

The H & R Block Foundation Scholarship Program

- Applications available February 1
- Applications postmarked April 1

Program Description

The H & R Block Foundation Scholarship Program was established in 1975 to make grants to assist academically capable children of qualified employees of H&R Block, Inc. and its direct and indirect subsidiaries in furthering their education at accredited post-secondary, degree-granting educational institutions.

Evaluation includes academic capability, participation in school and community activities, work experience, a statement of educational and career goals, unusual personal or family circumstances, an appraisal by someone not related to the student, and who has a parent or guardian who meets employment requirements described on the next page. Once the recipients are selected, the family's financial information is assessed to determine the amount of each award.

Under U.S. Internal Revenue Service regulations covering sponsored scholarship programs such as The H & R Block Foundation Scholarship Program, recipients must be selected impartially. To satisfy this requirement, The H & R Block Foundation has retained Scholarship America to oversee and manage the program. Scholarship America is a national nonprofit educational support and student aid service organization that offers complete administrative services for corporations, foundations, and others who wish to support higher education through grants to students.

Awards

Scholarships will be awarded in variable amounts from \$1,000 to \$2,000. In order to assure fuller racial minority participation in the program, a minimum number of grants are designated for awards to minority students. The number of grants awarded to eligible minority applicants will be in direct proportion to the total number of eligible applications received. Under the program, a "racial minority" is defined as an individual who has at least one natural parent who is not Caucasian.

A restricted scholarship has been established for each of five institutions located in the Kansas City metropolitan area: Avila University, Kansas City Art Institute, Rockhurst University, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and William Jewell College. A restricted award, in memory of Roman Halajko, former Assistant Vice President and Regional Director of H&R Block Canada, Inc., has been established. This scholarship will be awarded to the most deserving Canadian applicant each year. If any of the above mentioned restricted grants are not awarded by Scholarship America, the scholarship will become unrestricted and awarded accordingly.

Final selection of scholarship recipients will be made by Scholarship America. Selection is not made by any company or foundation employee, officer, or director.

Eligibility Requirements

Academic Requirements for Applicant:

1. A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on a scale in which 4.0 is equivalent to a grade of A;
2. Graduate of a secondary school or a candidate for graduation at the time of application for a scholarship; and,
3. Must have met or have the apparent ability to meet the requirements for admission to a post-secondary, degree-granting educational institution, or already be enrolled in such an institution.

Employment Requirements for Parent or Guardian of Scholarship Applicant:

To be eligible, an individual must also be the child of a qualified employee of (a) H&R Block Services and its direct or indirect subsidiaries, HRB Management, Inc., H&R Block Bank, H&R Block Digital Tax Solutions, LLC, H&R Block Financial Advisors, Inc., H&R Block Mortgage Corporation, or Block Financial Corporation; (b) the child of a qualified franchisee of any direct or indirect subsidiary of H&R Block, Inc., (c) the child of a qualified employee of such qualified franchisee, or (d) the child of a qualified employee of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP (an accounting firm in which H&R Block, Inc. has no direct or indirect ownership interest, but with which an indirect subsidiary of H&R Block, Inc. has a contractual relationship.) A "qualified franchisee" is a franchisee of any direct or indirect subsidiary of H&R Block, Inc., who is in good standing on the date that applications for grants are due and on the date grants are awarded. "Child" shall include natural children, adopted children, stepchildren, and legal wards.

The term "qualified employee" includes:

1. Full-time employees who are employed and in good standing both on the date that applications for grants are due and the date grants are awarded;
2. Employees employed in the preparation of tax returns who are employed only during the tax season and who, if not actively employed when applications for grants are due and grants are awarded, were employees in good standing at the close of the last tax season prior to such dates and are eligible for reemployment; and,
3. Part-time employees who do not qualify under (1) or (2) and who, if not actively employed at the time applications for grants are due and awarded, were employed for at least 100 days during the 12 months preceding such dates and who are in good standing and eligible for rehire.

Conditions
of
Scholarship
Grants

Grantee must be a full-time student, defined as full-time enrollment for the entire upcoming academic year,^{*} pursuing a course of study as a candidate for a degree at an accredited post-secondary, degree-granting educational institution.

Grants shall be utilized only to defray expenses which are actually and necessarily incurred by the grantee during the period for which the scholarship is granted in attending the educational institution at which he or she is enrolled and which would qualify the amount of the grant to be excluded from the gross income of the grantee.

The educational institution which disburses the funds must agree to pay the funds to the grantee only if the grantee is enrolled at such institution and his or her standing at such educational institution is consistent with the purposes and conditions of the grant.

For the purpose of enabling Scholarship America to determine that the recipients of grants have performed the activities the grants are intended to finance, each grantee shall, if requested by Scholarship America, submit a report of the courses the grantee has taken and the grades received. This report shall be verified by the educational institution at which the grantee is enrolled.

No grant made under this program shall renew automatically. An individual who previously received a grant under this program may reapply to the scholarship program each year provided eligibility requirements continue to be met.

The grantee's standing at the educational institution at which he or she is enrolled must be consistent with the purposes and conditions of the grant originally made. All reports required as a condition of the original grant must have been received, and Scholarship America must not have received information indicating that the original grant was used for any purpose other than that for which it was made.

Procedure
for
Applying

Each applicant is responsible for gathering and submitting all information necessary for Scholarship America to select scholarship recipients. The procedure is:

1. Link to the online application through the Foundation's website www.hrblockfoundation.org.
2. Complete the online application and submit the following documents: High school seniors must include your official high school transcript with your completed application. Students currently or previously enrolled in college or vocational technical schools must include all college or vo-tech transcripts from each previously attended post-secondary school with your completed application. On-line transcripts and grade reports are not acceptable.
3. Scholarship America will send an e-mail acknowledgment upon receipt of your completed application to the applicant's e-mail address or, if unavailable, a postcard will be sent by mail to the applicant's home address. If you do not receive such an acknowledgment within several weeks, call Scholarship America at 1-800-537-4180.
5. Scholarship awards, as determined by Scholarship America, will be announced in mid-June. All applicants will be notified whether or not they have been selected to receive an award.

Questions regarding the scholarship program should be addressed to:

The H & R Block Foundation Scholarship Program
Scholarship Management Services, Scholarship America
One Scholarship Way
P. O. Box 297
Saint Peter, MN 56082
Toll-free telephone: 1-800-537-4180 ext 418