

INTERSTELLAR RESEARCH GROUP DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2026



PURPOSE: The Interstellar Research Group “was created to foster and assist the study, research and experimentation necessary to make human interstellar travel a reality, with untold benefits to life on Earth,” said IRG President Emeritus John Preston. “We can imagine no better way to demonstrate that goal than the creation of these scholarships, helping new generations of thinkers, builders and explorers to set their sights on the stars.”

To provide a scholarship to one graduate student attending a U.S. university seeking a doctoral degree in their first graduate degree.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION 2026

1. The application time period for the scholarship is September 15, 2025, to December 15, 2025, at 5 pm EST. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
2. The application must be typed. Do not leave any items blank.
3. Refer to the criteria below for eligibility requirements.
4. Applications that are not in compliance with these instructions will not be considered.
5. Due to the number of applications received, only winners will be contacted.
6. The completed application is to be emailed to:

Scholarship Committee
scholarship@irg.space

CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2026

1. Applicant must be a full-time student accepted to or enrolled in an accredited program that awards a doctoral graduate degree.
2. Open to doctoral graduate students enrolled at a university in the United States/or its territories.
3. Applicant must be a citizen of the United States and live in the United States and/or its territories.
4. Areas included can be STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) related fields, ecology, social sciences, environmental, business, health, law, agriculture, food sciences, computer science, education, construction, and any degrees which can be applied to interstellar space travel missions and to help establish successful civilizations.

APPLICATION PROCESS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2026

1. Completed application form and email to scholarship@irg.space by the deadline.
2. A brief (one page) explanation of career goals and biographical (background) information, in .docx format (Word).
 - Describe community service projects you have done and any student activities involvement (positions held, how you were involved): [can be included in biographical information].
3. Write a 2,000 to 2,500-word essay on the student's research and its application to achieving interstellar missions, in .docx format (Word).
4. List the name of any colleges you have attended, year started, and year ended.
5. A copy of school transcripts.
6. A copy of your acceptance letter or letter of enrollment from college/university.
7. Proof of fall 2026 enrollment in college/university.
8. Do not include your social security number (SSN) on any documents.
9. All essays will be checked for plagiarism and AI. Any applications with plagiarism or AI will be disqualified.
10. Please save your application as:
 lastname.firstname.Masters.IRG.Scholarshp.Application.2026

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Section 1: Student Information

Applicant's Name: Last _____
First _____ MI: _____
Phone Number: _____
Home Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Email Address: _____
Citizen of United States: Yes: _____ No: _____
University (attending in fall 2026): _____
Advisor: _____
Degree Program: _____
Expected date of graduation: _____
Name and Address of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if under 18 years of age:

Section 2: Authorization

I certify that the statements and information provided in this application package are true to the best of my knowledge and grant my permission for the information contained herein to be shared with the Interstellar Research Group, judges, and the scholarship donors. Furthermore, I understand that if awarded the Interstellar Research Group Scholarship, I am required to submit proof of enrollment in a university by September 1, 2026, or the scholarship will be forfeited. I understand that the scholarship check will be mailed to the Bursar Office of the College/University I am attending.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____