

International Student Retention Scholarship Guidelines and Application Information

Portland State University (PSU) welcomes students from other countries to pursue higher education in Oregon. The presence of international students on our campus and in our city provides students and Portland residents with valuable exposure to the world's cultural diversity. The International Student Retention Scholarship (ISRS), made possible through funding from the State of Oregon, offers partial tuition scholarships each year to a number of deserving students from countries throughout the world.

[Eligibility Requirements]

- **Undergraduate students** (at least sophomore standing) must have been enrolled and completed at least 3 terms at PSU. Must maintain a 2.75 GPA at Portland State University.
- **Undergraduate transfer students** (at least sophomore standing) must have been enrolled and completed at least 1 term at PSU. Must maintain a 2.75 GPA at Portland State University.
- **Post-baccalaureate and graduate students** must have been enrolled and completed at least 1 term at PSU. **Graduate students** must maintain a 3.00 GPA at Portland State University.

- Students who are co-enrolled at another USCIS approved institution are eligible to receive the scholarship.
- Students have clearly defined degree goals and be making satisfactory progress toward completion of a degree program.
- Students restricted to English as a Second Language (ESL) coursework are not eligible to receive the scholarship until they have met the English Language Proficiency Requirements. Pathway students will be eligible to apply for the scholarship once they have completed at least one term with all PSU academic/major courses.
- Following categories are not eligible for this scholarship: U.S. citizens, resident aliens, or anyone who meets eligibility test for receiving U.S. Federal Financial Aid, students who pay resident (in-state) tuition, students receiving other fee remission awards (including graduate assistantships and ICSP) and those with Employment Authorization Documents (except those through Economic Hardship).

[Scholarship Conditions]

The scholarship amount is \$1,500 per term, or the total amount of tuition, whichever is less, for a maximum of 6 consecutive terms. Awards are subject to continued funding availability and are not guaranteed.

The scholarship is awarded in Fall, Winter and Spring terms only; awards are not given in Summer term.

Students who receive an International Cultural Service Program (ICSP) award or a Graduate/Teaching or Research Assistantship may not receive the International Student Retention Scholarship.

Scholarship recipients must maintain a GPA of 2.75 (undergraduate) or 3.0 (graduate) or above.

Recipients must maintain a full course load each term, unless authorized for under enrollment by an international student advisor in the Office of International Student and Scholar Services. Undergraduate students must complete a minimum of 12 credits each term, and graduate students must complete a minimum of 9 credits per term. If there are any extenuating circumstances, the coordinator should be notified immediately.

[Selection Criteria]

International students who demonstrate financial need, have clearly defined academic and professional goals, and who strive for academic excellence, are encouraged to apply for the International Student Retention Scholarship. Selection is based on demonstration of financial need, depth and quality of essay, Grade Point Average, and recommendation letters/forms.

[To Apply]

Applicants are encouraged to apply through **WorldLink** (<https://worldlink.intl.pdx.edu/>).

1. Completed online application form
2. Essay (maximum two double-spaced pages in length) addressing these topics:
 - a. A brief personal background
 - b. Your academic and professional goals, and how a degree from PSU will assist you in fulfilling those goals.
3. A written statement of your financial support and the circumstances of your financial need. Please include your family's yearly income in your statement. You do not need to include any bank statements. (Maximum two double-spaced pages in length).
4. Two letters or forms of recommendation dated within the last six months from instructors or academic advisors.

[Recommendation]

Recommenders can be professors, academic advisors, supervisors, etc. One recommendation should address your studies in the U.S.. International Student Advisors or International Student Life Advisors from the Office of International Student and Scholar Services at PSU may not be used as recommenders. Peers or family friends are not acceptable as recommenders.

Applicants will be able to enter their two recommenders' contact information as part of their online application. Upon submission, recommenders will receive an automatic email with a recommendation form. After recommenders submit their responses, applicants will also receive a confirmation email.

If recommenders write letters of recommendation, the letters can be directly emailed to Yoko Honda, hondy@pdx.edu by the recommender.

[Guidelines for Recommendation]

For those writing letters on behalf of students applying for the International Student Retention Scholarship.

Following are some points that might be helpful to address in your recommendation:

- How long and in what context have you known the candidate?
- Student's academic or other achievements
- Student's contribution to the classroom or organization
- Why is this student a good candidate for the International Student Retention Scholarship?
- Please mention any other points you think should be known about the candidate
- The recommendation letter should be addressed to the International Student Retention Scholarship Committee

[Deadlines]

Fall term: July 15

Winter term: October 15

Spring term: February 15

Deadlines are strictly enforced. Applications turned in after the deadline will be reviewed with the next term's applicants.

[Scholarship Coordinator]

Yoko Honda

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International Student and Scholar Services - International
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