

Scholarships for International Students in F-1 Status at UH Hilo

International students in F-1 status are not eligible for US government financial aid or loans. Most scholarships are available only to US citizens and permanent residents. There are, however, several scholarships that international students at UH Hilo are eligible for after they have earned 12 credits at UH Hilo (OR TRANSFER?); the ones available to most international students are listed below. For most scholarships, students apply in March for scholarships that begin the following August.

1. International Student Scholarship – This scholarship is awarded to undergraduate international students who have demonstrated outstanding academic merit and have some degree of financial need. Scholarships are limited and are awarded on a competitive basis. Must have a GPA of 3.0 or better. Preference is given to students from countries in the Asia-Pacific region, but anyone who is in F-1 student status may apply. Students must have completed at least 12 graded credit hours at any UH campus at the time of application. The scholarship amount for 2011-2012 was approximately \$2,000 per semester. Applications are available around January 15 of each year at the International Student Services Office, Student Services Building Room 206 and on the International Student Services website (<http://hilo.hawaii.edu/studentaffairs/international>), and usually have a deadline of mid-March.

2. Dean's Scholarship – Each academic college at UH Hilo awards a limited number of scholarships each year based on academic merit and achievement. Eligibility requirements and amounts vary among colleges. Application forms are usually available from each college Dean's office and the Financial Aid Office in January of each year.

3. Mildred W. Towle Trust Fund – The Mildred Towle Scholarship assists students pursuing a baccalaureate or graduate degree at any campus of the University of Hawai'i. Eligibility requirements include a) classified full-time student who has completed at least one semester at any UH campus, b) citizens from US territories are eligible, c) academic merit as demonstrated by a GPA of at least 3.0, and d) some degree of financial need. The application is available online at https://www.star.hawaii.edu:10012/Scholarship_live/ProcessorLogout.jsp. The annual online application is made available in January and the application deadline is March 15. For more information, visit www.hawaii.edu/finaid/scholarships/system/index.html. Note that international students do **not** need to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which is for US citizens and permanent residents, as part of the application process.

UH Hilo offers other scholarships for which international students might be eligible. Visit http://hilo.hawaii.edu/financialaid/documents/ScholarshipOpps_11-12.pdf for a list of scholarships and review the eligibility criteria. If you are not sure if you are eligible for any of these scholarships, contact the Financial Aid Office (808-974-7323, uhhfao@hawaii.edu or Student Services Building 1st floor) or the International Student Services office. Application deadlines are typically March 1 for these scholarships.

In addition, there are free scholarship databases as well as private, corporate, nonprofit, and government scholarship funds that assist international students. Some scholarship databases charge fees to users, and other databases provide their services at no cost. In general, the same information is available from both types of database services, so it is not necessary to pay any fee. Ask in advance, and choose the database service that is free of charge. Be especially aware of dishonest scholarship offers: do not send money, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers to any organization that promises a scholarship in return. If you doubt the truthfulness of any scholarship source, consult with the International Student Services office.

Websites with Multiple Scholarship Resources

Abroad Planet Scholarship Resources (<http://resources.abroadplanet.com/scholarships>): Online community of international students studying in the United States.

College Board (http://apps.collegeboard.org/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp): Free online financial aid source for scholarships, grants, and loans for all college-bound students, including permanent residents and international students wishing to study in the US.

FastWeb (<http://www.fastweb.com>): Free online scholarship search service.

International Education Financial Aid (<http://www.iefaf.org>): Free online scholarship search service designed for international students.

International Scholarships (<http://www.internationalscholarships.com>): Free online scholarship database for international students wishing to study worldwide.

International Student.com (<http://www.internationalstudent.com/scholarships>): Free online scholarship database for international students.

Mobility International USA (<http://www.miusa.org/ncde/financialaid/nonus>): Free online scholarship resource for non-US citizens with disabilities.

Private Loans

Though rare, there are international student loans available to students who meet certain criteria. Many loans require a co-signer. A co-signer is someone who guarantees and is responsible for payment to the loaning institution if for any reason you are unable to pay back the loan. For more information about loans you might be eligible for, contact the International Student Services office. You can also visit the International Student Loan Center from InternationalStudent.com at <http://www.InternationalStudent.com/loans>, which provides international students with access to a range of loan products to help fund your education.