

**Oregon Consular Corps Scholarships
For Students in International Studies Related Disciplines
Information and Application Form
Fall 2025 – Spring 2026**

What is the Oregon Consular Corps Scholarship Fund?

The Oregon Consular Corps Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3) Oregon nonprofit corporation established to provide scholarships for junior and senior students in international studies related disciplines at participating Oregon universities and colleges. Twelve (12) \$3,000 scholarships will be awarded to meritorious students at Lewis & Clark College, Oregon State University, Pacific University, Portland State University, University of Oregon and University of Portland. Scholarship funds are dispersed to the student's college account and may be applied to cover the cost of tuition and/or other costs, including expenses associated with an approved university study abroad or credited international internship activity.

Beyond annual scholarships, the goal of the fund is to build a fund to support scholarships into the future for an expanded student population. The principal sources of funding come from the annual [Celebrate Trade](#) gala sponsored by partners from state and local government and businesses, and from charitable gifts to the endowment. Contributions to the fund may be tax deductible. For more info on the OCC Scholarship Fund: [Scholars — Oregon Consular Corps](#)

Student Application Eligibility

- Must be enrolled by September 2025 in an international study/international affairs/global study, or a related major if they have successfully completed three or more meaningful college level international related courses at one of the following participating Oregon universities: Lewis and Clark College, Oregon State University, Pacific University, Portland State University, University of Oregon, and University of Portland.
- Must have full-time student status at the time of application and during the academic year of the award.
- Must be either a Junior or Senior in good academic standing at the time of application and when the scholarship monies are dispersed in January.
- Must have a cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher.
- Applicants should demonstrate proficiency in a second language at a level that allows meaningful communication beyond basic phrases. This proficiency can be shown through academic coursework, study abroad, heritage language use or other documented experience.

Note:

- The scholarship will be used to help the recipients complete their degree with a major in an international study related discipline.

- Scholarship funds may be used during the Winter Term 2026 at Oregon State University, Portland State University, and University of Oregon; or Spring Semester 2026 at Lewis and Clark College, Pacific University and University of Portland. Funds may also be carried over to the following term or semester, provided the recipient remains enrolled as a full-time junior or senior at the university.
- Although a study abroad component in the student's education is highly desirable, it is not required to apply for our scholarships.
- Past recipients of the OCC Scholarship are not eligible to apply again.

Final Selection Criteria Used by the OCC Interview Committee

The OCC Interview Committee evaluates candidates based on several key criteria. The primary factors considered are:

1. **Academic Excellence:** Demonstrated through transcripts, academic awards, and honors.
2. **Leadership Capability:** Evidence of leadership roles and responsibilities in various settings.
3. **Extracurricular Activities:** Participation and achievements in sports, arts, clubs, and other activities outside of the classroom.
4. **Community Service:** Involvement in volunteer work and contributions to the community.
5. **Written Essays:** Quality and depth of thought reflected in the required essays.
6. **Letters of Reference:** Strong recommendations from academic advisors or professors, or professionals who can attest to the candidate's qualifications and character.
7. **Application Interview:** Performance during the interview, including communication skills, demeanor, and fit with the program's goals.

Additionally, the student must exhibit a strong commitment to a career in an international study-related field.

Required Application Materials to Submit

To apply, the following materials are required to be submitted by the deadline to the designated college/university scholarship coordinator.

1. **A completed OCC Scholarship Application fillable form in Word format**
(included in this packet)
2. **A current resume or CV**
3. **A copy of a current, unofficial college transcript**, from Banner, WebAdvisor or other similar official college database tool
4. **Two letters of references**

Deadlines for the 2025 – 2026 Year

September 1 – October 24: The universities will announce the opportunity to apply for the OCC scholarships to students in the international related disciplines.

October 24: This is the deadline for students to submit the OCC scholarship application form, resume/cv, and transcript to the college/university scholarship coordinator.

Students are also required to ask for two letters of references be sent directly to the college's scholarship coordinator by this date. At least one of the two references should be from an academic adviser or professor, preferably in the international related discipline. The second reference can be from another academic adviser or professor or an individual with specific knowledge of the student's work, study, or volunteer experience. References should not be related to the student.

Please note: Colleges may decide to extend this deadline as long as the college/university's designated coordinator have time to review and evaluate the application materials; select the finalists; and forward the finalists' complete application materials to the OCC Scholarship Committee Chair(s) for their consideration by November 7th.

November 7: This is the deadline for the college/university's designated coordinator to review and evaluate the application materials (including the two letters of references); select the finalists; and forward each finalist's complete application packet in a combined pdf document to the Scholarship Committee Chair(s) for their consideration. Please name each student's application packet file in this format: "University Name Abbreviation (i.e.LC, OSU, PSU, PU, UO, UP) – First and Last Name of Student – Fall 2025 OCC Application". No fewer than 3 and no more than 5 finalists may be submitted by each college/university for the committee's consideration.

November 14: This is the deadline for the college/university to provide the OCC Scholarship Chair(s) the available dates and times slots between December 1st and December 12th that all the finalists from the university are available for back-to-back 30-minute interviews with the OCC Scholarship Committee interview panel. We ask the colleges to provide their two choices for the dates/times to block.

Interviews will take place in person at the university campuses in Portland, unless the interviews are conducted on a virtual platform (generally because they are studying abroad or unable to come to Portland). The college coordinators will arrange a space at a Portland campus for the interviews to accommodate the student applicants and up to 5 individuals on the interview panel; and arrange for the setup of equipment needed to conduct any of the interviews by Zoom/video service. The scholarship co-

chair will email interview confirmations to each student and forward the Zoom/video service link directly to the students who are not able to be interviewed in person. We ask the college coordinators to notify the OCC Scholarship Chair(s) by November 14th if assistance is needed to identify a Portland area location for the interviews.

December 1 – December 12: Selected scholarship candidates will be interviewed by the OCC scholarship committee panel. Each interview will be approximately 25 minutes long, back-to-back on the half hour for each university. Each interview panel will be made up of three to five members of the OCC.

December 19: This is the deadline for the OCC Scholarship Committee Chair(s) to make the final decision and announce their selection of the scholarship recipients. In the announcement to the students, they will be asked to email 10 photos in jpeg format by January 16 showing: 1) the student enjoying their college's studies and experiences and educational travels, and 2) a couple of photos being head shots from the shoulder up, with short descriptions in the email of each of these photos. The photos will be posted to the OCC website, and shown at the OCC Scholars' Reception in February and at the OCC Celebrate Trade gala in May.

December 19: The OCC Scholarship Committee Chair(s) will provide a list of the selected students to receive scholarships to the OCC Treasurer. The list will include the following info for all the recipients: The name of the student's university, student's first name and last name, student's ID #, and the dollar amount of each scholarship. The list will also include the mailing address for each of the university's Student Financial Services departments where the scholarship checks should be mailed to.

By no later than January 9: The Treasurer of the OCC Scholarship Fund will mail checks by no later than January 9th to the college/university's Student Financial Services to be placed in the recipient's accounts. This timeline may be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances such as inclement weather or road conditions until the events clear up. Scholars will be notified if there is a delay. Scholarship monies will not be paid directly to the students.

January 19: This is the deadline for the selected scholars to submit individual photos as described above to the OCC Scholarship Committee Chair(s). These photos will be posted on the OCC website's scholars page, shown at the OCC Scholarship Reception in February, and used in the video clip at the annual Celebrate Trade event that occurs on May TBD, 2026.

February 17: The OCC Scholarship Reception will be held at the University Club in downtown Portland on Tuesday evening, February 17. The selected scholars will be invited to the event; and when introduced, briefly share what the OCC scholarship means to them. If they are not available to attend this event (generally because they are studying abroad), they will be asked to submit a one-minute video to the OCC's Scholarship's Committee Co-chairs to be shown at the reception. More information will be sent to the students in January. The scholars may invite one or two guests to

join them at this event. The Oregon Consular Corps members, University presidents, college coordinators and individuals who provided references for the students will also be invited to attend.

February 13: Students will be asked to schedule an online appointment time in the following weeks with our professional video producer where he will ask some questions while recording the interview at the same time. Then, he will magically “stitch” together all the videos recorded, along with the individual photos the students submitted earlier to create a beautiful showcase to be shown at the OCC Celebrate Trade gala in May and posted to our OCC website afterwards for them to see again and again and share with others. See 2025 video on the OCC website: [Scholars — Oregon Consular Corps](#)

May 14: Celebrate Trade Gala event is set for May 14, 2026 at the Portland Art Museum, honoring the scholars and businesses selected for their contributions to international trade and relations. Students and a plus one will be invited to attend the event as our guests to sit at tables with representatives from their universities. During this event, the scholars will have an opportunity to meet with our sponsors. If students are not available to attend the gala (generally because they are studying abroad), they will still be a part of it virtually through a pre-recorded video. For more information: [Celebrate Trade — Oregon Consular Corps](#)

OCC Scholarship Chairs’ Contact Information

- Veikko Valli, Honorary Consul of Finland and Oregon Consular Corps Vice Dean, at veikko.valli@orconsularcorps.org, Office: 971-319-2776.
- Steven Browning, Former U.S. Ambassador to Malawi and Uganda, and OCC Honorary Member at steven.browning@orconsularcorps.org

Oregon Consular Corps International Studies Scholarship

Student Application Form

DEADLINE: October 24, 2025

Student's General Information

First Name:

Middle Initial:

Last Name:

Preferred Name or Nickname:

Phonetic Pronunciation Name to assist us in pronouncing student's name as it sounds:

College / University Affiliation:

Student ID:

Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code):

School Email Address:

Personal Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Student's Education Information

What is your cumulative GPA?

What year in college are you in?

What Month and Year do you expect to graduate?

What is your major?

What is your minor?

Student's Personal Statement

Respond to each the following six items. Response for each item should be single spaced, 12-point font size, and no more than one-half page (250 words):

1. Why are you pursuing a degree in an international study related discipline?

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2. What career plans are you considering after graduation?

3. What is your level of study and fluency in a foreign language or languages?

4. Describe your leadership roles, extracurricular activities, volunteer experience, or community involvement during your college years starting with your current or most recent experience.

5. Describe your past international experiences or future plans to gain this experience.

References

Two letters of recommendations are required to be submitted. At least one of the two references should be from an academic adviser or professor, preferably in the international related discipline. The second reference can be from another academic adviser or professor or an individual with specific knowledge of your work, study, or volunteer experience. References should not be related to you. It is the student's responsibility to reach out to their references and ask them to send signed letters of recommendation directly to your college/university scholarship coordinator by the application deadline.

We value insights into the student's potential to thrive in international, cross-cultural, and leadership/community service settings, and thoughtful reflections are a key part of our selection process. To make the referral most effective, please avoid content that is overly generic, copied from other letters, or based solely on grades, test scores, or vague superlatives. Letters do not need to be long, and we especially appreciate individualized, meaningful observations that give insight into how well the student is known, their character, and how they engage both academically and in the broader community.

Please complete the following info on your references:

1. Reference Name:

Title:

Relationship to Applicant:

Telephone:

Email Address:

2. Reference Name:

Title:

Relationship to Applicant:

Telephone:

Email Address:

Verification

I meet the following requirements:

- I am currently majoring in an international affairs/ global studies related discipline, or another related discipline major which I have successfully completed three or more meaningful college level international related courses.
- I am a junior or senior (90+ quarter credit hours or 60+ semester hours) in good academic standing at the time of application and when the scholarship monies are dispersed in January.
- I plan to maintain full time student status at the time of application and during the academic year of the award.
- I have maintained a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- I possess a second language proficiency.
- I understand that the scholarship monies will be sent to the college/university's Student Financial Services to be placed in my account to use towards my educational costs towards my degree. I understand that the scholarship monies will not be paid directly to me.
- I verify that all the information in my application materials is true and accurate.
- I meet the following additional requirements set by my individual college or university: *To be filled in by the university*
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Electronic Signature of Applicant (Type Name):

Date of Applicant Signature: