



## Scholarship Resource Packet

We are dedicated to all women who have journeyed over rough waters in life. We seek to serve them as they continue to overcome great obstacles.



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# Introduction

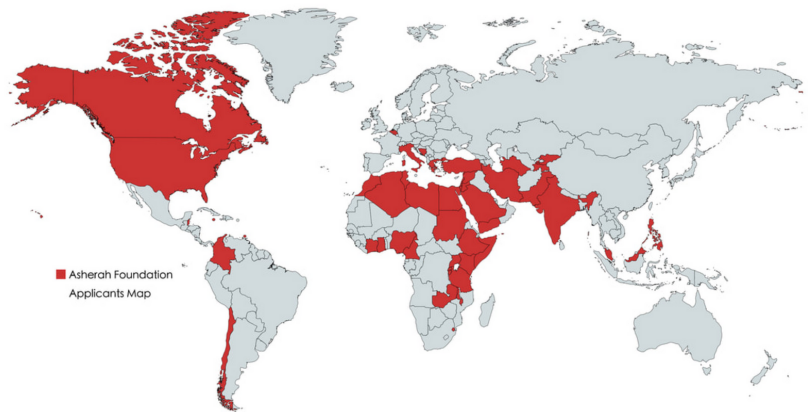


## Our Mission

The Asherah Foundation was created in 2016 to provide second-chance scholarships to women around the world seeking to improve their lives and their communities by pursuing post-secondary education. We are named after the Mesopotamian goddess who serves as inspiration to help women continue to be strong and fight for their second chance at success. We are dedicated to all women who have journeyed over rough waters in life. We seek to serve them as they continue to overcome great obstacles.

## Our Constituents

The Asherah Foundation's scholarship program benefits women who have high school diploma or equivalent and who desire to begin or continue a postsecondary education or technical training program with the intent of acquiring the skills necessary



to enter or advance her status in the workplace. Our scholarship recipients inspire us with their resilience and persistence in the face of adversity. They are all working hard to complete their education and improve their communities. Our 2019 recipients range in age from 29 – 46 years, with an average age of 34. Three of them have dependents and two are single mothers. Their degrees are focused on finance, economics, human development, and environmental studies. Coming from a wide array of backgrounds and experiences, these women have demonstrated the desire and impetus to continue with their post-grad secondary education by any means necessary.

# Scholarship Criteria



## Criteria to receive an Asherah Scholarship:

### Must:

- identify as a woman.
- be at least 24 years of age at time of application.
- be committed to the pursuit of postsecondary education and/or training.
- demonstrate financial inability to attain further education/training without the Scholarship.
- demonstrate personal discipline and perseverance.
- provide high school transcript, current transcript from current school, or other documentation of educational progress.
- complete Foundation current essay requirement.
- provide two letters of recommendation and two references with contact information.
- have been accepted into an accredited college or university degree program or a vocational or training institution.

Standards from: 2019 Second Chance Scholarship Policies and Requirements  
[https://asherahfoundation.org/uploads/1/1/7/9/117919639/2019\\_second\\_chance\\_scholarship\\_policies\\_and\\_requirements\\_3.pdf](https://asherahfoundation.org/uploads/1/1/7/9/117919639/2019_second_chance_scholarship_policies_and_requirements_3.pdf)

# Financial Details

**\$2,500.00  
USD**

The monetary dollar amount of this award shall be up to (US) \$2,500.00 per year and may be eligible for renewal.

This award shall be applied to expenses pertaining to a four-year college degree, associate degree, an accredited vocation/training program, or other postsecondary credential for the payment of costs relating to the recipient's registration costs, tuition and related expenses for books, lab fees, and other classroom supplies and fees required under the recipient's school curriculum.



All amounts shall be payable to the Financial Office of the school or training program chosen by the student.

# Financial Details

## Obligations to Maintain Scholarship

### Must:

- complete a minimum of 9 credit hours a semester (16 week period) unless having prior approval of Foundation.
- submit any changes in writing from one program to another for prior approval of the Foundation.
- maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.50 (on scale of 4.00) in such postsecondary programs.
- report to the Foundation in writing, the status of her educational/training efforts each semester or term.
- turn in a copy of grades to Foundation before becoming eligible for future funds.
- be free of substance abuse.
- have financial status reviewed on a semester or term basis in order to be eligible for additional funds



Standards from: 2019 Second Chance Scholarship Policies and Requirements  
[https://asherahfoundation.org/uploads/1/1/7/9/117919639/2019\\_second\\_chance\\_scholarship\\_policies\\_and\\_requirements\\_3.pdf](https://asherahfoundation.org/uploads/1/1/7/9/117919639/2019_second_chance_scholarship_policies_and_requirements_3.pdf)

# Application Guidelines

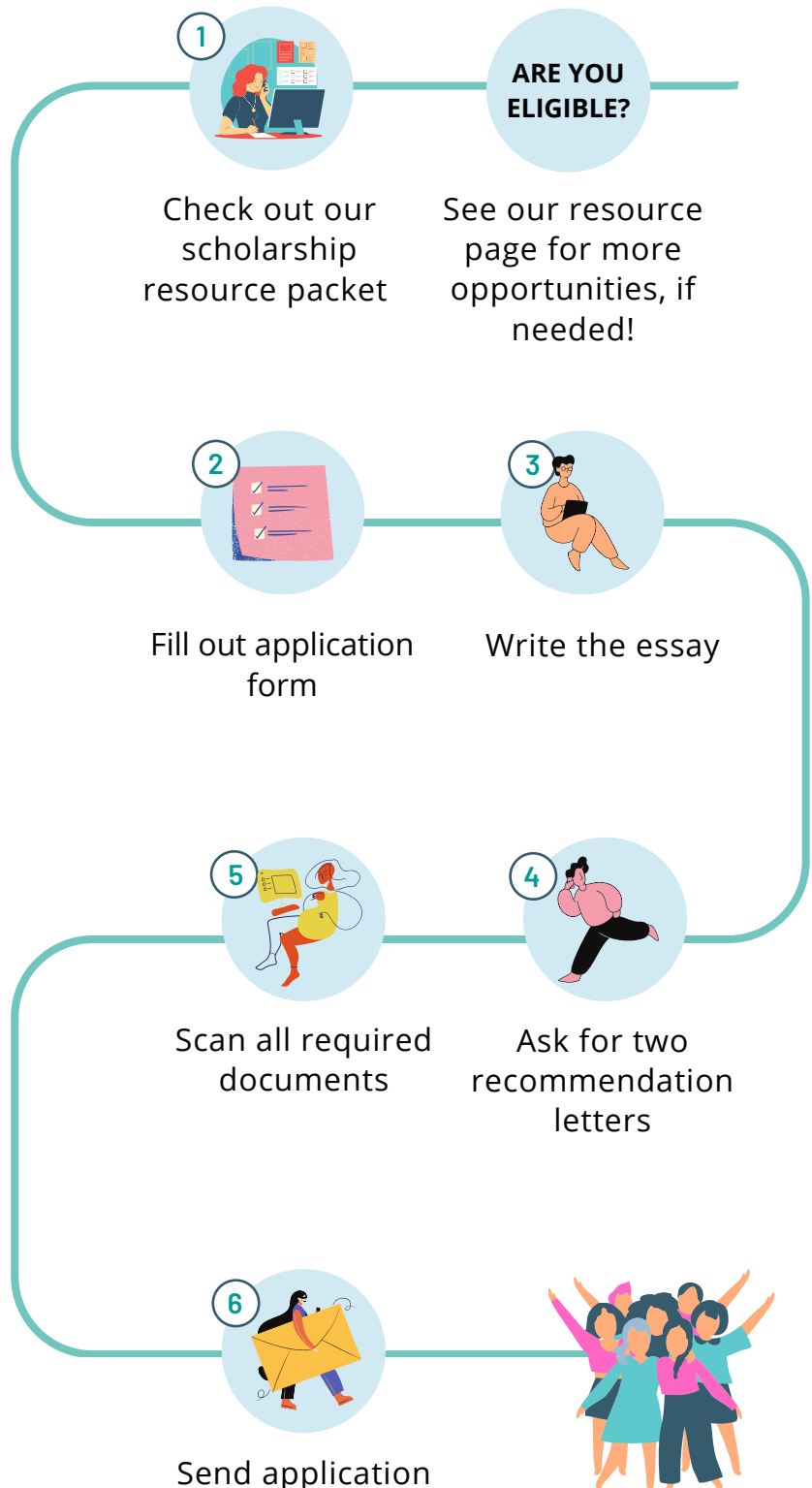
Applicants should send all materials listed in the application checklist to be considered for the scholarship. We prefer materials to be sent electronically via email at:

[Awards@asherahfoundation.org](mailto:Awards@asherahfoundation.org)

Considering potential difficulties with access to the Internet, we also accept application materials in hard copies. Hard copies could be sent to:

Heather MacCleoud  
Second Chance Scholarships for Women  
1400 East-West Highway Ste. 1420  
Silver Spring, MD 20910 United States

Before you mail your application, please verify all items on the application checklist are completed and enclosed.



# Application Checklist



## ■ Completed and Signed Application

Please be prepared to provide contact information for two references from anyone you know for more than five years, tuition and estimated expenses, enrollment details, etc.

## ■ Essay

Please compose an essay with no less than 500 words and no more than 1000 words that answers the following question, "Why This Scholarship Will Give Me A Second Chance?" Guidelines for the essay could be found in later chapters of this document.

## ■ Recommendations

Provide two recommendations from non-relatives who are familiar with you, your work, and your academic background in your pursuits for scholarly and civic achievements. Recommenders should speak about the applicant's qualifications, and if possible, about the community's need for the skill or knowledge the applicant plans to acquire with her proposed study or research. Applicants may scan and send the letters directly to the address above or along with your application.

## ■ Official Copy of Your Latest Transcript

Provide transcripts from high school or the college or university where the applicant's highest degree was obtained. All transcripts provided must include the applicant's full name, the school's name, all courses, and all grades, as well as any other information requested in the application instructions. Transcripts must include a list of courses taken and grades received. If the institution does not provide a transcript or a list of courses taken and grades received or the degree did not require coursework, an official letter from the institution that can demonstrate the applicant's educational progress is accepted.

## ■ Documentation of Current Financial Need

Applicants must demonstrate financial inability to attain further education/training without the Scholarship.

## ■ Photo (Optional)

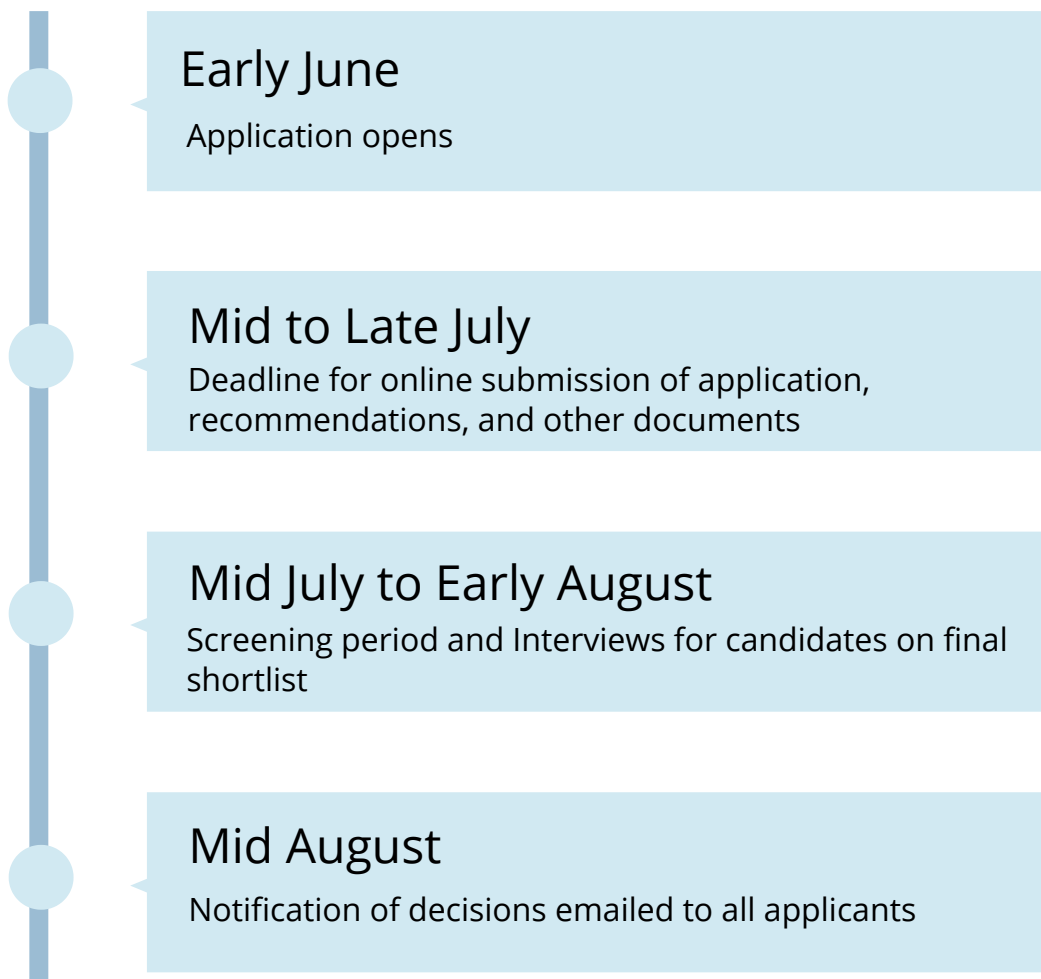
Photos might be used for promotional purposes and would not affect your application.



# Application Timeline



Due to emergencies caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are unable to offer scholarships for the academic year 2020-2021. Below is an approximate timeline from past years' screening process. Exact dates may vary.



# Writing Guidelines



## Expectations

Applicants should use their own stories and voices to shed light on the ways in which the scholarship will impact their life and the community around them. They are prohibited from using outside work and claiming it as their own. If found plagiarizing, applicants will not be considered for the application. The Asherah Foundation values academic integrity and honesty and **plagiarism\*** will not be tolerated. We want to hear from you - your voice, your ideas, and your experiences.

*Note on \*plagiarism\* : It is important to focus on your own experience and make sure that the essay is focused on your narrative and what you will do. Don't focus too much on others' ideas and make sure that the essay is your own, as the Asherah Foundation wants to hear your voice and how the scholarship will impact you and the ways in which you will give back to your local community. A very important criterion we look for during the recruitment process is how each applicant explains the ways in which they will impact/ give back to their local community. The strongest essays are ones that are personal and distinguished!*

## Guidelines

The essay for the application should be between 500 and 1000 words. Please attach the essay to your application. Follow the *essay prompt: Illustrate how this scholarship will give you a second chance and how it will benefit your community.*

## Recommendations

- First and foremost, we check to make sure the applicant follows the guidelines. Read the prompt carefully. During the recruitment process, we especially focus on the criterion that you thoroughly explain how you believe you will have an impact and give back to your community.
- Be as specific as you can. Bring the reader to that moment in time. What were your thoughts, feelings, and environment? Bring us to your senses.
- Use academic language. We understand that English may not be your first language, but we do want you to thoroughly articulate the point you are trying to make. Oftentimes, more is less.
- To strengthen your application, be personal. Tell us about you. Be honest and vulnerable, which shows strength. We encourage you to tell your story and help us understand the motives behind your education.

# Writing Guidelines



## A Guide to Writing an Application Essay

1. Write out your ideas and thoughts before you draft your essay. Think about...
  - The *scholarship* - Why are you applying? How will you use the scholarship? Do some research on the program and develop a better sense of your motives.
  - *Yourself* - What makes you the best scholarship candidate? What stories or experiences in your life have shaped your values? What motivates you? Think about your passions and interests.
2. Audience: One of the most important aspects to writing an effective essay is thinking about your audience. Who is reading your essay? What are the gaps between your experiences? Keep those in mind as you write. Your essay should consist of information that the audience cannot read from other parts of your application
3. Write a Draft: Now that you have prepared, sit down and develop your ideas. Write down whatever comes to mind and let everything flow onto the page in front of you. Don't worry about punctuation, spelling or grammar. Get the ideas onto paper.
4. Voice and Style: The reader wants to hear from YOU. Use clear and concise language to describe your feelings, experiences, values and goals for your future. The language should be your voice and your style.
5. Revision: After your first draft, get several people to read or listen to your essay. Allow for feedback and comments on ways to improve your essay. Revise. Eliminate unnecessary phrases and add specific details to areas lacking imagery or sensory detail.
6. Proofread and Format: Once your essay is written, proofread each sentence word by word. Check to make sure you followed guidelines and the prompt. Check for correct punctuation, spelling, grammar. Refer to the guidelines and requirements (length of essay, structure). Format as instructed and proofread a second time.

Information retrieved from: The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Writing Center. *Application Essays*. <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/application-essays/>. Accessed 10 July 2020.

# Writing Guidelines

## Additional Writing Resources

College Board

- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays/tips-for-writing-an-effective-application-essay-college-admissions>

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Writing Center

- <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/application-essays/>

Princeton Review

- <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/college-essay>

Purdue Owl

- [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/undergraduate\\_applications/undergraduate\\_application\\_timeline/advice\\_for\\_writing\\_application\\_essays.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/undergraduate_applications/undergraduate_application_timeline/advice_for_writing_application_essays.html)

International Student

- [https://www.internationalstudent.com/essay\\_writing/scholarship\\_essay/sample/](https://www.internationalstudent.com/essay_writing/scholarship_essay/sample/)



# FAQ



## **When can I apply?**

Please be prepared to provide contact information for two references from anyone you know for more than five years, tuition and estimated expenses, enrollment details, etc. Next year's deadline will be posted in the Spring of 2020. The application will be posted in May or June with an expected deadline in July.

## **What level of education is required to apply?**

Eligible applicants need to have completed high school. Students who have applied to, have been admitted or are currently enrolled in a university to complete technical training or to pursue a Bachelor, Master's or PhD degree can apply for the Asherah Foundation Second Chance Scholarship for Women.

## **Which disciplines are eligible?**

Applicants from all fields of study are eligible.

## **Is there an age limit?**

Yes. Women must be 24 years old or older to apply. We have an age requirement of 24 because our scholarship is for "non-traditional students," women who are undertaking their education later in life than the norm.

## **How many scholarship recipients are selected each year?**

The Asherah Foundation receives many applications from highly qualified candidates. A limited number of scholarships are awarded annually. As with any selection process, it is not possible to fund all the qualified applicants. No individual correspondence will be engaged to provide reasons for not receiving a scholarship.

## **Which country do I need to live in to be eligible?**

The scholarship is not limited to any country. Women from across the world are eligible.

# FAQ



## **How can I make my application more competitive?**

It is important to turn in all required documents and a completed, signed application. In addition to the competition, applications are typically unsuccessful due to the following reasons:

- Poor overall quality of the application (especially the personal essay)
- Failure to meet eligibility criteria
- Average academic performance
- Lack of outreach activities and commitment to civil engagement

## **What would an application timeline look like?**

- Early June - Application opens
- Mid to Late July - Deadline for online submission of application, recommendations, and other documents
- Mid July to Early August - Screening period
- Mid August - Notification of decisions emailed to all applicants.

## **How are the scholarship recipients selected? The selection process includes four rounds:**

- Round 1: Is based on compliance with eligibility criteria and turning in a completed application with the necessary documents.
- Round 2: The first shortlist is reviewed based on scoring of the following criteria: academic performance; commitment to the pursuit of postsecondary education and/or training; financial need; quality of essay and references; personal discipline and perseverance; commitment to civil engagement.
- Round 3: The final shortlisted candidates are reviewed by the Scholarship Oversight Committee.
- Round 4: Selection of scholarship recipients by the Asherah Foundation Executive Board.

# Additional Resources

## Please see this list for additional scholarship opportunities.

Microsoft Research Women's Fellowship Program

- <https://www.scholars4dev.com/17982/microsoft-research-womens-fellowship-program/>

UNESCO Fellowships for Priority Development Programs

- <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/fellowships/programmes/>

AAUW International Fellowships

- <https://www.scholars4dev.com/1877/aauw-international-fellowships-in-usa-for-women/>

Women's Second Chance College Scholarship Fund

- <https://www.cflouisville.org/scholarships/scholarship-opportunities/>

FACT Second Chance Scholarship

- <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/all/fact--second-chance--scholarship>

Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship

- <https://rankinfoundation.org/>

PEO Program for Continuing Education

- <http://www.peointernational.org/about-peo-program-continuing-education-pce>

Soroptimist Live Your Dream Award

- <https://www.soroptimist.org/our-work/live-your-dream-awards/apply-for-the-live-your-dream-awards.html>

Patsy Takemoto Mink Award

- <https://www.patsyminkfoundation.org/education-support-application>

Greater Kansas City Community Foundation

- <https://gkccf.academicworks.com/>

Scholarships for Women

- <https://www.scholarshipsforwomen.net/international/>

Scholarship Positions - Scholarships for Women

- <https://scholarship-positions.com/category/scholarships-for-women/>

Grants for Native Americans

- <http://grantsfornativeamericans.org/>

Graca Machel Scholarships for South African Women

- <https://www.scholars4dev.com/521/graca-machel-scholarship-programme-for-african-women/>

Study in Canada

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid/scholarships.html>

CT Chimney Repair Scholarship

- <http://ctchimneyrepair.net/ct-chimney-repair-scholarship/>

# Contact Us



Please find us on our [official website](http://www.asherahfoundation.org) at [www.asherahfoundation.org](http://www.asherahfoundation.org) or email us at [info@asherahfoundation.org](mailto:info@asherahfoundation.org) for more information.

