

Students of the World

Undergraduate Scholarships for International Students at Stanford

Stanford University

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GLOBALIZATION MEANS THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE EARTH IS increasingly interdependent. That being the case, it is not enough for students simply to read about people elsewhere. To prepare for citizenship and success, they should live and work alongside students from around the world. To make this possible, universities like Stanford should be accessible to the most capable students from every part of the globe.

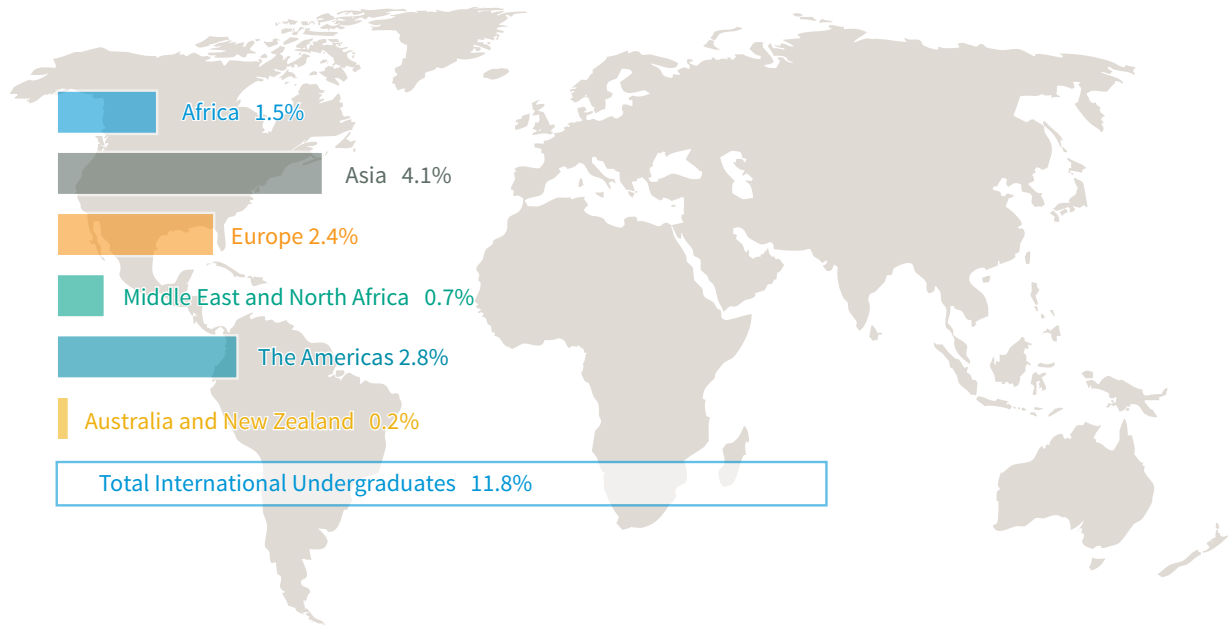
The presence of international students at Stanford is invaluable, both to their American classmates and to their home countries. For Stanford, this presents a challenge.

Each year, applicants for undergraduate admission to Stanford include more than 7,500 international students from more than 150 countries. Many highly qualified applicants would require financial aid to attend Stanford. Of these, the university can admit only a few. For although Stanford is among the very few American colleges and universities that practice need-blind admission for U.S. citizens, at present the university is not in a position to extend this practice to international students.

The university seeks to increase the amount of need-based scholarship support available to international students. The gifts that make this possible will change the lives of students who may go on to change the world.



Geographic Origin of Stanford Undergraduates from Outside the United States (2019)



The International Experience

THE PRESENCE OF INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATES AT STANFORD BENEFITS BOTH INTERNATIONAL and American students. Whether they are exploring academic or personal interests, in classrooms or dorm rooms, students at this age are learning to distinguish between the experiences that make people truly different and the values that transcend race, nationality, gender, and religion. As ideas from textbooks spring to life and friendships deepen, students' face-to-face interactions with peers from abroad enlarge their conception of the world. In the way they treat people and the decisions they make, students draw from these experiences for the rest of their lives.



Zhang meets with his benefactor, Dr. M. T. Geoffrey Yeh.

**Ran Zhang
(Chengdu, China)
Recipient of the Yeh Family
Undergraduate Scholarship Fund**

"I still remember Dr. Yeh's teaching when we met: The most important characteristic of a businessman is none other than integrity. It is my goal to thrive in the business world without losing the purity of my soul, and work my hardest to be a messenger of good."

For students from outside the United States, especially from countries without strong systems of higher education, the Stanford experience holds special value. Stanford offers much more than subject matter expertise. International students experience American culture, meet current and future leaders from many parts of the world, and become the type of creative thinkers for which Stanford is known. Many return to their home countries with the skills, ideas, and perspectives that equip them to lead. In this way, educating even one student can have a profound impact on many lives.

A Foundational Commitment

STANFORD IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW PRIVATE AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES THAT practice need-blind admission, based in the principle that students should be admitted solely on their talents, without regard for their ability to pay. This practice is currently limited to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, as Stanford lacks the funding required to sustain need-blind admission for international students. This disparity runs contrary to the foundational idea that Stanford should be a place where, in the words of Jane Stanford, “the deserving and exceptional may rise through their own efforts.” Funding additional need-based scholarships for international undergraduates will allow Stanford to extend this commitment to more international applicants and reach its full potential as an educator of global leaders.



“Meeting the international students who come to Stanford, and seeing them thrive, is tremendously rewarding,” says Susan McCaw, ’84, the former U.S. ambassador to Austria. Susan (center left, holding bag) and her husband Craig, ’72 (center right, in grey jacket), support a significant number of international students receiving financial aid. They are pictured with Richard Shaw (center), dean of admission and financial aid, and several students who benefit from their scholarship gifts.



**Sigberto Alarcon Viesca
(Mexico City, Mexico)
Recipient of the Dionisio Garza-
Medina Scholarship Fund**

“It is truly fantastic to be here, taking advantage of more opportunities than I can count. I have made friends that I know I’ll keep for the rest of my life, and none of it would be possible without your support.”

“When Stanford has to turn away an international student for financial reasons, we lose two opportunities: a chance for American students to connect with someone outside their experience and a chance to help another country’s best and brightest succeed.”

Richard H. Shaw, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid

The Cost of Scholarships

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE COST OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, IT helps to understand how financial aid works for students from the United States. Every U.S. student who is admitted to Stanford and demonstrates need is offered a tailored financial aid package. Need is calculated by subtracting the expected parent and student contributions—based on individual circumstances—from the total cost of attending Stanford for one year. Next, each package takes into account eligibility for federal and state grants. Then, Stanford makes up any remaining need through scholarships.

STANFORD INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BUDGET 2020–2021

Tuition.....	\$55,473
Student fees	1,995
Room and board	17,255
Books and supplies	1,290
Personal	2,205
Health insurance.....	5,592
Between-quarter living allowance.....	1,800
Total.....	85,610

TYPICAL FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE (INTERNATIONAL STUDENT)

Parent contribution	\$7,500
Private scholarship/grant	500
Term-time job	3,500
Federal/state grants.....	0
Stanford scholarship.....	74,110
Total.....	85,610

Close to half of all Stanford undergraduates receive need-based scholarships directly from the university. International students, however, are not eligible for U.S. federal or state programs, and most cannot qualify for private loans or be expected to repay loans when they return to their home countries. International students also have higher expenses than domestic students to account for their travel expenses, the cost of health insurance, and living expenses during breaks when they cannot return to their home countries. Therefore, those who receive scholarships from Stanford typically require significantly larger awards—about 35 percent more than domestic scholarship recipients.

This is why Stanford requires international applicants to state “up front” whether they will need financial aid and why the university must limit the number of these students accepted. In recent years, less than 35% of international undergraduate applicants are admitted with eligibility for Stanford aid. Knowing this, many international students who need scholarships do not apply to Stanford at all. Of those who do, Stanford must currently reject many outstanding candidates who clearly would be admitted if finances were not a consideration.



How Stanford Compares

MANY OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO WHOM STANFORD IS ABLE TO OFFER AID ARE AMONG the most sought-after students in the world. They often decide to enroll at other universities that offer more generous aid.

MIT, Princeton, Yale, and Harvard, for example, are able to practice need-blind admission for all international students. The University of Pennsylvania is need-blind for students from Canada and Mexico. International students at these universities receive superb educations. But Stanford believes no student should have to decline our offer of admission for purely financial reasons.

For Stanford to enroll those international students who have the most to offer and the most to gain, financial aid is the key. And for these students, the key to providing financial aid is privately funded scholarships.



**Mahilini Kailaiyangirichelvam
(Jaffna, Sri Lanka)**
Recipient of the Westly Scholarship Fund

“I grew up in a war-torn area with a high rate of human rights violations. My dream is to use my knowledge and abilities to reduce poverty. I find myself fortunate to be an undergraduate at Stanford and feel very privileged to receive the Westly Scholarship Fund.”



Students enjoy brunch outside Hammarskjöld, a co-op residence for international students.



**Gustavo Empinotti
(Florianopolis, Brazil)**
Recipient of the Alejandro and Lida Zaffaroni Undergraduate Scholarship Fund

“I came to college thinking of an engineering degree, but the flexibility of Stanford led me to a class in artificial intelligence that is as much math as it is computer science. If I had not come to Stanford, I would never have allowed myself to explore the variety of academic fields that eventually made me comfortable with pursuing what I really love.”



Funding Scholarships

In this day and age, Stanford cannot fulfill its mission of educating leaders unless its students gain an international perspective. And the university cannot seek solutions to complex global problems unless it can change the lives of individual students from all over the world.

IN RECENT YEARS, STANFORD HAS DRAMATICALLY ENHANCED ITS FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM, primarily to stay affordable for U.S. families.

Today, U.S. parents with incomes under \$150,000 and assets typical for their income level pay no tuition. Those with incomes less than \$65,000 are not expected to pay tuition or contribute to the cost of room, board, and other educational expenses. And no Stanford undergraduate is required to take out student loans (though all students receiving financial aid are still expected to contribute from jobs and savings to help finance their education).

Most of these improvements do not support international students. If the university is to sustain its financial aid commitment and extend it to all admitted students—regardless of national origin—new endowed scholarship funds must be raised.



Selamile Dlamini (Ezulwini, Swaziland)
Recipient of the Craig and Susan McCaw
Scholarship Fund for International Students

“I savor Stanford every day, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity to be a student at this incredible institution. I appreciate Stanford for so much more than what I get out of the classroom. Coming to Stanford has not only expanded my horizons and presented me with enormous opportunities, but it has also enlarged my perspective, experiences, and my capacity for understanding and learning. I hope that one day I can give to others what has been given to me.”

Endowed Undergraduate Scholarship Funds

STANFORD SUPPORTERS HAVE ESTABLISHED MORE THAN 1,500 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS at the university. At present, only about 85 of these are designed to support international students. Stanford carefully stewards each scholarship fund, providing donors with annual reports on financial performance and the students receiving their assistance. Students are encouraged to write to their benefactors, and donors and students are invited to meet whenever a visit can be arranged on campus.

Since scholarship awards vary in amount, based on each student's need, the number of recipients from each fund may vary from year to year. The following estimates assume the higher level of support required by international as opposed to U.S. students.

Endowed Funds	Approximate Number of International Students Supported Annually
\$5 million	5-6
\$1 million	1-2
\$250,000*	1 (partial support)

**Scholarship endowments may be established with a gift of \$100,000. Fully stewarded funds require an endowment of \$250,000 or more. Because scholarship amounts vary in amount based on each student's need, the number of recipients supported by each fund may vary from year to year.*



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