

External Scholarship Resources for African Students Studying in the United States

Disclaimer: Please Read

The African Community Association (ACA) is committed to helping African students identify opportunities to finance their education in the United States. As part of that commitment, we have compiled the following list of scholarship programs and financial aid resources from publicly available information.

Please note that ACA does not administer, endorse, or control these scholarship programs.
Scholarship eligibility, application requirements, award amounts, deadlines, and availability are determined solely by the sponsoring organizations and may change without notice.

*While we encourage students to explore these opportunities and apply wherever they are eligible, **ACA cannot guarantee the availability of funding or the outcome of any application.** Applicants should always verify the most current information directly with the sponsoring organization before applying.*

Scholarship Resources

Numerous organizations, universities, governments, foundations, churches, and corporations provide financial assistance to international students, including students from Africa. The resources below represent some of the most respected and widely recognized scholarship opportunities available.

1. U.S. Government Scholarship Programs

These are among the most prestigious scholarship programs available to international students.

Fulbright Foreign Student Program

Supports Master's and Ph.D. studies at accredited U.S. institutions.

Typical benefits include:

- Full tuition
- Living stipend
- Health insurance
- Travel expenses
- Academic support

Website: <https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org>

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

Designed for experienced professionals seeking graduate-level study and professional development.

Website: <https://humphreyfellowship.org>

EducationUSA Financial Aid Database

The U.S. Department of State maintains one of the largest searchable databases of scholarships available to international students.

Website: <https://educationusa.state.gov>

2. Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program

One of the world's largest scholarship programs dedicated to developing the next generation of African leaders.

Scholarships typically include:

- Full tuition
- Housing
- Meals
- Books
- Medical insurance
- Leadership development
- Career mentoring

Partner universities have included institutions such as:

- Arizona State University
- University of California, Berkeley
- Michigan State University
- Wellesley College
- McGill University (Canada)

Website: <https://mastercardfdn.org>

3. University Scholarships

Many U.S. universities offer generous scholarships and financial aid specifically for international students.

African Community Association Scholarship Resources

Examples include:

- Harvard University
- Yale University
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- Duke University
- Columbia University
- University of Chicago
- Rice University
- Vanderbilt University
- Emory University
- University of Notre Dame
- Washington University in St. Louis

Students are encouraged to visit each university's Financial Aid or International Student Office for current scholarship opportunities.

4. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

Many HBCUs actively recruit students from Africa and offer merit-based scholarships.

Examples include:

- Howard University
- Morehouse College
- Spelman College
- Clark Atlanta University
- Hampton University
- Florida A&M University
- Tuskegee University
- Xavier University of Louisiana

5. Foundation Scholarships

Many nonprofit organizations provide scholarships to outstanding international students.

Examples include:

Aga Khan Foundation International Scholarship Program

African Community Association Scholarship Resources

Graduate scholarships for exceptional students from developing countries.

<https://www.akdn.org>

Rotary Foundation Global Grants

Supports graduate education and humanitarian studies.

<https://www.rotary.org>

Wells Mountain Initiative

Supports undergraduate students from developing countries.

<https://www.wellsmountaininitiative.org>

Schlumberger Foundation – Faculty for the Future

Supports women pursuing doctoral and postdoctoral STEM studies.

<https://www.facultyforthefuture.net>

PEO International Peace Scholarship

Graduate scholarships for women studying in the United States.

<https://www.peointernational.org>

6. Professional Society Scholarships

Many professional organizations offer scholarships to international students.

Examples include:

- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
- American Chemical Society (ACS)
- Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

African Community Association Scholarship Resources

- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

Students should check each organization's website for eligibility requirements.

7. Graduate Assistantships and Research Funding

For Master's and Ph.D. students, assistantships are often the primary source of financial support.

Common forms of graduate funding include:

- Research Assistantships (RA)
- Teaching Assistantships (TA)
- Graduate Assistantships (GA)
- Tuition waivers
- Monthly stipends
- Health insurance

Students should contact their academic department directly to inquire about available positions.

8. Faith-Based Scholarships

Numerous Christian organizations support international students pursuing higher education.

Examples include scholarships sponsored by:

- United Methodist Church
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Episcopal Church
- Lutheran organizations
- Baptist educational foundations
- Catholic dioceses and educational foundations

Students should also consult local churches and denominational organizations for additional opportunities.

9. Scholarships Sponsored by African Governments

Several African governments provide scholarships for citizens studying abroad.

Examples include:

Nigeria

African Community Association Scholarship Resources

- Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF)
- TETFund Academic Staff Training
- Various State Government Scholarship Boards

Ghana

- Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund)

Kenya

- Government scholarship programs

Botswana

- Government sponsorship programs

Rwanda

- Government scholarship initiatives

Namibia

- Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF)

Students should consult the Ministry of Education or equivalent agency in their home country for current opportunities.

10. Scholarships for Women

Many organizations provide scholarships specifically for female students.

Examples include:

- AAUW International Fellowships
- PEO International Peace Scholarship
- Schlumberger Faculty for the Future
- Women Techmakers Scholarships
- Society of Women Engineers Scholarships

11. STEM Scholarships

Students pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) degrees should explore scholarship opportunities offered by:

- Engineering colleges

African Community Association Scholarship Resources

- Computer science departments
- Corporate STEM initiatives
- Research laboratories
- Industry partnerships

Many universities also provide graduate fellowships specifically for STEM students.

12. Employer-Sponsored Education

Some employers sponsor graduate education for employees.

Examples include major companies in technology, engineering, healthcare, consulting, manufacturing, and energy sectors.

Students working under authorized employment programs should inquire about tuition reimbursement and educational assistance.

13. Helpful Scholarship Search Websites

The following websites maintain extensive scholarship databases for international students.

EducationUSA Financial Aid Search

<https://educationusa.state.gov>

International Education Financial Aid (IEFA)

<https://www.iefaf.org>

InternationalScholarships.com

<https://www.internationalscholarships.com>

Scholarships.com

<https://www.scholarships.com>

Fastweb

<https://www.fastweb.com>

Peterson's

<https://www.petersons.com>

African Community Association Scholarship Resources

Scholarship America

<https://scholarshipamerica.org>

Scholar Africa

<https://www.scholar.africa>

Current F-1 Students: Don't Stop Looking

Many students believe scholarships are available only before they begin their studies. In reality, colleges and universities frequently offer scholarships after enrollment.

Students should regularly check with:

- Their academic department
- Graduate School
- Financial Aid Office
- International Student Services Office
- Career Services Office
- Alumni Association
- Student Affairs Office

New scholarship opportunities often become available throughout the academic year.

Final Encouragement

Pursuing higher education in the United States is a significant investment in your future. Thousands of African students successfully finance their education each year through scholarships, grants, assistantships, fellowships, and institutional aid.

We encourage every student to begin searching early, apply broadly, meet all deadlines, and remain persistent. Many successful applicants receive funding only after submitting multiple applications.

We wish you every success as you pursue your educational and professional goals.