



2017-18 ESA Foundation Computer and Video Game Scholarship Program

Frequently Asked Questions

[Who is eligible to apply?](#)

[When is the application deadline?](#)

[What is the Program timeline?](#)

[What are the selection criteria?](#)

[Can I receive feedback on my application or appeal the selection committee's funding decision?](#)

[What are the details of the award?](#)

[Which school should I list on the application if I have not made a final decision?](#)

[How do I change my college choice?](#)

[What documents will I be asked to provide to apply for the ESA Foundation Scholarship?](#)

[How do I know if my application is complete?](#)

[I uploaded a document that no longer displays on my application. Do I need to submit it again?](#)

[How do I upload more than one file at a time?](#)

[How do I create a .zip file?](#)

[What is the difference between Official and Unofficial Transcripts?](#)

[What are the Dos and DON'Ts of uploading documents to my application?](#)

[Where and when should I send my supporting documents?](#)

[What if my supporting documents are received by the deadline and then rejected? Can I resubmit them after the deadline?](#)

[How and when will I receive notification?](#)

[What are my responsibilities if I am chosen as a recipient?](#)

[How and when are checks issued?](#)

[Are scholarships taxable?](#)

[Who administers this program?](#)

[Who do I contact if I have other questions?](#)

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for this award, you must:

- be a woman or minority
- be pursuing a degree leading to a career in computer and video game arts
- be a current high school senior, college freshman, sophomore or junior
- be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program at an accredited four (4) year college or university in Fall 2016
- be a U.S. citizen

When is the application deadline?

May 4, 2017 at 11:59 PM PST



What is the Program timeline?

- Application Opens: February 1, 2017
- Application Deadline: May 4, 2017
- Scholarship Recipients Notified: June, 2017
- Scholarship Checks Issued: August, 2017

What are the selection criteria?

An independent selection committee will evaluate the applications and select the recipients considering:

- Academic performance
- Academic honors
- Career plans and goals
- Extracurricular activities and leadership
- Prior work experience
- Special circumstances (i.e., military service)

Can I receive feedback on my application or appeal the selection committee's funding decision?

Decisions of the selection committee are final and are not subject to appeal. No application feedback will be given.

What are the details of the award?

- Up to 30 scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 will be awarded and are not renewable.
- Students may reapply each year as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.
- The scholarships will be applied to tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment required for course load at accredited, nonprofit two- or four-year colleges/universities in the United States.
- Students may transfer from one institution to another and retain the award.

Which school should I list on the application if I have not made a final decision?

You should list your first choice on the application.

How do I change my college choice?

You may update your final school choice on the **My Profile** page at <https://aim.applyISTS.net>. If you are chosen to receive an award, it will be your responsibility to make sure your college is updated at least 30 days prior to the check issue date stated in the award notification so your check can be issued accordingly. This will not update any application or acceptance forms; however, all awards are issued based on the **My Profile** page.

What documents will I be asked to provide to apply for the ESA Foundation Scholarship?

Freshman: High School Transcript, ACT/SAT Test Scores, and Acceptance Letter

Sophomore: High School Transcript, ACT/SAT Test Scores, and College/University Transcript

Junior or Senior: College/University Transcript



How do I know if my application is complete?

It is the responsibility of the applicant to monitor the progress of all application requirements to make sure the application is complete. The status **Complete** will display on the home page when all forms have been submitted and all documents have been verified.

Allow five to seven business days after uploading documents for your online status to update. You may monitor your status of your application on your home page at <https://aim.applyISTS.net>.

- **Not Started:** the form has not been requested or started.
- **Started (in gray):** the form has not been submitted and will not be considered.
- **Started (in orange):** the form has been submitted, but is not Complete. It will not be considered.
- **Complete (in green):** all required forms and attachments (if applicable) have been received and your application will be considered for the scholarship.

If your status is not Complete, please click on your status box to view what your application is lacking.

You may also monitor the status of your individual attachments and recommendations (if applicable).

- **Not received:** the attachment has either not been received or has been rejected.
- **Requested:** the form request has been created, but the form has not been started.
- **Processing:** the attachment has been received and is being reviewed.
- **Accepted:** the attachment has been verified and accepted by ISTS.

I uploaded a document that no longer displays on my application. Do I need to submit it again?

Previously uploaded documents that are no longer displayed on the home page have been rejected and you will need to submit it again after correcting the reason it was rejected. The most common reasons for a rejected document are as follows:

- The document uploaded is not one of the accepted file types: **.pdf, .tif, .png, .gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .bmp and .xps.**
- The document uploaded was not the document requested.
- Not all pages of the document were contained in the file.
- We cannot open the file. The file may be corrupted or password protected.

Refer to the upload section of your application for the details of the required documents and upload a new file that meets the criteria stated.

How do I upload more than one file at a time?

You may create a .zip file containing more than one file as long as everything included is in an acceptable format (i.e. **.pdf, .tif, .png, .gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .bmp and .xps.**)

How do I create a .zip file?

To use this format, follow the steps outlined below:

1. Create a new folder on your Desktop, name it the document type you will be uploading. For example, Test Scores, Transcript, or Financial Documentation.
2. Move all the pages you wish to upload into the new folder.
3. Right click on the document from your Desktop:
 - a. PC Users: select "Send to," followed by "Compressed (zipped) folder."
 - b. Mac Users: select "Compress '[folder name]'."
4. Your new **.zip** file will be located on your Desktop, ready to upload.



What is the difference between Official and Unofficial Transcripts?

Official transcripts must be obtained through your high school administration office, or your college registrar office. These transcripts are normally printed on official letterhead and/or state that they are official. These may contain a signature.

*Note: Your official transcript may come to you in a sealed envelope, stating it will become unofficial if opened. When scanning or copying your official transcripts, a watermark may appear noting they are now unofficial. **Despite any watermarks or sealed envelopes, you may open the envelope if needed to upload the document. These documents will still be considered official for our purposes.** When scanning or copying, you do not need to include a copy of the sealed envelope.*

Unofficial transcripts may be accessed through your school's online student portal. These pages must still be converted to one of the acceptable file formats. There are free tools available that will allow you to save various documents (including web pages) as a PDF. Unofficial transcripts must contain your name and the school name and contact information.

For the purpose of the ESA Foundation Scholarship application you may provide Unofficial transcripts. Please note: the ESA Foundation may request official transcripts to verify information if selected as a recipient.

What are the DOs and DON'Ts of uploading documents to my application?

DO:

- Upload in the correct file format.
- Only upload the requested documents.
- Black out any Social Security numbers on the documents you are uploading. This is not required, but advised.
- Return to your Home page at <https://aim.applyISTS.net> to verify your documents have been accepted.

DON'T:

- Upload a **Microsoft Word™** document (.doc, .docx).
- Upload more than the requested documentation.
- Assume your documents are correct and accepted once you have uploaded them. Upload a document stating you are mailing your documents.
- Assume the required document does not pertain to you. If the application states the document is required, your application will remain incomplete if you do not provide that document.
- Password protect your uploaded documents. Password protected documents will be rejected.

Where and when should I send my supporting documents?

The required supporting documents must be uploaded to your online application by the application deadline. If you do not follow the upload instructions exactly, your application may not be considered. Documents that meet the criteria required for the scholarship application, and are uploaded by the deadline, will be processed and considered on time.

What if my supporting documents are received by the deadline and then rejected? Can I resubmit them after the deadline?

Yes; however, you will need to resubmit the documents within a week after the deadline. If the applications have already moved to the Selection Committee, your documents will not be accepted. To resubmit documents, you should email the documents to contactus@applyISTS.com.



How and when will I receive notification?

- Notifications are sent to recipients and applicants not selected to receive an award **via email** by the end of June. For recipients, an **Acceptance** link will be displayed on the home page following the notification.
- Add donotreply@applyISTS.com and contactus@applyISTS.com to your email address book or “safe senders list” to ensure these important emails are not sent to your junk mail folder.
- **Do not ‘opt out’ of any email sent from donotreply@applyISTS.com or contactus@applyISTS.com. You may not receive vital information regarding your scholarship applications.**

Note: Your email address will only be used to communicate with you about your scholarship applications or other opportunities administered by ISTS for which you may be eligible to apply. We will not provide your email address to any third parties with the exception of the Scholarship sponsor, ESA Foundation and the Entertainment Software Association.

What are my responsibilities if I am chosen as a recipient?

You must enroll as a full-time undergraduate student in the fall of the year in which the scholarships are awarded, continue the entire academic year without interruption unless approved by scholarship sponsor, deliver your scholarship check(s) to the proper office at your institution, and notify ISTS should your check not arrive within 30 days of the issue date.

Recipients will be required to provide requested materials to ESA Foundation including, but not limited to, a short video, a photograph, and be available for any press opportunities related to the scholarship promotion.

How and when are checks issued?

Checks will be issued in August to each recipient’s mailing address and made payable to the institution on the profile page.

Are scholarships taxable?

Tax laws vary by country. In the United States, scholarship funds used exclusively for the payment of tuition or textbooks are normally not taxable. The scholarship recipient is responsible for taxes, if any, that may be assessed against his or her scholarship award. We recommend consulting your tax advisor for more guidance. You may also [click here](#) to consult IRS Publication 970 for further information.

Program Administration

To ensure complete impartiality in selection of recipients and to maintain a high level of professionalism, the program is administered by International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc., a firm that specializes in managing sponsored scholarship programs.

Questions

For additional information regarding the scholarship program [click here](#) or call toll free (855) 670-ISTS (4787). Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Central.

