

2023

# WOMEN IN STEM SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION



The Zonta International **Women in STEM Scholarship** encourages women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in STEM fields.

The program operates at the Zonta club, district/region and international levels. Each Zonta district/region may submit one applicant for consideration for an international scholarship.

The Zonta Club of Oak Brook recipient receives US\$1500. A single candidate from each of Zonta's 31 districts and one region will receive an award of US\$5,000 from Zonta International.

### Timetable

Applications must be received by Zonta Club of Oak Brook.....	<b>June 9,2023</b>
Club recipient is selected and application is received by District 6 representative.....	<b>July 1, 2023</b>
District applicant selected and application received by ZI Headquarters.....	<b>September 15,2023</b>
Official announcement of international recipients.....	<b>November</b>

### Who is eligible?

- Women of any age and nationality, pursuing a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) degree program at an accredited university/college/institute, who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field and are living or studying in a Zonta district/region, are eligible.
- Online students are also eligible to apply if enrolled at an accredited university/college/institute.
- Students must be enrolled in at least the second year of an undergraduate program **through** the final year of a master's program at the time the application is submitted to the local Zonta

club. Applicants must be in school at the time the scholarship funds are disbursed and must not graduate before April 2024.

- Previous district and international Women in Technology Scholarship recipients may not apply for the Women in STEM Scholarship.
- Applicants for the 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship may not also apply for the 2023 Women in STEM Scholarship.
- Club members and individuals with direct membership with Zonta International and employees of Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women, and their family members (ancestors, descendants, adoptees, siblings, nieces or cousins, and those of their spouse or co-habiting partner), are not eligible to apply for the Scholarship.
- Golden Z club members are eligible to apply.
- Applicants from geographic areas within a Zonta district/region where no clubs are located will be considered and are eligible to apply for the international scholarships via a Zonta district/region.

### What are the requirements?

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Applicant is required to qualify what her field of study is under STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Designated Degree Program List can be used to determine if your field of study is eligible: [ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/stem-list.pdf](http://ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/stem-list.pdf).
- Be enrolled in at least the second year of an undergraduate program **through** the final year of a master's program at the time the application is submitted to the local Zonta club. A verification of current enrollment must be submitted with the application. Note that acceptance letters are **not** verification of enrollment and **will not** be accepted.
- Demonstrate a superior academic record at a recognized university or college with accredited courses in STEM studies as verified by official transcripts and recommendation letters.
- Applicant must be enrolled in a STEM degree program by 15 September 2023 and **must not** graduate before April 2024.

### How do I apply?

Note that all application materials must be completed in English and received at the Zonta club by the deadline printed on the application. Only typed applications will be accepted and considered.

The following documents are to be submitted in the application package. Application forms can be downloaded from the Zonta Club of Oak Brook's website:

<http://zontadistrict6.org/oakbrook/>

and must include:

- One recommendation from a faculty member in the major field of study.
- One recommendation from an employer, volunteer supervisor, or academic adviser. (*Club members and employees of Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women are not eligible to write recommendation letters for applicants.*)
- Essay of 500 words or less that clearly describes your academic and professional goals and demonstrates how your program of study is directly related to science, technology, engineering

or mathematics and your initiative, ambition and commitment to pursuing a career in STEM. (Essays exceeding 500 words **will not** be considered.)

- Zonta International Verification of Current Enrollment form (see page 7 of application), or an official statement from the university/college registrar stating enrollment and graduation information. Please note that students from the southern hemisphere may have limited academic records available when the application is due to the club or district/region. If further records are available later, these records may be included when the district/region forwards their nominee to Zonta International for consideration in the selection of the international Women in STEM Scholarships. Candidates for the international scholarships may be asked to submit their most recent academic results for consideration.
- List and include official detailed transcripts of grades or equivalent records from all universities, colleges, or institutions attended, including undergraduate institutions and degrees received. In programs where graduate transcripts are not provided as a matter of institutional policy, please provide an official statement of that policy from the registrar or other school official. **Do not submit unofficial transcripts** as they will not be accepted.
- All non-English documents must be translated into English to be considered.
- Applicants from geographic areas within a Zonta district/region where no clubs are located may apply via a Zonta e-club or directly to the district/region to be eligible for the international scholarships. **All application materials must be received at the Zonta club by the deadline printed on the application.** Please note that applicants may not apply to more than one Zonta district.
- Information other than official transcripts and recommendations must be limited to the space provided; attachments, articles, pamphlets, books, curriculum vitae or other publications are not requested and will not be considered.
- Applications that are incomplete or late, due to transmittal by third parties, or other circumstances will not be considered. Applications are accepted by email or regular mail; however, email submissions are preferred.  
Applications submitted by email must be signed and sent as a PDF.

### What is the application process?

- The club evaluation committee will consider applications and select the club awardee. Applications selected by Zonta clubs are sent to their respective Zonta governor/regional representative.
- A district/region evaluation committee selects one applicant per district/region to submit to Zonta International Headquarters.
- The Zonta International Headquarters team confirms the eligibility of the applicants put forth by the districts/region and submits a recommendation to the Zonta International Board for approval.

### How may I use the scholarship funds?

#### For the Local/District award

- The Zonta Club of Oak Brook award may only be used for tuition, fees and materials (books, supplies and equipments for required courses) at a secondary school, college or university.

## **For the Zonta International Scholarship**

- The Zonta International scholarship may be used for any expenses that support the achievement of a degree in a STEM-related field.
- The payment of US\$5000 is planned for December 2023, subject to any U.S. sanctions.
- For domestic and foreign recipients studying in the United States, Scholarship funds used for tuition, books, fees, supplies or required equipment for the program of study are not considered taxable income. Withholding taxes may be required on funds used for living expenses or other non-qualified expenses, e.g., room, board or travel to conferences.
- Recipients are not permitted to defer the Scholarship.
- Recipients may accept additional grants and scholarships from other sources.

### **Tax Considerations**

The following considerations will help define which type of payment will fit the applicant's purposes best.

- "Scholarship": to be used for tuition, fees and materials (books, supplies and equipment) required for courses at a college or university only. As a scholarship to be used for tuition, fees and materials, the income is tax free.
- "Scholarship": to be used for living expenses while attending a college or university. Although tuition and related expenses are tax free, income used for living expenses is considered taxable income. Tax forms will be provided to all awardees, as required. Withholdings range from \$0 (tax treaty) or 14% (appropriate student VISA) to 30% for non-U.S. residents.