

Objective:

This scholarship program will provide financial and personal assistance every year to selected Wah Yan students who would like to have university education in the United States (U.S.) and who have bona fide financial needs.

Background:

A group of Wah Yan alumni living in the San Francisco area, whose lives were touched by experiences at their alma mater, established this scholarship.

We feel that top students have a lot of options, including other merit-based scholarships and likely do not need our help. We will instead direct our energy to help those deserving students who may not have stellar academic achievement and whose families do not have the financial means to allow them to pursue university education in the U.S. We want to give such students an opportunity to achieve their fullest potential.

We favor sponsoring students who want to complete the first two years of their university education at a junior college in the U.S. Attending a junior college for 2 years is in many ways a better alternative. From our collective experience, we have found that junior college is an excellent stepping-stone for an eventual bachelor degree at a prestigious university. Many of us in the San Francisco area did exactly that, and eventually graduated from MIT, UC Berkeley, Stanford, Columbia, etc. Quite frankly, many of us probably would not have been accepted as freshmen to these same schools we graduated from.

Scholarship Details and Eligibility:

One to two undergraduate students selected for the scholarship will receive financial support for tuition and fees of up to US\$10,000 per year for 2 years. In addition to financial aid, Wah Yan alumni living in the San Francisco area will also provide guidance and assistance in the students' lives when required. This group of alumni will assist students in identifying opportunities for summer jobs in the area as practical training although no guarantee can be made. Selected students will be responsible for their own room and board expenses estimated to be around HK\$100,000 a year.

Eligible applicants include current F.6 students who attended Wah Yan College at least from F.3 through F.6. The scholarship will only be awarded to students who are accepted to a U.S. Junior College or University. Wah Yan alumni currently studying for an undergraduate degree in the U.S. with two or more years left in the program are also eligible. Preference is given to entering freshmen.

Application forms are available from the office of the principal, and from the official web site of Wah Yan Alumni Association San Francisco Chapter at <http://www.wahyansfbay.com>. Applicants can also request application forms from chairman of the Scholarship Selection Committee. (See Correspondence).

Selection criteria (in order of priority):

1. Bona fide financial needs – This scholarship has been established first and foremost to help those Wah Yan students whose family cannot otherwise support them to pursue an education in the U.S. It is different from many other scholarships, e.g. the Fr Barrett Scholarship, which are purely merit based.
2. Recommendation by the principals of Wah Yan College.
3. Strong desire to pursue an education in the U.S.
4. Unwavering commitment to excel in the 2 years of junior college studies to maximize their opportunities to transfer to a top 4-year university to complete their bachelor degree.

5. Although there is no minimum requirement for academic achievements to apply, candidates that are deemed more likely to excel academically in a university in the U.S. will have a higher probability to receive this scholarship.

Selection process:

1. Candidates in Hong Kong should submit their completed application to the principal of their respective Wah Yan College. The principal of each school will screen and present up to 5 candidates to the selection committee.
2. Candidates in the U.S. should submit their completed application to chairman of the Scholarship Selection Committee (see Correspondence).
3. The Selection Committee consists of the two principals and three Wah Yan alumni from the San Francisco and Southern California chapter.
4. The Selection Committee will conduct interviews by phone or other means with candidates to determine the scholarship recipients.

Important dates:

1. Application deadline: July 1st, 2018
2. Interview: July 15th – 30th, 2018
3. Result announcement: August , 2018

Application package:

1. Required items for application package
 - Application form
 - High school transcripts (or report cards) from the last 2 years
 - Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) examination results (if taken)
 - Levels of projected subjects attainment in HKDSE Exam (for HKDSE candidates)
 - TOEFL results
 - Personal essay
 - Two (2) letters of recommendation
2. Optional items
 - SAT results
 - ACT results
 - Additional letters of recommendation

Correspondence:

Questions regarding this scholarship program can be directed to the principals of Wah Yan or emailed to Siegfried Leung, Chairman of Scholarship Selection Committee, at suonchan@yahoo.com

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