



## 2025 Scholarship Application

Dear Student, Professor, and Interested Parties:

The American Wine Society Educational Foundation (AWSEF) annually awards academic scholarships to support students pursuing an academic program in enology, viticulture, or health aspects of wine. In 2024, seven scholarships of \$3,500 each and one scholarship of \$5,000 were awarded to Masters and PhD students in universities across North America.

The AWSEF emphasizes that it seeks to support those outstanding individuals who have a genuine interest in pursuing a career in a wine-related field in North America. Award recipients are announced in June of each year, and scholarship monies are usually for the following fall academic term.

Applications are evaluated on the strength of the application, accompanying recommendations, and academic transcripts.

This document contains instructions for applying for an American Wine Society Educational Foundation (AWSEF) Scholarship. The application is online at our website, [www.awsef.org/apply](http://www.awsef.org/apply)

If you are a **student**, please carefully read the eligibility requirements before completing the online forms.

If you are a **professor**, please inform as many students as you can and post the information on suitable social media accounts, bulletin board, etc.

If you are another **interested party**, please help us locate eligible students and direct them to our website to find information on how to apply.

More information about the AWSEF can be found at <http://www.awsef.org>.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the process or the Foundation. You may reach me via email at [awsef-scholarship@innovinum.com](mailto:awsef-scholarship@innovinum.com) or [on Telegram here](#).

Best of luck to all!

*Isabelle Lesschaeve, PhD*

Vice President, Scholarships



## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

### **I. Eligibility** (All requirements must be met.)

- a. Full-time graduate students who have completed at least one semester in a graduate program leading to a M.S., Ph.D., or equivalent in enology, viticulture, or health aspects of wine as stated above, and who express their intent to work in one of these areas upon completion of their graduate degree. Ph.D. students with a M.S. from another graduate program are eligible.
- b. Applicant must be a North American *citizen* or *permanent resident* (USA, Canada, or Mexico), who is already enrolled for their degree in a North American institution of higher learning and completed at least one semester of coursework.
- c. Previous AWSEF scholarship recipients may apply again in open competition with new applicants, but students are limited to receiving three (3) scholarships during their academic career. Students may apply every year they are eligible.
- d. The application, transcript(s), and required letters of recommendation must be completed and submitted online by March 31, 11:59 PM EST.

### **II. Application Process**

- a. The application period opens annually on January 1st. To be considered for a scholarship for the upcoming academic year, all completed forms, current academic transcripts, letters of recommendation, and other pertinent materials must be submitted by March 31st, 11:59 PM EST.
- b. Applications will be considered complete upon receipt of the following:
  1. The completed scholarship application,
  2. A total of **three** letters of recommendation using the online form. One of which must be from your academic advisor and
  3. Current official transcripts of all graduate academic work. First-year graduate students are also required to submit undergraduate transcripts.



### III. Instructions for Submitting an Application

As noted above, the application has three parts: a student application form which includes a two-part essay, graduate academic transcripts (no undergraduate transcripts required *unless you are a first-year graduate student*), and three letters of recommendation (one of which must be from the student's advisor).

**STUDENT Account:** At the AWSEF website ([www.awsef.org](http://www.awsef.org)), go to the *Application* tab, and click "Register" to create an account – if a student applied in the past, their account information has not changed, and they may simply log in.

Please check the *Profile* for accuracy and update it as necessary; the Scholarship Committee uses this information to contact the student. Once the *Profile* is complete, the full account will be visible, and a checklist will assist with ensuring the application is complete.

- a. As part of the application, the student will provide a 750-word or less **essay** to fully and precisely describe:

Part A - A Summary of their Research Project.

What does the student believe is the importance of their research to the North American wine industry and/or what important result does the student hope to accomplish?

Part B - Statement of Professional Intent

What are the student's professional goals after graduation?

The statement should be no longer than 750 words. Please clearly separate Part A and Part B in your essay formatting.

If you use acronyms or other technical terms, please spell out the word or phrase for the first use.

*Also, note that the website will be timed out after 60 minutes.* It is best to prepare the statement in another format and then copy and paste it into the application.

- b. Each student must arrange with their Registrar's Office (or other office that handles transcripts) to have the appropriate official academic **transcripts** sent directly to the student to upload to their account. If the student has less than one term completed of graduate studies, they should also include an undergraduate transcript(s).
- c. Three **letters of recommendation** must be included to complete the application. One letter must be from the student's advisor as identified in the *Profile*. The other recommenders do not necessarily need to be professors. Professionals with whom



the student works in the wine industry or at a university who are aware of the student's work and research may provide a recommendation. Notification emails will be provided to recommenders that their material has been received.

Each recommender will create an account using the student's name and email address to submit their letter. The last page of this information may be copied and completed with the student's name and email, as entered in their *Profile*, to give to recommenders.

- d. Notification emails will be sent to each student once their application has been initiated and when it is complete.

#### IV. Screening Procedure

1. **Assignment:** The American Wine Society Educational Foundation's (AWSEF) *Vice President for Scholarships* is the leader of the selection committee to advertise the scholarships, and it is her job to communicate with the students who applied and to ask/answer questions as needed. Further, the AWSEF President or Vice President, Scholarships will communicate the committee's decision to the applicants, as well as announce the winners to those people and organizations involved.
2. **Initial Screening Procedure:** The initial screening procedure involves a checklist of objective criteria only and does not require subjective evaluations of relative merit or value that necessarily come into play in the final evaluation. The screener will approve and recommend to the full AWSEF Board all student applications that include the following:
  - a. Timely receipt of completed application;
  - b. Complete statements of research project (Part A) and professional intent (Part B);
  - c. Required advisor and other recommendations, a minimum of three total;
  - d. Graduate academic transcripts, as appropriate;
  - e. Proper citizenship/residency qualification;
  - f. Appropriate field of academic study; and
  - g. Enrollment in an appropriate program at a qualified institution.



## V. Areas of Evaluation

Below is a description of each area of evaluation. Please be advised that items A, B, and C below constitute the most important parts of the application.

- A. **Research Project's Importance to the North American Wine Industry:** What does the student believe is the importance of their research to the North American wine industry, and/or what important result do they hope to accomplish? 35% of score
- B. **Statement of Professional Intent:** The student's statement of professional intent should fully and precisely describe their current goals and future professional goals post university. 20% of score
- C. **Advisor and Other Recommendations:** The recommendations address the qualifications of the student in question, with specific reference to the student's strengths and weaknesses (areas for improvement), progress in studies and research, and promise for the student's future contribution to the North American wine industry or wine education. Advisor 10%; Other Recommendations 5% each, 10% Maximum
- D. **Shows Promise of Working in the Wine Industry or Education:** The student's and/or the advisor's statements indicate a clear potential for the student to be employed after graduation in the North American wine industry or wine education. What are the student's career goals? 10% of score
- E. **Academic Record:** The academic record is considered an indicator of useful intellectual qualities and strengths that would enhance a productive career. In evaluating the graduate studies record, areas of study that are appropriate for the student's degree will be considered along with the numerical GPA. 5% of score
- F. **Overall Evaluation:** 10% of score

The AWS Educational Foundation does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or gender.

The decision of the Scholarship Committee is final.



**Thank you for offering to submit a letter of recommendation for** a student who is applying for an American Wine Society Educational Scholarship.

To submit a letter of recommendation...

Go to the AWSEF website ([www.awsef.org](http://www.awsef.org)) to create an account by clicking on the *Application* tab on the home page, then click *Sign-in* and follow the instructions. If you have created an account previously, you may use the same login information.

You may contact me at [awsef-scholarship@innovinum.com](mailto:awsef-scholarship@innovinum.com) or Kristen Lindelow, AWSEF President ([kg15901@gmail.com](mailto:kg15901@gmail.com)), if you are having difficulty with login.

Once the account is created, you will find an online recommendation form with submission instructions that are to be used for the student you've been asked to support.

**The online form will time out after 60 minutes**, and unsaved work will be lost. Most recommenders prepare their letter in another format and then copy and paste into the form.

Please check to make sure the letter is addressed to the AWS Educational Foundation and not to another organization. The deadline for submitting a recommendation letter is **March 31, 2025, 11:59 PM EST**.

Thank you again for supporting a student interested in our scholarship program. If you have any questions or need assistance, you may contact me either via email at [awsef-scholarship@innovinum.com](mailto:awsef-scholarship@innovinum.com) or [on Telegram here](#).

Best of luck to all!

*Isabelle Lesschaeve, PhD*

Vice President, Scholarships