



## Lotus Scholarship

### Description:

In 2012, University of the West (UWest) established the Lotus Scholarship Program (the Scholarship), thanks to many generous private donations. Since then, the Scholarship has supported hundreds of UWest students in achieving their educational goals, providing a total of nearly 4 million U.S. dollars in institutional aid. UWest is home of the Lotus Scholarship – are you the next Lotus Scholarship award recipient?

For each academic year, UWest is committed to continuing to provide the Lotus Scholarship for selected new students entering the University. New applicants must meet the scholarship eligibility requirements and matriculate into UWest in each academic year (see last page of this policy for students beginning in Spring term).

### Award:

- **Undergraduate Lotus Scholarship** (\$6,000): For international undergraduate students only. (Domestic undergraduate students may apply for the Metta Scholarship.)
- **Graduate Lotus Scholarship** (\$7,000): For domestic and international MBA and MA-Psychology students only. (Students in other graduate programs are advised to apply for IBEF Scholarship.)
- The Scholarship can be applied towards tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, and other expenses required for attendance at UWest.
- The Scholarship is initially awarded for **one academic year beginning in Fall semester**. Renewal of the Scholarship is possible, but not guaranteed, depending on the student's performance and funding availability. Maximum term of scholarship eligibility for different groups of students is as follows:
  - First-year undergraduates: four years (or eight semesters)
  - Undergraduate transfer students: two to three years (or four to six semesters) depending on transfer credits
  - MBA students: two years (or four semesters)
  - MA-Psychology students: two or three years (or four or six semesters) depending on program (non-clinical or clinical).
- Disbursement of the Scholarship award is made in two installments, the first in Fall semester and the second in Spring semester. The funds are applied directly to the student's account. The Bursar's Office issues a direct deposit or a stipend check if the student has a credit balance in their student account after the add/drop date of each semester.

### Eligibility:

- The Scholarship is available to new students seeking the following degree programs at UWest:

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- MBA
- MA – Psychology
- All undergraduate program majors (for international students only)
- Other degree-seeking students not mentioned above as well as non-degree seeking students, Intensive English Program students, and students seeking certificates only are not eligible for this Scholarship.
- Previous recipients of the Scholarship who meet the maintaining requirements (see **Maintaining Scholarship** section below) are also eligible to reapply.
- Minimum GPA:
  - Undergraduate Lotus Scholarship: 3.0
  - Graduate Lotus Scholarship: 3.25
- International students must meet the minimum UWest admission requirements for English proficiency.
- To qualify for the Scholarship a student must be enrolled full-time at UWest.
  - Full time enrollment for undergraduate students is defined as registering for, and successfully completing, a minimum of 12 units each semester (24 units per academic year).
  - Full-time enrollment for graduate students is defined as registering for, and successfully completing, a minimum of 9 units each semester (18 units per academic year).
- **Students must be pre-registered at the full-time credit level before the Scholarship funds can be made available to them.** Exceptions to this full-time enrollment rule may be made through an appeal process for students who are in their final semester or who encounter extenuating circumstances. Non-full time students receive a prorated amount of the Scholarship based on the actual number of units for which they are registered.

#### **How to Apply:**

- Completed and signed UWest Financial Aid Application for Scholarships form.
- A 500-word essay describing a brief statement of financial circumstances. Be sure to include any information regarding expected scholarships, financial contributions, or changes to financial situation that may affect your aid eligibility.
- **New Applicants** The Lotus Scholarship Application should be submitted together with the Application for Admission to the University. All documents must be submitted by the deadlines indicated above. Lotus Scholarship Applications that do not include the Application for Admission will not be considered.
- **Spring Term New Student Eligibility** Students matriculating into UWest in the Spring semester are eligible to apply for the Lotus Scholarship for each award year that begins in Fall of next academic year. Spring applicants must meet the same Lotus Scholarship eligibility requirements and are subject to all the terms and conditions of the Scholarship. An applicant's academic performance during the Spring semester will be taken into consideration in addition to previous academic work.
- **Renewing Applicants** Students who are renewing the Lotus Scholarship will continue to receive the scholarship amount originally awarded as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. This includes students in all academic programs.

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- Scholarship applications are reviewed as long as funds are available. Due to high demand, applicants are encouraged to submit their applications by April 1. Generally, applicants are informed of the scholarship decision by April 30. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all application materials and supporting documents are submitted on time.

#### **Other Important Terms and Conditions:**

- The Scholarship is non-transferable to other students or institutions.
- The Scholarship cannot be deferred.
- Recipients who decide to postpone their matriculation into a program until the following Spring semester only receive half of the awarded Scholarship (e.g. a recipient of a \$6,000 Scholarship will only receive \$3,000 for the Spring semester). Recipients who postpone their entrance into a program for more than one semester forfeit the Scholarship. New students who only enroll in the Fall semester but do not continue to enroll the following Spring semester forfeit the second half of their scholarship. *(Note: Exception to this policy due to visa or medical reasons may be made on a case by case basis. Students applying for this exception must present relevant documentation.)*
- Recipients who are officially approved to take Leave of Absence (LOA) for a semester will not receive the Scholarship disbursement for that semester. The student must notify the Financial Aid Office as soon as their request for LOA is approved. Students who take LOA for more than one semester will need to petition in writing for reinstatement of the Scholarship upon their return.
- **The Scholarship cannot be awarded in conjunction with Metta Scholarship, Dream Scholarship, President's Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, Buddha's Light Scholarship, IBEF Scholarship or Fellowship, or UWest Scholarship.** Lotus Scholarship recipients who are awarded and elect to receive one of the above-mentioned scholarships forfeit their Lotus Scholarship eligibility for the year(s) in which they receive the other scholarship. Students may reapply for the Lotus Scholarship in the following year if they have any remaining eligibility.
- Minimum maintaining GPA: (The Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee considers both the recipient's term GPA and the cumulative GPA for Lotus Scholarship qualification.)
  - Undergraduate Lotus Scholarship: 3.25
  - Graduate Lotus Scholarship: 3.5
- Maintain full time enrollment at UWest.
- Have no (I) "Incomplete" on the transcript. Students must resolve any incomplete course(s) before the Scholarship can be renewed and/or disbursed.
- Uphold academic integrity standards (e.g. refrain from plagiarizing, cheating, etc.).
- Actively engage in student life (e.g. UWest Student Government, student clubs, events, volunteer opportunities, committees, etc.) and/or community service.
- Uphold UWest values and student conduct standards. (The University reserves the right to disqualify a student from scholarship renewal if that student has been held responsible for serious violations of the UWest Student Conduct Code.)
- Recipients may become disqualified after the Scholarship is disbursed if their enrollment status changes during the term of the award, in which case students must return the Scholarship funds received. *(Note: Exception to this policy due to medical, family, or other extenuating*

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*reasons will be made on a case by case basis. Students applying for this exception must present relevant documentation.)*

- When a student declines or returns the Scholarship, it will be considered forfeited, and UWest may keep the award or award it to another student.
- During the first two weeks of the Spring semester, recipients of the Scholarship will be reviewed for eligibility based on the above-mentioned requirements. Recipients may be disqualified from the Scholarship if one or more of these requirements are not met.
- Recipients may be disqualified from the scholarship if one or more of these requirements are not met.
- Recipients of the Lotus Scholarship are entitled to appeal disqualification should they encounter extenuating circumstances. The appeal needs to be submitted to the Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee no later than the beginning of the Spring semester. Each student may qualify for no more than two appeals during their respective courses of study. Contact the Financial Aid Office for detailed information.
- Recipients of the award agree to release to UWest the right to use their images for publication in any format chosen by the university (i.e. print, video, digital image).
- ***University of the West reserves the right to change part or all of the above terms and conditions at any time.***