

P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund (IPS)

Student Selection Process



The P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund (IPS) provides financial assistance to women from outside the U.S. and Canada who are seeking advanced degrees from an accredited college or university in the U.S. or Canada. It is expected students will return to their home countries to use their education to make a positive impact and foster global peace.

The importance of the love and concern IPS students receive through their P.E.O. connections cannot be overestimated. When the recipient returns home and shares her experience she can promote world understanding, which ultimately is the basis for fostering global peace.

The IPS board of trustees evaluates students on a nondiscriminatory basis without consideration of age, race, national origin, religious affiliation or disability.

An IPS scholarship is a grant-in-aid with a maximum of \$12,500 per 12-month study period based on need. This is a small portion of the student's total expenses while she is in the U.S. or Canada and, therefore, IPS is not totally responsible for any of its recipients while studying in the U.S. or Canada. While this grant-in-aid is only a small portion of any student's total expense, the P.E.O. support or connections often become the most important part of a student's assistance.

The Selection Process:

1. Confirmation of Eligibility

- A. Eligibility must be confirmed before application is sent to applicants. The eligibility information is available at www.peointernational.org. Completed eligibility forms are accepted between September 15 and December 15.
- B. Once eligibility is established, application forms are sent to the applicant who must complete the application materials by the deadline.

2. Application

- A. Budget – Each student must submit a complete and realistic estimate of her anticipated expenses and income for the period of study covered by her request.

Note: When P.E.O. members counsel a prospective recipient, they should stress the necessity of showing proof of all other sources of income available to the applicant to meet her budget. It is not fair to the operation of the fund, to the P.E.O.s involved or to the applicant to offer a scholarship which would leave a student far short of the total amount required.

- B. Recommendations – Two recommendations are required for all applicants, preferably from professors, scholastic advisers, employers and others who know her goals or scholastic background well.

At least one recommendation **must** be from a professor, academic adviser or supervisor of

employment or volunteer organization. For students already enrolled, at least one recommendation must be from a professor of the school they are attending. Recommendations from fellow students and relatives are not accepted, and recommendations from P.E.O. members who are not professors, scholastic advisers or employers are not accepted. P.E.O. members or chapters who wish to send personal recommendations should send these to the IPS office supervisor, who will include these recommendations with the completed application. Each recommendation includes confidential opinions on:

1. Scholastic ability
2. Leadership qualities
3. Probability of success in her chosen profession
4. Proficiency in written and spoken English (vital to cultural and academic adjustment)
5. In what capacity the recommender has known the applicant

Note: The IPS trustees value recommendations from P.E.O. members and chapters. Given the limited funds available, it is not always possible to offer a scholarship to every woman who has P.E.O. support. Only the most qualified applicants are awarded scholarships based on the evaluations of every application by IPS trustees.

C. Other required documents

1. Signed statement of the applicant's promise to return to her home country or to a location outside the U.S. or Canada. Return is dependent on her visa status upon completion of her degree program(s) or Optional Practical Training (OPT). This does not apply to Cottey College students.
2. Travel form guaranteeing applicant's funds for return to her homeland. This does not apply to Cottey College students.
3. Transcript of most current academic record in the U.S. or Canada (if applicable)

3. Application Files

- A. Trustees evaluate the completed application of each applicant independently of the other trustees.
- B. Evaluations are compared and final decisions are made at the spring board meeting, when the board of trustees meets to review individual evaluations and collectively award the scholarships.

Before awards are finalized, each recipient must sign an acceptance form, which specifies the obligations she assumes when accepting a scholarship from IPS. Only after the student signs the acceptance form does she become an IPS recipient.