

THE COPTIC SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COPTIC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Covering the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories including Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and Northern Mariana Islands.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

This document is a guide to the application and selection process for the Coptic Scholarship. Please read this carefully to make sure that you are applying through the right district and meet all the eligibility criteria.

This information is for candidates applying to the 2024 Coptic Scholarship through the United States of America.

Key Dates

Applications Open: 00:01 Central Time, Saturday 15 June 2024

Applications Close: 23:59 Central Time, Monday 30 September 2024

Reference Deadline: 23:59 Central Time, Monday 30 September 2024

There are 5 scholarships available for the United States of America constituency, available to both graduate and undergraduate students. The award for the Graduate Coptic Scholars is \$5,000 per Scholar, and the award for the Undergraduate Coptic Scholars is \$3,000 per Scholar. **The head of your regularly-attended church must submit a Letter of Endorsement on your behalf to be considered for a Scholarship.**

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Nationality / Citizenship:** You must be a citizen of the United States OR you must have been admitted to the United States as a lawful permanent resident.
- **University Status:** You must be currently enrolled as a graduate or undergraduate student at a U.S. university, or, in the case of incoming graduate or undergraduate students, you must have applied and been accepted to a U.S. university.
- **Age: You must meet either of the below criteria:**
 - i. You must be aged 18-26 on 15 June 2024.
 - ii. You must be under the age of 27 on 15 June 2024 AND you must also have completed the academic requirements for your high school diploma on or after 15 June 2023.
- **Commitment:** You must be a full-time U.S. university student or an incoming full-time U.S. university student, either graduate or undergraduate.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the Coptic Scholarship, you must complete and submit our online application form by 23:59 Central Time, 30 September 2024.

There is no application fee for submission of the Coptic Scholarship application form; however, you must submit your application online and we cannot accept any other form of application.

If unsuccessful in your first application to the Coptic Scholarships, you may subsequently reapply only once more, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria.

The Coptic Scholarship application form requires you to provide:

- Institutional Endorsement – A Letter of Endorsement by the head of your regularly-attended church
- Your contact information
- Evidence that you meet the eligibility criteria
- Your university unofficial transcript if you are currently enrolled in university or your undergraduate or high school transcript if you are an incoming graduate or undergraduate student, respectively
- A Curriculum Vita (CV) or Resume
- A Personal Statement
- A letter of recommendation from an Academic who has formally taught and graded you in your graduate, undergraduate, or, in the case of incoming undergraduate students, high school career

Please also note – before starting an online Coptic Scholarship application you should be aware of the National Coptic Charity data protection policy for applications.

Personal Statement:

You will also provide a personal statement of no more than 1,000 words.

The personal statement is your chance to tell your story in your own voice: *Who are you?*

Your academic transcript, your CV / resume, and your reference letters will provide the substantive detail of your commitments and accomplishments, whereas the personal statement gives you the opportunity to make an authentic statement of who you are.

Prompts

In your personal statement of 1,000 words, we ask you to address each of the following prompts by weaving them into your statement (the word allocation across the three is up to you):

1. Which fruit of the Spirit do you display most strongly, and how are your experiences helping you develop the other fruits?
2. What would you like to learn from and contribute to the discipline of your choice in particular and the wider university community in general?
3. From your place in the world, what is the Coptic Community's greatest need?

Your personal statement should be wholly accurate and written in your own words from your own perspective. Material misrepresentation will result in disqualification of an application or, where appropriate, the rescinding of a scholarship. It should be entirely your own work, with no assistance received. Through the online application form you will be asked to confirm that the entered / uploaded personal statement is accurate, is your own work, and that no external help was given in its creation or editing.

Guidance

Coptic Scholars are to be distinguished Leaders, accomplished Intellectuals, and adamant Believers. Leadership, Scholarship, and Faith are the guiding principles of each Coptic Scholar. Accordingly, the qualities below are what the Selection Committee will be looking for in each candidate.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

specific to your discipline and field of study.

ENERGY TO USE YOUR TALENTS TO THE FULL

as demonstrated by success in areas such as community service, sports, music, debate, and artistic pursuits, including where teamwork is involved.

KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, COURAGE, DEVOTION TO DUTY, sympathy for and protection of the weak, unselfishness, and fellowship.

MORAL FORCE OF CHARACTER

and instincts to lead, to take an interest in the fellow members of your Coptic Community in particular and humanity in general.

AMBASSADORIAL POTENTIAL

to culturally and intellectually bridge the East with the West, contributing to improved East-West understanding, and reconciling the Old World with the New.

SELECTION PROCESS

Once the application deadline has passed, all submitted applications will be sent to the National Selection Committee for assessment. Five Scholars will be selected in accordance with the aforementioned Selection Criteria. Currently, the Coptic Scholarship does not require an interview as part of the selection process. All applicants will be notified with a decision regarding whether or not they will be offered a Coptic Scholarship.

SELECTION CONDITIONS

- Selection for the Coptic Scholarship in the U.S. constituency is made without regard to financial means.
- No selection will be made if a sufficiently qualified candidate cannot be found.
- The decision of the Selection Committee is final.
- The National Coptic Charity may contact you some time after the submission deadline to ask for feedback on the application process and any interactions you have had with the N.C.C. staff and volunteers.

POST-SELECTION

If you are selected for the Coptic Scholarship, you will be required to attend the 2024 Coptic Scholars Awards Ceremony. The Coptic Scholarship will announce the 2024 Scholar-Elects on Saturday, 02 November 2024. The Awards Ceremony will take place on Saturday, 16 November 2024. Additionally, by applying, you consent to have your photo and biography shared by the National Coptic Charity and all its associates.