

# Competitive Scholarship

## 2024 UK Guidelines

Foresters   
Financial

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## Introduction

Foresters Financial is proud to contribute to the success that education can bring to individuals, families and communities. Competitive Scholarship member benefit offers scholarships worth up to £1,000 to eligible students pursuing post-secondary education at an accredited university, community college or trade programme in the United Kingdom. This benefit is administered by International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS). on behalf of Foresters.

## Important Dates

Application start date	<b>4 December 2023</b>
Application end date	<b>30 April 2024</b>
Applicants will be notified about their award status	<b>In the first week of June.</b> If you are selected for a scholarship, then you must accept or decline your award by the deadline provided on your acceptance form. If an acceptance is not provided by this deadline, then you risk forfeiting your scholarship.
Scholarship funds issued	By <b>31 October 2024</b>

## Award Details

1. The award is valued at up to £1,000 per academic year.
2. The scholarship can be awarded up to three consecutive years after the first application for qualified applicants.
3. The scholarships will be applied to undergraduate study at accredited, non-profit three or four-year programme at colleges/universities or vocational/technical institutes in the UK.
4. Students are awarded **one award per academic year**.
5. The award must be used for the academic year it was awarded, unless winners submit a formal request to have the award deferred.
6. The number of scholarships available each year is dependent on how many students reapply to continue with their studies and the length of their post-secondary programme.
7. Award recipients must enrol at a university or institute of higher education in the UK for the 2024-2025 academic year with the intention of completing a Bachelor's degree or equivalent.
8. Recipients may transfer from one eligible post-secondary institution to another and retain the award so long as they have proof of transcript from their current institution.
9. You may receive financial aid – including additional scholarships – from other organisations.

## Eligibility

### Part A

1. You, your parent, your legal guardian, your grandparent or your spouse must be a current UK Foresters member<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Member must be a Planholder of a savings product, a With-Profits Plan and/or protection product. Interested in becoming a member? Register with [MyForesters.com](https://www.myforesters.com) today to begin your [membership](#) with Foresters.

## Part B

Competitive Scholarship is broken down into two applicant categories: New Applicants and Returning Candidates, each with its own eligibility requirements:

<b>New Applicants</b>	New Applicants are students who are either in their final year of secondary education or are completing their post-secondary education and are applying to Competitive Scholarship for the first time.
<b>Eligibility</b>	New Applicants must meet all the following criteria in Part B: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Applicants must be of the age 24 years or under at the time of the application through to the time payment is issued. Members who are applying do not have to be 24 years old or younger but must meet all other eligibility requirements.</li><li>2. Applicants must have completed a minimum of <b>200 hours</b> of volunteer work <b>over the last two years</b> (from 1 March 2022 – 30 April 2024).</li><li>3. Applicants completing secondary education must provide copies of certified exam results indicating <b>minimum scores of B (A-levels/AS-levels), 6/B (GCSE) or equivalent</b>. The number of scores required is dependent on the university programme the applicant is enrolling in.</li><li>4. Applicants currently enrolled in post-secondary education must have a <b>minimum</b> module mark of <b>60-64 (or institutional equivalent)</b>.</li><li>5. Applicants must be enrolling in a (minimum) two-year, full-time undergraduate programme of study at an accredited university or vocational or technical institutions in the United Kingdom in the Autumn of 2024.</li></ol>
<b>Returning Candidates</b>	The Returning Candidate application must be completed by students who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Had applied for a scholarship previously as a New Applicant and were declined, or;</li><li>▪ Those who are previous scholarship award recipients or;</li><li>▪ Are current scholarship award recipients.</li></ul>
<b>Eligibility</b>	Returning Candidates must meet all the following criteria in Part B: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Applicants must be of the age 24 years or under at the time of the application through to the time payment is issued. Members who are applying do not have to be 24 years old or younger but must meet all other eligibility requirements.</li><li>2. Applicants must have completed a minimum of <b>50 hours</b> of volunteer work <b>over the last one year</b> (From 1 March 2023 – 30 April 2024).</li><li>3. Applicants must have a <b>minimum</b> module mark of <b>55-59 (or institutional equivalent)</b>. This must be reflected on your current transcript.</li><li>4. Applicants must be enrolled in full time studies in the academic year they are applying as a Returning Candidate.</li><li>5. Applicants must be enrolled full time in the Autumn of 2024.</li></ol>

## Application Requirements

### Overall weighting of the application components:

- Essay (only required from New Applicants) and volunteer work: 65%
- Grades: 35%

Based on the number of applicants, the competition for these scholarships is high. The minimum requirements of an essay (for New Applicants only), volunteer hours<sup>2</sup> and grades are items all students need in order to just be considered for a scholarship. Please be mindful that at any time during the selection period, you may be asked to submit proof for the number of community service hours worked. **Meeting or exceeding these requirements does not mean or guarantee that you will be chosen as a Scholarship recipient.**

**Note:** up to 75 applicants from the UK will be chosen by the Selection Committee as scholarship winners. This includes Returning Candidate scholarship recipients.

### **Volunteer/Community Service**

Preference will be given to applicants who have:

- Been involved in volunteer activities that support family well-being, including playgrounds/public space cleanup, children’s health/wellness and other projects connected to family togetherness.
- Held leadership roles in their volunteer activities.
- Participated in a Foresters Community Volunteer activity.

Competitive Scholarship encourages students to support a wide range of volunteer activities and types of projects and programmes. While each application will be evaluated on its own merits, Competitive Scholarship will not accept partisan, political or direct religious volunteer/ community service activities.

### **Essay**

For New Applicants only:

In 250 words or less, all applicants will need to share a written response about their experience with a volunteer project where they gave back and supported a community need. Why was it meaningful and how did it impact the community?

## **Restrictions**

The following restrictions apply to the Competitive Scholarship member benefit:

1. New Applicants whose applications have been declined or accepted are able to apply for a Competitive Scholarship up to three consecutive times by completing the Returning Candidate application until such time as the recipient’s first post-secondary degree or equivalent is earned at which point applicants will no longer be eligible for a Competitive Scholarship.
2. The scholarship is applicable only to the first post-secondary degree or diploma sought by the recipient.
3. If the sponsoring member passes away after the scholarship is awarded, the recipient will still receive the scholarship if he/she meets the requirements under Parts A and B of the “Eligibility” Section of these Guidelines for New Applicants and, in subsequent years, meets the criteria for Returning Candidates.
4. The scholarship will terminate at the end of any academic year in which the Foresters member, whether the scholarship recipient or the sponsoring member, ceases to be a member of Foresters.

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<sup>2</sup> Volunteering work is volunteering for any community-based organization, registered non-profit, or registered charity.

5. Membership status and eligibility is verified at different stages of the application period and throughout the year.
6. Recipients of Orphan Scholarships and the Foresters Renew grant are not eligible to apply for the Competitive Scholarship.

## How to Apply

Visit either [Foresters.com](https://www.foresters.com) or [MyForesters.com](https://www.myforesters.com), during the application period and create an online account using the *Apply Now* buttons.

**Note:** the ISTS Scholarship Portal is separate from MyForesters and requires its own account. Accounts must belong to scholarship applicants only.

Once you have created an online account, you can use the site to submit and track the status of your application and supporting information. You are responsible for making sure that you have successfully submitted all required application components before the deadline by logging in to your online account regularly. Once you have created your account, you can receive email reminders and notifications at more than one e-mail address by entering an alternate or "Member email" address in your account profile.

**Foresters and International Scholarship and Tuition Services (ISTS) are not responsible for information that is late, unsuccessfully submitted or inaccurately completed.**

## For More Information

For specific questions about your application, contact ISTS via chat support on the application portal to connect with a customer service representative, by email at, by email at [Foresters-UK@applyISTS.com](mailto:Foresters-UK@applyISTS.com) or by phone on 0800 4049806

For additional information regarding the Competitive Scholarship benefit or other member benefits, please contact Foresters Member Services by email at [myforesters@foresters.com](mailto:myforesters@foresters.com).

The Competitive Scholarship benefit is administered by International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS). Eligible members, their spouse, dependent children, and grandchildren may apply subject to the eligibility criteria.

Description of member benefits that you may receive assumes you are a Foresters member. Members must be 18 years of age or older and must have an active Foresters Plan and maintain it in good standing. Foresters member benefits are non-contractual, subject to benefit specific eligibility requirements, definitions and limitations and may be changed or cancelled without notice.

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