

Scholarship FAQs

- How much are the scholarship awards?
 - In past years, we have awarded scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 – from 10 to 15 scholarships per year. The specific amounts can vary from year to year.
- What is considered when awarding scholarships?
 - This is a merit-based scholarship, and every component of the application is evaluated.
- Can someone apply for more than one scholarship?
 - Students may apply for as many scholarships as they are eligible for. Each scholarship has different eligibility requirements. Previous national scholarship recipients cannot apply again.
- If applying to multiple scholarships is there a processing fee for each application?
 - Yes, students have to pay the processing fee for each scholarship submitted.
- Does the applicant or a member of their family need to be an OSDIA member?
 - No, membership is not required. The processing fee includes a one-year at-large membership for the applicant.
- If already a member does the applicant still have to pay the \$35 fee?
 - Yes, this is a processing fee required for every application, regardless of membership.
- When will the one year at-large membership for the applicant take effect?
 - All applicants' memberships will be activated in April after the recipients are selected.
- Are there any scholarships available for high school?
 - At this time, our scholarships are only available to students who will be enrolled in an accredited four-year undergraduate program, a graduate program, or a professional school in the fall of 2025.
- Can Italian citizens in the US apply?
 - At this time, only US citizens and Green Card holders are eligible for our scholarships.
- If the school will not release an official transcript can the applicant send it to us directly?
 - No, we cannot accept any materials via mail/email/etc. Every component must be uploaded to the online application. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable if the official transcript is not available.
- Can SAT/ACT scores be sent to the office?

- No, we cannot accept any materials via mail/email/etc. Every component must be uploaded to the online application. Score reports are acceptable
- If an applicant has taken multiple tests should they upload all the scores?
 - We request all test scores the applicant has taken in the last five years, but it is ultimately up to them.
- What if an applicant has not taken any standardized tests? (Many universities have relaxed test score requirements since the pandemic)
 - Students should upload an explanation e.g. "I did not take any ACT/SAT tests because my college did not require them" in place of the score report. It is required to populate the test score field on the application.
- How are the letters of recommendation submitted?
 - The students enter the email addresses of their two references. After the applicant submits the completed application, the references will receive an email with instructions for how to upload the letter.
- Can an employer submit a letter of recommendation?
 - If the applicant has no educators to use as references, an employer or another figure in their community may write the letter of recommendation. Friends and family cannot serve as references.
- Can the letter of recommendation be written in Italian?
 - No, all letters of recommendation, even for the Italian Language scholarship, must be submitted in English.
- When will the winners be announced?
 - All applicants will be notified via email whether they are awarded a scholarship no later than May 1st. Recipients will be honored at the NELA Gala.
- My grandfather/grandmother is/was a member of the organization, do I still have to pay the application fee?
 - Yes, that is the fee requested to process each application.
- Can Italian students apply for the scholarship?
 - The scholarship is open to students of Italian descent who are legal residents in the US (Green Card holders).
- Does the SIF scholarship sponsor PhD projects?
 - The scholarship money is meant to cover students' tuition fees and PhD programs are not in line with our policy.

- Can the children of OSDIA members who do not have Italian heritage apply for the scholarship?
 - The scholarship is open to people of Italian descent, irrespective of their OSDIA membership.

- Can the adopted children of Italian American citizens apply for the scholarship, even if they do not have Italian heritage?
 - We do not discriminate birth or adopted children of Italian American citizens and they are more than welcome to apply.

We can only accept materials through the online application.

All applications and application materials must be submitted by March 14th – **no exceptions will be made.**