



# Wells Mountain Initiative

## **Wells Mountain Initiative Scholarship Information and Frequently Asked Questions**

To apply for the WMI Scholarship program, you must submit a complete application through our online scholarship application process via website (preferred method) or via postal mail to our office *before* 11:59 PM EST on April 1, 2017. The 2018 WMI online application will be available from December 1, 2017 to midnight EST on April 1, 2018.

**Our Ideal Candidate: A student, male or female, from a country in the developing world, who:**

- Successfully completed a secondary education, with good to excellent grades
- Will be studying in his or her country or another country in the developing world
- Plans to live and work in his or her own country after they graduate
- Has volunteered prior to applying for this scholarship and/or is willing to volunteer while receiving the WMI scholarship
- May have some other funds available for education, but will not be able to go to school without a scholarship
- Submits a complete, legible current application in English (please proof-read). Because we receive so many applications, incomplete applications will not be considered

WMI scholarships range from \$300 USD to \$3000 USD annually and are provided throughout the undergraduate education of the recipient. While our maximum scholarship is \$3000 USD, we rarely award this high an amount. Our average scholarship amount is \$1400 USD.

**The scholarship may be used for:**

- Tuition and fees
- Books and materials
- Room rent

**We do not require the applicant to pay an admission or processing fee or to buy a number to have the application reviewed.** If someone contacts you saying a fee is required, please forward that email to [info@wellsmountaininitiative.org](mailto:info@wellsmountaininitiative.org). We would very much like to prosecute this fraud.

**We do not fund:**

- Education at a college, polytechnic or university in the United States, UK, Australia, or Europe. Education in these countries, while excellent, is too expensive for our scholarship amounts to be effective
- Masters or Doctorate degrees – we prefer to use our limited resources to assist young people in getting their initial tertiary degree. A medical degree, however, is acceptable
- Laptop computers, conferences or trips
- Debts or past due tuition bills

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. When can I apply for the WMI Program?**

A: You will be able to begin applying for the scholarship in December. Applications will be accepted for four months. All applications must be received until midnight EST on April 1.

## **2. How do I apply for the WMI Scholarship?**

A: Beginning in December, you will be able to access our online scholarship application process via our website. We highly encourage applicants to apply this way. You will find easy instructions on how to use our online scholarship application management system. You will also find an “Apply” button on our website.

We will still accept printed applications with legible writing mailed through the post. However, we encourage applicants to apply online through our scholarship application process. Those who apply via post must send a complete application in one mailing. We will not accept multiple letters/packages from an applicant who forgot to include a document.

You will find the current Wells Mountain application on our website that you can download and print. Be sure to use the most current form! Other websites may have old copies of our application. If you submit an application on an old form, your application will be discarded.

If your application is not complete, we will discard the entire application and you will not be notified.

Applications received by email won't be considered. Please apply through our online application website.

## **3. Can I just email all my application documents to WMI?**

A: No. You must use our online scholarship application process or send everything by regular mail. Submit your application only once. Our preference is for you to apply via the online application process. Any application duplication will result in the applicant being disqualified.

## **4. Does my application have to be in English?**

A: Yes. If a recommendation letter is not in English, a verified translation must be provided along with the original recommendation in the foreign language. It doesn't need to be a notarized or sworn translation.

## **5. Must I send in grades?**

A: Yes. We require an official transcript from secondary school and from any tertiary classes you have already completed. Be sure the transcript contains a key to interpreting the grades, as different countries use different systems of assessing the quality of the student's academic progress. If there is no key included, your application will be disqualified. Do not include grades from primary level.

**6. You ask for two recommendations. What do you mean by that?**

A: We need two letters written by someone who knows you, but is not a family member, who can tell us why you deserve to receive a WMI scholarship. What qualities do you possess that will make you an excellent student, a successful graduate and a responsible citizen who will give back to your country? Letters of recommendation may come from a teacher, a religious leader, a volunteer service supervisor, an employer, and should be printed or written on the recommender's organization's letterhead. These must be submitted with your application; letters sent separately will be discarded.

We suggest you print it out and provide your recommender our "Guidelines for Recommendation".

**7. What happens if I don't send all required documents?**

Our online application management system will only accept completed applications. Be careful not to upload the same recommendation or grades twice. The online software will think your application is complete, but you will be disqualified because you are required to submit two recommendation letters and two kinds of grades – from your national exam and from your secondary school. Thus, once your application has been submitted through the online application process, you know that your application will be reviewed.

**8. For what fields of study do you provide scholarships?**

A: All fields, although we tend to favor helping professions such as health care, social work, education, social justice, as well as professions that help the economy and progress of the country, such as IT, engineering, agriculture and business.

**9. What if I study in the UK, US, Europe or Australia, but promise to go back to my country after I graduate?**

A: That is fine, but you will not be eligible for the WMI program. The reason we do not fund an education in the UK, US, Europe or Australia is because our scholarships would provide only a fraction of the educational costs in those countries, but can cover almost all educational costs in developing nations. We feel it is a better use of our resources.

**10. Do I need to be accepted to a school before I apply for the scholarship?**

A: No, you can apply before you receive your official acceptance letter, but you will not be awarded a scholarship until you are accepted. If you have your acceptance letter at the time when you are submitting your application, include your acceptance letter. If you do not have your acceptance letter at the time you are submitting your application, do NOT send it to us unless we contact you directly.

### **11. Will the scholarship cover all my expenses?**

A: Probably not. Our scholarships range from \$300 USD to \$3000 USD a year, although we award very few at the \$3000 USD level. Our average scholarship amount is \$1400 USD a year. If your costs exceed \$3000 USD and you have absolutely no other way to make up the difference, we recommend you do not apply for one of our scholarships. Also, it is not wise to inflate your expenses, as you will cause us to think that our scholarship will not be enough to meet your needs.

We will then award it to a student whose needs can be met by a scholarship within our range of \$300 to \$3000 USD per year.

### **12. If I receive a WMI scholarship, is it guaranteed for the length of my degree program?**

A: Generally speaking, yes. But you must maintain good grades, volunteer within your community 100 hours per year, and meet all reporting requirements as directed by WMF. Reporting requirements include submitting specific WMF documents: academic reports, community service reports, grades each semester, and additional items.

### **13. How will I know if you received my application?**

A: Applicants who apply through our online application management system will receive an automatic email once they have submitted their application. This email will serve as proof that we have received a complete application.

If mailing your application by post, you will get an email acknowledgement once it is received (if we are able to read your handwriting). This acknowledgement may take up to three weeks, especially if you submit close to the April 1 deadline. We will indicate that we received it, but will not inform you whether or not any required information or documents are missing. It is the applicant's responsibility to be sure a complete application is submitted. Incomplete applications will not be considered for a scholarship! Be careful to send us everything in one mailing.

### **14. Will my application actually be read?**

A: Yes, absolutely. Each application is read thoroughly and rated by a team of reviewers. During the first stage of review, applications receiving the highest scores from each reviewer move on to the next level. The top scoring applications are then reviewed in stage two by the WMI scholarship committee. The top scoring applications in stage two move on to the next and final level. In selecting our final candidates, we

strive to balance gender, and try to have a variety of fields of study and countries represented.

If you mail your application to us, we first check it for completeness. If something is missing, it goes in the elimination pile and is not considered (we do not contact you if this occurs). If it is complete, it moves on to the next level of review.

### **15. What are my chances?**

Each year, we receive a much greater number than the year before, but our scholarship funds are not growing at the same rate. Last year, we received over 1200 complete applications and were able to accept 50 new WMI Scholars as participants in the Wells Mountain program. That represents an acceptance rate of 4%. The competition is keen, so be sure your application is complete and received before the deadline.

### **16. When is the deadline to apply for a scholarship?**

A: There is only one deadline a year and that is April 1. We must receive mailed applications by that date. If you are mailing your application, allow two-three weeks for delivery via post. We review all completed applications and notify the new scholarship recipients via email on August 1. We also post the names of the new WMI scholarship recipients on our website and on our Facebook page on August 1. Those not receiving a scholarship will also receive an email from us. If you receive no email from WMI on or shortly after August 1, check our website for the list of new WMI Scholars.

Best of luck!