



## CALL FOR 2024 OAS-THE WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) and the Western Illinois University (WIU) in the United States have decided to support outstanding individuals from the Americas by awarding the following academic scholarships to pursue undergraduate and graduate studies.

### SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:</b>    | Undergraduate Programs<br>Graduate Programs   |
| <b>MODALITY:</b>             | Onsite, Online, Hybrid (United States)  |
| <b>LANGUAGE:</b>             | English   |
| <b>DURATION:</b>             | 2 – 4 years   |
| <b>APPLICATION DEADLINE:</b> | <p><b>University admission and scholarship application:<br/>Fall 2024: August 30, 2024</b></p> <p>Open only to admitted students from OAS member states, except the United States, starting Fall 2024.<br/><i>New applicants are asked to contact WIU regarding admission for 2025/2026 academic year.</i></p>  |
| <b>BENEFITS:</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Western Illinois University will offer from USD \$9,000 to USD \$11,000 in tuition scholarships based on academic performance for its undergraduate programs and USD \$4,000 for graduate programs with the opportunity to earn additional scholarships and assistantships.</li> <li>WIU will waive the application fee for OAS candidates</li> <li>The OAS, through WIU, will provide a one-time supplementary amount of USD \$1,000 to support tuition and fees for scholarship recipients.</li> </ul> <p><i>Please note that residual tuition and other cost after the scholarship(s) deduction remain the responsibility of the student.</i></p> |

Scholarship benefits are subject to the academic performance of the scholarship recipient and subject to the availability of funds. To receive these benefits, the scholarship recipient must not be reported with an unsatisfactory academic performance due to absences or failing courses.

## ABOUT THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

The **General Secretariat of the OAS (GS/OAS)** is the central and permanent organ of the [Organization of American States](#) (OAS). Through its Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE), the GS/OAS supports [Member States](#) in creating policies and implementing programs that promote the development of human capabilities at all educational levels. By enabling educational opportunities for citizens, DHDEE strengthens democratic values and security within the framework of regional integration. DHDEE does this by: (i) supporting the efforts of OAS member states to improve quality and equity in education; and (ii) helping the citizens of the Americas to develop their full potential by providing them with access to knowledge and skills through training that improves the living standards of individuals, families and communities in the region.

**Western Illinois University (WIU)** is in Macomb, IL, just over three hours from Chicago and two hours from St. Louis. The institution was founded in 1899 and has an enrollment of approximately 7000 students. Over 700 international students from more than 50 countries attend WIU. Latin America and the Caribbean account for over 150 of our international students who mostly hail from Asia and Africa. WIU offers over 100 degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate level including all STEM disciplines including engineering; business, education, information technology, agriculture, and nursing. WIU offers an array of scholarships and assistantships designed to significantly reduce the cost of higher education for international students. Housing is available on campus and off campus at comparatively very low prices by US standards. Local transportation is free. We provide full orientation, airport pickups, and Zoom preparation meetings as well as a fully electronic and expeditious admission process.

### AREAS OF STUDY

WIU offers over 100 innovative undergraduate and graduate degree programs, integrated programs, pre-professional programs, and certificate programs:

1. List of Undergraduate Programs: [Academic Programs - WIU](#)
  2. List of Graduate Programs: [Academic Programs - WIU](#)
- ✓ Interested undergraduate students have the option to begin all programs online with the application of academic scholarship.
  - ✓ Acceptance of CAPE and Caribbean College credits with a 2+1+2 or 2+2+1 format for CAPE/Caribbean Colleges (Two years college or CAPE one or two years online + two or one year on campus resulting in Savings in cost of living)
  - ✓ No SAT required for The Bahamas students and no Standardized tests for transfer students who have completed at least one year of college.

- ✓ OAS Scholarship applicable to fully online degrees
- ✓ Articulation agreements with CXC and ALL Caribbean Colleges
- ✓ Study Abroad Programs operational or planned for Ecuador, Argentina, Grenada, Costa Rica
- ✓ The WIU will inform of its other university partners that offer scholarships and training benefits to citizens of OAS Member States.

## **APPLICATION FOR ADMISSIONS INFORMATION**

### **Fall 2024**

- Applicants may contact the Center for Global Studies through Associate Vice President, Dr. Randy Glean at [r-glean@wiu.edu](mailto:r-glean@wiu.edu).
- Applicants must be admitted to Western Illinois University and to be considered for the OAS-WIU Scholarship through the university.

### **Additional Benefits and Services Provided to International Students:**

- Electronic admission application.
- Scholarship awarded upon admission (Minimum 3.0 GPA required).
- Scholarship renewal automatic with 3.0 GPA regardless of level.
- Free Airport/Train pickups.
- Free local transportation year-round.
- Organized Low Cost Off Campus Housing for Junior/Seniors guaranteed, with guaranteed on campus housing (required for freshmen/sophomores).
- Visa preparation.
- Step by step process with monthly Zoom meetings for prospects.
- Grad school prep and explorations.
- Full career placement services, personal advising, and Counseling Center.
- Legal seminars for H1-B/NIW.
- Health Center with full medical staff on campus.
- Small city with low crime and low cost of living in a rural setting.
- Shopping trips and support organizations, including multiple Caribbean organizations.
- NCAA Division 1 sports (Basketball, Football, Baseball, Soccer, Track and field) and Cricket field and Cricket tournaments.
- Dance team, Steel Band and several other bands.
- Free food pantry for emergency crises and free winter coats for hardship situations.

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

## 1. Application for admission to Western Illinois University

- To apply for an OAS-WIU Scholarship, it is essential to have been admitted to one of the undergraduate or graduate programs at the University.
- The applicant must submit all supporting documents as required by the University for admission consideration.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For guidance on the program and the admissions process, please contact: Dr. Randy Glean at [r-glean@wiu.edu](mailto:r-glean@wiu.edu) or (309) 298-1920 or website at [Center for Global Studies - WIU](#)

## 2. OAS-Western Illinois University Scholarship Application

Upon admission to the study program, the applicant will automatically be considered as a candidate for the OAS-Western Illinois University scholarship.

## 3. Selection of OAS-Western Illinois University Scholarship Recipients

Western Illinois University and the OAS will form a specialized committee to select the scholarship recipients. The elements that will be considered in awarding the scholarships include the following aspects:

- Geographic distribution of the candidates, taking into account the most important needs of the Member States, according to the Human Development Index reported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- Academic profile, merit and academic credentials
- Applicant's potential impact on the completion of the study program
- Gender distribution

## 4. Scholarship Acceptance Process

- Only selected applicants will be contacted by OAS via email, where they will receive the scholarship offer and instructions for acceptance.
- Once the candidate has accepted the scholarship offer, the scholarship recipient must contact Western Illinois University for next steps in the process.

## 5. Publication of OAS-Western Illinois University Scholarship Results

The publication of the results of the selected candidates will be made available at [www.oas.org/scholarships](http://www.oas.org/scholarships) by **September 2024**. OAS will contact selected applicants by email with the scholarship offer and instructions for acceptance of the scholarship. Unsuccessful applicants will not be contacted.

## EXPENSES NOT COVERED BY THIS SCHOLARSHIP

Expenses not covered by this scholarship, falling under the sole responsibility of the scholarship recipients, are as follows:

- remaining cost of tuition and fees;
  - application fee;
  - health insurance;
  - housing;
  - books and study materials;
  - any additional fees not covered by the OAS-Western Illinois University PAEC Scholarship.
- ✓ Applicants can also apply for the [Rowe Fund](#), which is an educational loan program of the OAS that helps citizens from Latin America and the Caribbean to finance their studies in accredited universities across the United States by awarding **interest-free loans** of up to US\$15,000 dollars.
- We are excited to share with you [The Financial Aid Guide for Studies in the U.S.](#) This booklet features a useful listing of financial aid opportunities sorted by country of residence. Check out the listing of scholarships, grants, fellowships and loans, collected by the [Rowe Fund](#) program of the Organization of American States. For over seventy years, the Rowe Fund has granted interest-free student loans for university studies in the U.S. to supplement other sources of financing.
  - Given the steady increase in the cost of higher education, international students require a combination of strategies to finance their U.S. studies. We trust this Financial Aid [Guide](#) for U.S. studies is a good start of your search for funding.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for this scholarship opportunity, the applicant must:

- Be admitted to one of the graduate programs offered by Western Illinois University
- This scholarship opportunity is open to new applicants as well as current Western Illinois University students from an OAS member state, except the United States.
- Be a citizen or legal resident of any of the [OAS Member States](#):
- Applicants from **Argentina** must complete the following form: <http://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/PAEC/2018/NOTA-SOLICITUD-DGCIN2017.doc> and submit it to the [National Liaison Office](#) (ONE) in Argentina.

The following applicants are **not** eligible:

- Current OAS Scholarship recipients and citizens and/or permanent residents of the United States.

- GS/OAS staff and their immediate family members or GS/OAS consultants.
- Permanent OAS staff members and their immediate family members.

## **DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

1. The scholarship will be formally awarded only after the selected scholarship recipients have signed an OAS/ Western Illinois University Acceptance Form, in which the recipients formally accept the scholarship and agree to its terms and conditions.
2. Refrain from engaging in activities that are incompatible with their status as an OAS Scholarship recipient, in accordance with the rules set forth in this Acceptance Form.
3. Comply with all academic guidelines and admission requirements requested by Western Illinois University and submit to any updates to those guidelines and requirements made by the academic authorities of Western Illinois University
4. Comply with the provisions of the “Financial Responsibilities of Awardees”.
5. In order to retain the scholarship, scholarship recipients must not be reported with poor academic performance (GPA must be equivalent to 3.0/4.0 at least), due to absences from the program and/or failing courses.
6. The scholarship recipient may decline the scholarship prior to the program start date without financial penalty. However, if the scholarship is declined after that date without proof of force majeure, the OAS and the Western Illinois University may require the scholarship recipient to repay all funds awarded under the scholarship at the time the relinquishment is processed.
7. Commitment to remain in their sponsoring country or legal residence in one of the OAS Member States, or in an international organization, for the duration of the scholarship. If this commitment is not fulfilled, the GS/OAS and/or Western Illinois University may request reimbursement of the full amount of the scholarship awarded.

## **SCHOLARSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION**

Questions regarding this scholarship opportunity should be sent to [scholarships@oas.org](mailto:scholarships@oas.org) under the title "OAS-Western Illinois University Scholarship Program", or to Center for Global Studies at the Western Illinois University at [Center for Global Studies - WIU](#)

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**



[www.oas.org/scholarships](http://www.oas.org/scholarships)



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Note: The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) reserves the right to cancel this scholarship announcement at any time during the process. The GS/OAS and its staff will not be responsible for any action that derives from the information in this announcement.