

ASIFA-Hollywood's Animation Educators Forum Now Accepting Applications for 2025 Scholarships

The Animation Educators Forum is proud to announce its 2025-26 academic year scholarships. Last year, the AEF awarded \$44,000 USD in scholarships to eleven students.

2025 SCHOLARSHIPS

We are accepting applications for the academic year 2025-26.

Our online application site scholarships.animationeducatorsforum.org will go live on April 21, 2025, and close on August 1, 2025.

Scholarship awards will be announced after September 1, 2025.

CRITERIA AND AWARDS

Our scholarships are merit-based awards designed to support college students in continuing their education in animation.

Awards up to \$5,000 may be applied to:

- tuition
- books and supplies
- formal academic research (including travel expenses)
- animation equipment (including computer hardware and software)
- senior or graduate projects

Additionally, all scholarship award winners will receive a 1-year Student level membership to ASIFA-Hollywood.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the scholarship award, the following MINIMUM criteria must be met:

1. Applicants must be undergraduate students entering the second or higher year of study or graduate students at all levels.
2. Applicants must have a grade point average of 2.5 or above.
3. Applicants must be attending a college, university, or trade program in the field of animation that is accredited by a recognized national or professional accrediting agency.
4. Applicants must plan to attend both semesters of the USA standard academic year (Fall: August to December and Spring: January to June). Students planning to attend only a portion of the year (ex. Spring semester) are NOT eligible for the Scholarship. Special considerations may be made for academic institutions not based in the United States.
5. Applications will only be considered for the semester(s) that the student will be actively attending classes. Awards cannot be "reserved" for upcoming semesters of attendance nor during a Leave of Absence. Again, special considerations may be made for academic institutions not based in the United States.

6. To receive the scholarship funds, the awardee must be able to provide Proof of Enrollment for the initial semester of the award year (ex. Fall in the USA). Special accommodations may be made for award winners attending institutions with academic calendars that do not align with the USA standard Fall/Spring semester schedule.
7. Students cannot be awarded the ASIFA-Hollywood's Animation Educators Forum Student Scholarship for two consecutive academic years. Recipients of the Scholarship in the previous academic year (2024-25) are ineligible for this year.
8. All applications must be completed by 11: 59 PM PST on August 1, 2025.
9. Applications from international students are welcome.

Application Requirements

Application materials will include:

1. A short biography (500 words maximum) describing the applicant's experience as an animation major.
2. A proposal (1,000 words maximum) for the scholarship describing how the award will be used and how it will benefit the applicant's goals in animation.
3. A proposed budget (500 words maximum) describing how the funds will be spent. For example, the budget might include an itemized list of equipment, travel expenses for research, or tuition with estimated cost figures.
4. Still art (10 piece maximum) and/or an animation reel (2 minutes maximum) demonstrating the applicant's strengths and/or artistic breadth OR a formal abstract for an academic paper. These supporting documents will be based on the type of application (creative animation or animation study/research) – all three are NOT required for any applicant.
5. Two letters of recommendation: one from a faculty member who is familiar with the applicant's work and one from a current ASIFA member OR an individual with verifiable professional animation experience (see notes below).

NOTE: If the applicant is unable to secure a recommendation from an ASIFA member in the area, a faculty member from their institution may join any ASIFA charter to fulfill this requirement. If the applicant is unable to find a willing party, they may substitute a recommendation from an individual with professional animation experience that may be verified by the Animation Educators Forum.

NOTE: If locating an ASIFA charter/member or animation professional is too tricky, the applicant should contact the Scholarship Committee Chairperson at scholarships.aef@gmail.com to discuss an alternate solution.

Selection And Notification Processes

A panel of animation educators and professionals will consider all of the fully completed applications and select awardees. The recipients of the 2025 Student Scholarship will be publicly announced after September 1, 2025. All awardees will receive written notification from the AEF Scholarship Committee after that date. Information about the status of applications will not be released (ex. through email) until the awards have been formally announced.

Requirements For Students Accepting the Scholarship

ASIFA-Hollywood's Animation Educators Forum Scholarship Committee members will stay in touch with the awardees throughout the scholarship year. All awardees will be required to provide the following:

1. Permission to use the awardee's artwork and/or scholarly writings in promoting the Scholarship.
2. Midyear and Final Reports that document how the scholarship was utilized, including a final itemized budget and supporting evidence (example: tuition payment records and receipts for purchases).
3. A brief essay (included with the final report) that describes how the award supported the student's educational goals.
4. Access to (and/or copy of) the short film, demo reel, still images, or academic paper/scholarly work created during the year of the Scholarship Award.
5. A photographic image (headshot) that may be used in promoting the scholarship.