



Summer 2020 | Volume 1

UCI Scholarships



Tips & Tricks

Find out what to write and what to include in your scholarship application in order to increase your chances of earning a scholarship.



SOP

The Scholarship Opportunity Program is a resource on campus for students interested in applying for prestigious national and international scholarships.



Next in 2020

How does the UCI community move forward after the hardships and tragedies of 2020? We move forward together and find strength in each other.

DID YOU KNOW
that you can apply to all UCI scholarships with one online application?

Improved Scholarship Platform

Receiving scholarships is great, but applying for it? Not so much. Scholarships often require lengthy applications, letters of recommendation, or essays. Then students have to do that multiple times for different scholarships. It seems like the couple hundred dollars aren't worth the time and effort.

To address those issues, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships transformed UCI's application process and created a centralized scholarship platform to help students. Only one application is necessary to apply for all campus-wide and most departmental scholarships.

Students no longer have to complete multiple applications requiring the same information. No letters of recommendation, essays, or interviews are necessary to apply. The awards are also substantial in amount, so recipients receive significant financial assistance. Lastly, the application process is now streamlined to be more efficient for all students, staff, faculty, and donors involved.

Launching this centralized platform was a tremendous feat. We spoke with Vice Chancellor Hervey and Associate Vice Chancellor Isble, members of the Steering Committee who put this project together.



**Vice Chancellor of
University Advancement
and Alumni
Relations, Brian Hervey**

How does this new platform contribute to UCI's strategic mission?

As part of the Brilliant Future Campaign, one of the major pillars is Advancing the American Dream. Student support was identified as a key need for the campus and scholarships significantly contribute to that support. The new platform is going to help in that effort significantly to provide more opportunities for donors to support students, assisting them to achieve the American Dream. We also focused on fundraising efforts which the platform also addresses.

How do scholarships help promote diversity within the student population?

UCI wants to attract the brightest future leaders. Scholarships allow us to offer those opportunities to pursue higher education, regardless of income or background. We don't want students to assume they can't attend solely because of tuition. Scholarships would provide that extra help that those students and their families need.

How do you feel about the project's progress?

This project has exceeded my expectations; so much was accomplished in such a short amount of time. It was a major team effort that included OFAS and UA but also included assistants from every school on campus. It was a very successful campus-wide effort that benefits both UCI students and donors.



**Associate Vice Chancellor
of University
Advancement,
Karen Isble**

What was UA's plan to execute this project?

Advancements' focus was to increase opportunities for donors to give to scholarship funds and to ensure we steward those gifts appropriately. Our department emphasized the need for scholarships across campus. We wanted to effectively communicate to donors the impact of their gift and simplify the giving process. When they can see all the benefits of giving or how easy it is, it will encourage them to continue to give.

How has the platform helped with fundraising efforts?

Before the new platform, the number of students applying for scholarships was relatively low because it was a fairly cumbersome process. But now that the process of applying is simplified and streamlined, more students will be able to apply. With more students applying, there will be a greater need for scholarships. We can show donors the increase in demand and demonstrate the need for scholarship funds.

What would you like to say to students who are concerned with the amount of debt they may have after graduation?

UCI launched the Brilliant Future campaign last fall; one of the four pillars is "Advancing the American Dream." That pillar focuses on the needs of our students. We prioritize providing opportunities and access to resources. UCI is committed to raising student support to decrease the burden to students and their families. These scholarships help students access higher education that may have been previously out of reach.

Overall, how do you feel about the project? Has it met your expectations?

Yes, the project has been a resounding success, and this is only the first year. I know it will continue to improve. Two years ago, I did not think we would have been able to achieve so much. The Scholarship Unit and University Advancement have formed a fantastic partnership to execute this project that benefits students, donors, and staff.

MEET OUR SCHOLARS!



JASPER YAO

- Mechanical Engineering
- 1st Year
- Stanley Behrens Scholarship

What clubs are you a part of on campus?

I am a part of ESW or Engineers for a Sustainable World. If anyone is interested in renewable energy or environmental protection, I highly recommend ESW. We do cool projects like powering bikes with solar energy and building houses out of plastic bottles. My highschool Environmental Science teacher inspired me to pursue renewable energy as a part of my Mechanical Engineering degree.

How have scholarships helped you?

Before receiving the Stanley Behrens Scholarship, I was considering getting a part time job, but scholarships have given me the opportunity to prioritize my education and my professional and social life.

Where is your favorite place to eat on campus?

In-n-out. You can't go wrong.

Where is your favorite place to study on campus?

5th floor Science Library. It has a great view!

KYLIE MUNSON

- Biological Sciences
- 4th Year
- Regents, Rose Hills, and Stanley Behrens Scholarships
- Entered UCI at age 13



What are your career/educational aspirations?

I'm thinking about being a physician or PA, but I'm keeping options open for now. I'm also looking at getting my MD or PHD.

What do scholarships mean to you?

I think it reflects my hard work. It also means that UCI believes that I will be successful, so I am very thankful for that.

What has your experience as a 13 year old college student been like?

College was more work than I expected, but I learned great time management skills. It was interesting being around people a lot older than me. But I have made great friends and have loved my time here!

What is your UCI life hack?

Use GrubHub, especially for Starbucks. Order it as class is ending and it'll be ready for you after class is done. Huge timesaver!

Tips & Tricks: UCI Scholarships

Now that the application process for UCI scholarships is as easy as 1-2-3, let's talk about what to include in your application to increase the odds of you receiving a scholarship.

Below are some tips and tricks on how to write the best application:

- **Write about your experiences or accomplishments.** You can talk about your aspirations, but it's even more important for our Scholarship Officers to see what you have done and how you learned from it. This is the time to brag about yourself!

- **Explain how you learned or grew from the adversity you faced.** Everyone experiences hardships in life. Show us how you grew in the face of adversity or how you helped others in the same position.
- **Provide thorough and detailed explanations of your experiences.** The more details our Scholarship Officers have, the easier it is for them to fully understand your situation. We want to hear your life story!
- **Add personality to your answers!** It gives us a better idea of who you are as a student and person.
- **Proofread your answers.** Read them out loud or have someone else read them. It increases the chances of catching mistakes or typos before submitting.

Scholarship Opportunity Program

The Scholarship Opportunity Program works toward fulfilling UCI's mission of encouraging and supporting high-achieving undergraduates to compete successfully for 17 prestigious national and international merit-based scholarships for research and public service. Some of the scholarships they assist with are the Rhodes Scholarship, Fulbright Student Program, Harry S. Truman Scholarship, the National Science Foundation, and the Barry M. Goldwater.

Because these scholarships are quite prestigious, SOP offers personalized one-on-one advising and informational sessions to support students during the application process. They even provide examples of winning applications as a reference!

Visit their [scholarship advising page](#) to see which awards you qualify for and how you can begin your application.



Pre-Applications for ten of the seventeen supported scholarships are due in early April, while those for the remaining "Big 7" scholarships are due in mid-Fall quarter. We will notify students to apply as each deadline approaches.

Take a look at their [Recipient's Blog](#) to see what past UCI recipients are up to and what they have accomplished with their awarded scholarships.

If you are interested in applying, contact SOP at sklrship@uci.edu or (949) 824-0189 or visit their [website](#).



**DONOR SPOTLIGHT:
CHRISTINE MA OF THE
THOMAS AND LILLIAN
MA SCHOLARSHIP**



Christine with Thomas and Lillian Ma



The children of Thomas and Lillian Ma

The four children of Thomas and Lillian Ma started this scholarship and contributed to the renovation of the Student Center atrium to honor their parents. The Ma Family has deep ties to UCI with eight family members spanning two generations attending the university. We interviewed Christine Franklin, one of the Ma grandchildren and the family scholarship manager.

What does higher education mean to your family?

Higher education was very important to my grandparents. They were great advocates of their children achieving their dreams of becoming professionals in physics, engineering, business, and pharmacy. My grandparents also set aside money for each of their 10 grandchildren to attend college, allowing us to pursue our passions in traditional and non-traditional fields. Our successes in life are due, in large part, to the education we received through the UC system. Multiple members of my family went on to pursue advanced degrees.

What is the importance of providing scholarships for first-generation college students?

My grandparents purchased a liquor store after immigrating from

Hong Kong. It was a family affair, with my mom and aunt working at the store when they weren't at school or studying. My family understands the trials and tribulations of being first-generation immigrants and college students, but with Thomas and Lillian's foresight and support, we have been able to lead fairly successful lives. To honor their legacy we wanted to do our part to help others starting out in a new country and/or pursuing a college degree to accomplish their goals.

What's the most rewarding thing about managing your family's scholarship?

It's been eye-opening to read about the difficult circumstances that the majority of applicants have overcome or continue to face. Despite those setbacks and challenges, they continue to be optimistic, make positive contributions to society, excel in college, and pursue their dreams. I am inspired by every application that I have had the pleasure to review. Being part of the selection process has made me appreciate my grandparents even more for laying the groundwork that has enabled my family to be in a position to give back and help relieve some of the burdens our scholarship recipients face in pursuit of their ultimate goals.

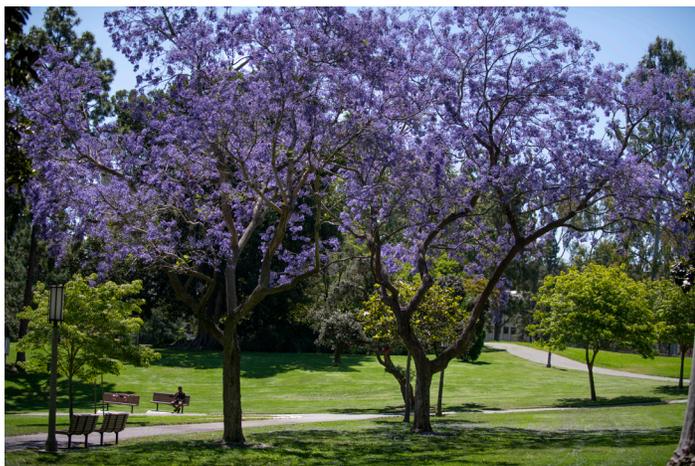
Editor's Note

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Keiana, and I am a Scholarship Officer in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. I am also the Editor of The Scholarship Scoop.

The Scholarships Unit created this newsletter as a way to make scholarships more accessible to UCI students. We wanted to provide information relevant to scholarships and campus resources. The Scholarship Scoop will also highlight our scholars and donors. UCI has so many great opportunities for students, so we want to make sure you know about everything that is available to you all. We are so excited to see that so many of you have applied this year, and we look forward to seeing even more of you apply and receive scholarships next year.

We hope to have student involvement with this newsletter, so watch out for opportunities to share your art, research, etc. in future editions of the newsletter. We want to showcase your innovation and creativity that makes UCI so great.

As you read in our other article, the scholarship application process has changed to make it easier for you as students to apply to scholarships. More of you can receive scholarships with this new process. We recognize how essential scholarships are at a time like this. Affording tuition after the financial effects of the pandemic may seem daunting. Here at the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, we are committed to you.



We know scholarships are essential for some UCI students to afford pursuing higher education. We want the best for our students and will continue to work hard everyday to help you earn your degree.

With Fall 2020 starting soon, it may be difficult to resume your studies with the effects of COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement weighing heavily on our minds. It is an understatement to say that 2020 has been a tough year. People have endured significant health issues and financial challenges while also confronting systemic racism in our country.

This year has brought on a rollercoaster of emotions. Everyone felt scared, angry, sad, and frustrated at some point in time. It's okay to feel all these emotions. Here are some campus resources that may be helpful during these unprecedented times.

[UCI Student Health Center](#)

501 Student Health

Irvine, CA 92697-5200

Phone: (949) 824-5301

Hours: M-F, 8am-5pm *check website for extended hours

[UCI Counseling Center](#)

203 Student Services 1

Irvine, CA 92697-2200

Phone: (949) 824-6457

Hours: M-F: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

But 2020 can still be salvaged; it can be a year of growth and learning. Prioritize your health and time with loved ones. COVID-19 showed that not everyone is guaranteed tomorrow. Be an ally for the black community and confront personal and systemic racism to make the world equitable for everyone. We don't know what is to come. We don't know when things will improve, but let's come together as a community to support and respect one another. Everyone is struggling in some form, so we should support one another when we can. UCI is a resilient university full of determined and accomplished students who continue to push forward.