



2016-17 Diamonds In the Rough Scholarship Program

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Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria to be eligible for this scholarship:

- be a high school senior.
- be an African-American male.
- have a cumulative GPA between 2.0 and 2.99 (un-weighted, based on a 4-point scale).
- be attending:
 - any public or charter school in Montgomery or Prince George's County, Maryland, or
 - any public or charter school in the District of Columbia, or
 - any public or charter school in Arlington or Fairfax Counties, or the cities of Alexandria or Falls Church, Virginia
 - Westinghouse High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

No exceptions will be made.

When is the application deadline?

May 26, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time Zone

What are the selection criteria?

An independent selection committee will evaluate the applications and select the recipients considering:

- Community involvement
- Essay content
- Academic achievements and records

Decisions of the selection committees are final and are not subject to appeal. No application feedback will be given.



What are the details of the award?

- Three (3) one-time scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,000 each.
- The scholarships can be applied to tuition, mandatory fees, books, supplies and equipment required for course load at accredited, nonprofit two or four-year colleges/universities in the United States.
- Students may transfer from one institution to another and retain the award.

Is this scholarship renewable?

No. This scholarship is not renewable.

Which school should I list on the application if I have not made a final decision?

You should list your first choice on the application.

How do I change my college choice?

You may update your final school choice on the **My Profile** page at <https://aim.applyists.net>. If you are chosen to receive an award, it will be your responsibility to make sure your college is updated at least 30 days prior to the check issue date stated in the award notification so your check can be issued accordingly. This will not update any application or acceptance forms; however, all awards are issued based on the **My Profile** page.

How do I know if my application is complete?

Allow five to seven business days after uploading documents for your online status to update. You may monitor your status of your application on your home page at <https://aim.applyists.net>.

- **Not Started:** the form has not been requested or started.
- **Started:** the form has not been submitted and will not be considered.
- **Submitted:** the form has been submitted, but is not Complete.
- **Complete:** all required forms and attachments (if applicable) have been received and your application will be considered for the scholarship.

You may also monitor the status of your attachments and recommendations (if applicable).

- **Not received:** the attachment has either not been received or has been rejected.
- **Requested:** the form request has been created, but the form has not been started.
- **Processing:** the attachment has been received and is reviewed.
- **Accepted:** the attachment has been verified and accepted by ISTS.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to monitor the progress of all application requirements to make sure the application is complete. The status **Complete** will display on the home page when all forms have been submitted and all documents have been verified.

I uploaded a document that no longer displays on my application. Do I need to submit it again?

Previously uploaded documents that are no longer displayed with a status on the home page have been rejected. The most common reasons for a rejected document are as follows:

- The document uploaded is not one of the accepted file types: .pdf, .tif, .png, .gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .bmp and .xps.
- The document uploaded was not the document requested.
- Not all pages of the document were contained in the file.
- We cannot open the file. The file may be corrupted or password protected.

Refer to the upload section of your application for the details of the required documents and upload a new file that meets the criteria stated.

How do I upload more than one file at a time?

You may create a .zip file containing more than one file as long as everything included is in an acceptable format (i.e. pdf, .tif, .png, .gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .bmp and .xps.)



Where and when should I send my supporting documents?

The required supporting documents must be uploaded to your online application by the application deadline. If you do not follow the upload instructions exactly, your application may not be considered. Documents that meet the criteria required for the scholarship application, and are uploaded by the deadline, will be processed and considered on time.

How and when will I receive notification?

- Notifications are sent to recipients and applicants not selected to receive an award **via email** by the end of June. For recipients, an **Acceptance** link will be displayed on the home page following the notification.
- Add donotreply@applyists.com and contactus@applyists.com to your email address book or “safe senders list” to ensure these important emails are not sent to your junk mail folder.
- **Do not ‘opt out’ of any email sent from donotreply@applyists.com or contactus@applyists.com.**
- You may not receive vital information regarding your scholarship applications if you opt out.

Note: Your email address will only be used to communicate with you about your scholarship applications or other opportunities administered by ISTS for which you may be eligible to apply. We will not provide your email address to any third-parties.

What are my responsibilities if I am chosen as a recipient?

You must enroll as a full-time undergraduate student in the fall of the year in which the scholarships are awarded, continue the entire academic year without interruption unless approved by scholarship sponsor, deliver your scholarship check(s) to the proper office at your institution, and notify ISTS should your check not arrive within 30 days of the issue date.

How and when are checks issued?

Checks will be issued in early August to each recipient’s mailing address and made payable to the institution on the profile page.

Are scholarships taxable?

Tax laws vary by country. In the United States, scholarship funds used exclusively for the payment of tuition or textbooks are normally not taxable. The scholarship recipient is responsible for taxes, if any, that may be assessed against his or her scholarship award. We recommend consulting your tax advisor for more guidance. You may also consult IRS Publication 970 for further information (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf>).

My parent’s employment makes me eligible for this scholarship. Whose contact information do I use?

Applicants must register with their personal email addresses. Do not use parent’s work email addresses. Your My Profile page should reflect the applicant’s (the person who is attending university) legal name and contact information. If parent’s information is needed, it will be specifically asked for on the application.

Program Administration

To ensure complete impartiality in selection of recipients and to maintain a high level of professionalism, the program is administered by International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc., a firm that specializes in managing sponsored scholarship programs.

Questions

For additional information regarding the scholarship program [click here](#) or call toll free (855)-670-ISTS (4787).

