



First Generation scholarship FAQ

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

The RSM US Foundation is supporting first-generation college students in achieving their educational goals through the First Generation Scholarship Program. Beginning in fall 2026, the program will award up to five students with scholarships of up to \$10,000 per academic year, renewable for up to three years. Each recipient may receive up to \$30,000 in life-changing scholarship support. In total, the program will provide up to \$150,000 in scholarships across the five recipients.

Each scholarship will be disbursed directly to the recipient's college or university in consecutive \$5,000 payments per semester, beginning in fall 2026, as long as the recipient remains eligible. Funds will be applied toward tuition and/or room and board.

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

What if I already receive scholarships or financial aid?

Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the recipient's college or university and applied to invoiced expenses such as tuition, on-campus housing, and dining plans. Funds cannot be used for off-campus housing or disbursed directly to the recipient. To receive the scholarship, recipients must have eligible expenses billed by their institution.

Who is eligible to apply for this scholarship?

For a full list of eligibility requirements, please refer to Section One of the Terms and Conditions. In summary, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. permanent resident (holder of a Permanent Resident Card), an individual granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, or an individual with asylee, refugee, or temporary protected status who is authorized to work in the U.S.
- Be at least 18 years old at the time of application.
- Be a freshman, sophomore, or junior with no immediate family members **from previous generations** who have earned a bachelor's degree.
 - Note: Applicants are still considered first-generation students if their sibling(s) have earned or are currently pursuing a bachelor's degree.
- Be pursuing a bachelor's degree in business or technology at an accredited college or university located in the 50 United States or the District of Columbia.
- Be enrolled full-time and in good academic standing, with a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher.
- Interns of RSM, including individuals who have accepted a future internship or have completed an internship, are eligible to apply for and receive a Scholarship, provided, however, that an individual's status as a future, current, or past intern of RSM has no bearing on their likelihood of receiving a Scholarship.

Who is not eligible for the scholarship?

Individuals who are 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 of the RSM US Foundation are not eligible.

When is the deadline to apply?

Eligible students may submit their applications between 12:01 a.m. Central Time on December 1, 2025, and 11:59 p.m. Central Time, February 28, 2026.

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



Yes, you may apply to both scholarship programs if you meet each program's specific eligibility requirements, and we've made it easy to do so within the same application form. Be sure to carefully review and understand the terms and conditions for each before applying. If selected, you may only receive one scholarship award.

What do I need to do to apply?

Applicants will need to create a video, craft a statement and gather their unofficial transcript as follows:

- Video:
 - You will need to create a **30 to 60 second video** demonstrating which of RSM's 5 C's you think comes most naturally to (and best fits) you.
 - What are the 5 C's? See the full description in the Terms and Conditions or view them here <https://rsmus.com/about/vision-100.html>.
 - **Videos shorter than 30 seconds or longer than 60 seconds will result in disqualification.**
 - 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 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.
 - An **unlisted video** on YouTube is a type of privacy setting that allows the video to be viewed by anyone who has the direct link, but it **won't appear** in public places like:
 - YouTube search results
 - Your channel page
 - Subscriber feeds
 - Recommendations or related videos
 - Unlisted videos share content privately without making it completely public.
 - 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.

How do I submit my scholarship application?

- When you have your **unlisted** YouTube video link, statement and unofficial transcript, visit <https://rsmus.com/careers/starting-your-career/scholarships/first-generation-scholarship.html>.
- Review the scholarship program description and Terms and Conditions.
- Click the "Apply now" link on the website.
- You'll be redirected to the application site through Blackbaud's GrantsConnect.
- Create an account or sign in if you're a return user.
- Once you've signed 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, accept the appropriate terms and submit your application.
- You will be unable to edit your application once submitted.
- You will receive an email confirmation once submitted.



How will the recipients be selected?

Applications will be judged based on quality of the Video (75%) and 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.
- The judges will evaluate the Video based on the applicant's professionalism, originality, substantive content, charisma, passion, thoughtfulness, and creativity in conveying how the selected "C" from RSM's 5 C's comes most naturally to (and best fits) the applicant.
- The judges will evaluate the Statement based on creativity, quality of writing, and reflection of the applicant's individuality.
- The applicants who receive the highest scores based upon the judging criteria will be deemed potential recipients of Scholarships and will move forward in the judging process to be reviewed by a panel of judges.
- The five (5) scholarship winners will be selected based on the panel's view of which applications demonstrate the best understanding of, and have the highest and best potential impact on, RSM's 5 C's and business.

When will I know if I am selected?

The RSM US Foundation will attempt to notify selected recipients around the middle of May.

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

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

Questions?

Send an email to RSMscholarships@rsmus.com.