



Vienna
Private University

Borealis Social Scholarship Application Frequently Asked Questions 2020

Please read through this list of FAQ thoroughly. If you do not see your question on this list, please contact the Scholarship Coordinator Nora Györfi with your questions. She may be reached at scholarship@webster.ac.at

How does an applicant apply for the Borealis Social scholarship?

Please use our **online application form** (link online application form) to apply for the Borealis Social Scholarship. Please note, that you should be **accepted** to Webster Vienna Private University at the time when you submit your applications. Submit all documentation before the **final deadline of May 31, 2020 1:00 PM CET**.

Filling out the form will take approximately **10 minutes** if you have all necessary documents ready. You will be asked to upload several documents:

1. Résumé/CV
2. 1 additional recommendation letter aside from the one submitted to Admissions
3. Income statements of all persons responsible for financing the students education
4. 1000-1200 word essay on one of the two topics below:
 - Many students at Webster Vienna Private University have a cultural heritage, skill, or talent that defines them and enriches the lives of their peers. If you hold such an interest or have a unique background, please share more in a 1000-1200 word essay;

or

- Many believe that we learn from our mistakes. In a 1000-1200 word essay, describe a situation

or experience where you learned from failure. Explain the situation, what actions you took, and how you learned from this experience.

5. 400 word motivational letter focusing on:

- why you chose Webster Vienna Private University and the particular major(s)
- what makes you an excellent student and therefore eligible for the BOREALIS SOCIAL SCHOLARSHIP
- Your career aspirations, leadership skills or other distinctions
- explaining your financial need

Please upload the income statement in a **combined** (only one) **pdf** file. You will be asked to submit the yearly income statement from 2019 of all persons responsible for financing your education (please combine these files) **and** a statement of one month from 2020 of all persons responsible for financing your education (please combine these files).

Note that the accepted file format is **PDF**.

We will use the below documents submitted to our Admissions team to evaluate your application:

1. Academic Transcripts
2. English proficiency test scores
3. Recommendation Letter
4. Essay

What are the eligibility criteria for the Borealis Social scholarship?

Eligible students should have achieved a cumulative academic GPA (Grade Point Average) between 3.5 and 4.0 on a scale of 4.0.

The student must be accepted into the undergraduate program in accordance with the standard admissions requirements of Webster Vienna Private University. The Scholarship student must be enrolled full-time and may begin their first year of study either in the Fall I semester.

Proven English proficiency of the scholarship student is crucial: Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), IELTS, or Cambridge Advanced Certificate (CAE) scores are required prior to admission. Students accepted on probation or those who need to take ESLG (English as a second language) classes are not eligible.

What are the English requirements for scholarship applicants?

Scholarship applicants must either be native English speakers or have exceptional written and spoken English as evidenced by their performance on one of Webster Vienna's accepted English

proficiency exams (TOEFL, IELTS, and Cambridge Advanced Exam). To learn more about admissions English requirements, please visit webster.ac.at/undergraduate-admissions/testing.

What is the difference between “undergraduate,” “graduate,” and “transfer” applicants?

Undergraduate programs at Webster Vienna lead to a bachelor degree. Graduate programs follow a bachelor’s degree and at Webster Vienna lead to a master’s degree. All of our degree programs are accredited in Austria and in the U.S.

Transfer students include any applicant who has finished high school and who has completed any amount of university-level coursework. Even if you have only completed one semester at another university, you are considered a transfer applicant and you must submit your complete transcripts from any university attended. Some scholarships, for example the City of Vienna Division of Cultural Affairs Award, are not open to transfer applicants.

What is a Grade Point Average (GPA)?

A GPA is a calculated average of the grades you earn in school following the American 0 to 4.0 scale. Webster uses this calculation to measure your overall performance in school. In the United States, grades are usually assigned in letters and are based on a 4.0 GPA scale:

A 4.0 (excellent)

B 3.0 (good)

C 2.0 (satisfactory)

D 1.0 (needs improvement)

F 0.0 (fail)

At U.S. universities, students receive a GPA each semester based on the grades earned in all classes that semester. In addition to a semester GPA, students also maintain a cumulative GPA, which is an ongoing average of all semester grades from the beginning of a student’s studies.

Webster Vienna has over 70 different nationalities, and we are familiar with many different grading systems. We will determine your GPA using the American 4-point scale during the admissions process

Do Borealis Social scholarship require the student to maintain a certain grade point average (GPA)?

Yes. The scholarship is renewable each year and will be reviewed at the end of each semester to determine whether the scholarship recipient has fulfilled the scholarship conditions and achieved the required grade point average (GPA).

If the scholarship recipient’s cumulative GPA falls below a 3.5, but their session GPA (i.e. term grades = session GPA) is between a 3.33 – 3.5 the student will receive a one-time warning and go on probation. While

on probation the student must complete at least 12 hours of coursework per semester, may not withdraw from any class, and must achieve a session GPA of at least 3.5.

If the student's session GPA is 3.5 or higher again after the probation semester, he or she will be removed from probation. If, however, in any further semester after the probationary semester the student's session GPA falls below 3.5, he/she must leave the scholarship program. Additionally, if a student's cumulative GPA drops below a 3.33, they will lose funding.

Why do you ask for a 1000 – 1200 word essay?

Firstly, we ask for an essay on one of the two given prompts/topics so that we might learn more about the applicant as a person. A second goal is to learn how well the applicant writes, and how well they are able to communicate their ideas. We would ask that applicants consider following the format of a "five-paragraph essay," which has five paragraphs of 200-250 words each (for a total of 1000-1200 words), and includes an introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs with support and development, and a concluding paragraph.

What can an applicant do to improve their chances for receiving a scholarship?

It would be helpful for an applicant to establish a high level of motivation and will to succeed (based on academic records, the essay and motivational letter, recommendation letters) as well as demonstrate financial need based on the financial documents submitted. Students who also demonstrate a commitment to positively contribute to society through their own past activities and their career plans will of course be strongly considered.

If a student loses his or her scholarship because of poor academic performance, can he or she get it back at a later point in their studies?

Once a scholarship is lost, the scholarship is awarded to another student. The scholarship cannot be recovered by the student.

If a student does not receive the Borealis Social Scholarship as a first year (undergraduate) student, may he or she apply at a later stage of their studies?

No, the Borealis Social Scholarship is available for an incoming undergraduate (Freshman) student only. However, Webster Vienna offers other scholarship possibilities for current students please check our website for more information: <http://webster.ac.at/scholarships>.

May scholarship recipients study abroad?

Yes, we even encourage this, as Webster Vienna is part of an international Webster campus network with campuses in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Africa. The student may study abroad at another Webster

University location for a maximum of two terms (1 semester), but the student must first meet with the academic advisor to ensure that he/she meets the minimum credit requirements and completes the last 36 credits at the Webster Vienna campus to be eligible to receive the Austrian-accredited WVPU diploma.

The final scholarship deadline is May 31. I'm taking the TOEFL on June 1. Will you accept my late results?

No, as the final deadline is May 31. It takes approximately two weeks to receive official English proficiency results from the TOEFL or IELTS. Please ensure you submit your results by the final deadline in order to be considered.