- Attend pre-departure orientation
- Complete passport and visa processing

From July to August 2024

- Travel to the United States to start their program at their U.S. university

Benefits

Stage I. In this stage, Opportunity Funds scholarship grantees will receive the following benefits:

- Online course preparation for the standardized exams required for admission at U.S. institutions such as SAT or ACT, GRE, and TOEFL
- Standardized test fees and transportation to and from the test center (if applicable)
- Translations fees and delivery costs
- Application fees (up to 5 U.S. institutions)

Stage II. If the student does not receive a full financial aid offer from an accredited U.S. university or college, and/or complementary funds from other sources to cover the costs of tuition, fees and living expenses, she/he will not receive any stage II economic benefits.

In this stage, selected students will be eligible for the following benefits:

- Passport fee
- SEVIS and student visa fees (transportation to the nearest U.S. Consulate or the U.S. Embassy, if applicable)
- Transportation to the nearest EducationUSA advising center for “Pre-Departure Orientation” (if applicable)

- One-way airline ticket to the university location where the student will complete his/her studies
- A one-time settling-in fee.

Results and Questions

The application will close on **Monday, February 13 at 11:59 pm.**

On **February 24**, we will notify results to candidates (if they are eligible to advance to the phase 2 of the selection process or if they are not eligible to continue). Please do not contact us before this date to ask for results. Check your spam folder if you do not receive our communication by this date.

If you have any questions regarding the application, please write us an email at opportunityfundsmexico@educationusa.org.

Disclaimer

Knowingly providing false and/or misleading information on the application form is fraud. Penalties for providing false information or lying include, but are not limited to, repaying financial aid received and being suspended or expelled from the Opportunity Funds program.