



First Generation scholarship FAQ

What is the RSM US Foundation's First Generation scholarship?

The RSM US Foundation is helping first generation college students complete their education and realize their dreams through the First Generation scholarship program. The program is granting five first generation college students with up to **\$10,000 per academic year beginning fall 2025 for up to three years, for a total of up to \$30,000 in lifechanging scholarship support per recipient**. The program will award a total of up to \$150,000 amongst the five recipients.

Each scholarship will be paid directly to the recipient's college/university in \$5,000 consecutive payments per semester beginning fall 2025 and applied to the recipient's tuition and/or room and board.

In addition to the scholarship funds, each recipient will be invited to attend an optional information session.

What if I already receive scholarships or financial aid?

The scholarship funds will be paid to the college/university directly for invoiced expenses to include tuition, on-campus housing, and/or dining plans. Scholarship funds cannot be applied to off-campus housing or be paid to the recipient directly so you must have eligible expenses to receive the scholarship.

Who is eligible to apply for this scholarship?

The program is open to U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents (holder of a Permanent Resident card), individuals granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), or an individual with asylee/refugee/temporary protected status and qualified as an alien authorized to work who are at least 18 years old as of the date of application. Applicants must also be:

- A freshman, sophomore or junior with no immediate family members **from previous generations** that have **received** a bachelor's degree.
 - **Important note:** An applicant **is still** considered a first generation student if their immediate sibling(s) have or are currently pursuing a bachelor's degree.
- Studying business or technology in a bachelor's degree program at an accredited college or university located in the 50 United States or DC.
- Full-time students in good standing at their college/university with a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 or above.

Refer to terms and conditions for full description of eligibility.

Who is not eligible for the scholarship?

Full-time and/or part-time employees, temporary employees, partners, principals, or contractors (and their immediate family members) of RSM US LLP, Risk & Regulatory Consulting, LLC, and their respective affiliated entities and the RSM US Foundation.

When is the deadline to apply?

Eligible students may submit their applications between 12:01 a.m. Central Time on December 1, 2024 and 11:59 p.m. Central Time, February 28, 2025. Only one application per student is allowed.

Can I apply for both the Power Your Education U.S. scholarship and the First Generation scholarship?

Yes, you may apply for both programs if you meet each of their unique eligibility requirements. Be sure to read and understand each program's terms and conditions before applying. You may only win one scholarship program.

What do I need to do to apply?

- Video:



- You will need to create a 30 to 60 second video demonstrating which of RSM's 5 C's (described in the terms and conditions) you think comes most naturally to (and best fits) you.
- Your video must contain only original content. It is recommended to simply capture yourself and to not include other people, photos, videos, music or content other than you in order to comply with the terms and conditions of this scholarship.
- Upload your video to YouTube. Please select "Unlisted" from the visibility settings when you upload your video on YouTube, so that your Video is not publicly available.
- You will need the link to your video when submitting your application.
- **Statement:** You will need to craft a personalized statement of up to 1,500 characters answering what motivates you to grow forward as a first generation student.
 - **IMPORTANT:** Your video and statement must be created solely by you without the use of material from preexisting written or visual works or assistance from artificial intelligence ("AI"), including but not limited to generative AI writing assistants or video creators.
- **Unofficial transcript:** You will need to obtain a copy of your unofficial transcript.
- Once you've gathered all these items, proceed to the next FAQ response regarding how to submit your application.

How do I submit my scholarship application?

When you have your unlisted YouTube video link and unofficial transcript, visit

<https://rsmus.com/careers/starting-your-career/scholarships/first-generation-scholarship.html>

to apply:

- Review the scholarship program description and Terms and Conditions.
- Click the link to "Apply for the scholarship."
- When on the GrantsConnect login page, sign in or click "Create account" to complete the applicant registration form. If you created a new account, check your email for the registration confirmation and click "Get Started" to verify your email address to activate your account.
- Return to the application by clicking "Apply for the Scholarship" and sign in.
- Click "Start new application" and answer the eligibility questions on the next screen—students who meet the eligibility requirements will be prompted to begin the application.
- Complete the form questions, including your college/university name, uploading an unofficial copy of your transcript, answering a brief short answer response (statement), providing a link to your video and answering "yes" to accept the terms and conditions of the First Generation scholarship program, then click "Submit."
- You will be unable to edit your application once submitted.
- You will be sent an email confirming your application was submitted.
- If you create an initial draft application that you do not submit, GrantsConnect will send you reminders to apply before the deadline.

How will the recipients be selected?

A panel of judges, selected by RSM US Foundation, will review and judge each applicant's application based on quality of the video (75%) and the quality of the statement (25%). Judges will grade the video and statement each on a scale of one to seven, with seven being the highest score. In judging the video, judges will evaluate the applicant's passion, thoughtfulness, and creativity in conveying how the selected "C" from RSM's 5 C's comes most naturally to (and best fits) them. The judges will evaluate the statement based on creativity, quality of writing and reflection of the applicant's individuality. The five applicants that receive the highest scores based upon the judging criteria will be deemed recipients of scholarships.

When will I know if I am selected?

The RSM US Foundation will attempt to notify selected recipients in April.



What if I have questions or an issue submitting my application?

Send an email to RSMscholarships@rsmus.com.

I did not receive an award this year. May I apply again next year?

Yes, you may apply to future programs if you continue to meet the eligibility requirements.