

IALD Education Trust Student Scholarship Program

2026 Application Guidelines

Eligibility

- Applicants of all nationalities are encouraged to apply.
- You must be a Student member of the International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) or have membership pending at the time of application. (Please visit iald.org/join for membership information.)
- Juniors (third-year students), Seniors (fourth-year students), and graduate students are eligible.
- You *must not* be graduating in the semester in which you apply.

Available Scholarships

- **Lighting Design Alliance Scholarship**
 - One (1) award annually
 - Made possible by Lighting Design Alliance
 - Open to non-U.S. citizens who are enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate-level program in lighting design or a related field in any country
 - Annual award amount is \$2,500 USD
- **Thomas M. Lemons Scholarship**
 - One (1) or two (2) awards annually
 - Made possible by Available Light Inc.
 - Renewable for a two-year maximum with proof of student status
 - Requires applicants to be a Junior, Senior, or Graduate-level lighting design student at an accredited school in the United States, regardless of nationality
 - Annual award amount is \$4,500 USD (per scholarship awarded)

Submission Requirements

- All applications must be in English.
- Applications are only accepted during a specified period. Please check the IALD website for the most current information.

Required Documents

- Resume/ CV: one (1) page maximum
- Recommendation from a professor or professional: one (1) page maximum
- Personal Statement: 150- 300 words
- A portfolio of your one (1) best lighting project:

- Must demonstrate process, concept, project goals, and considerations for technical criteria
- A maximum of 3 pages
- Expected to include images, brief text, architectural drawings, and sketches

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply during the year?

Applications are only accepted during the specified application period.

How many applicants are there?

The numbers vary, but there are generally around 150 applicants for 2 scholarships.

What name should I use?

We understand that there are cultural differences in naming and ask that you remember which name was submitted and use only that name. If you change your name, we may not be able to find you in our files.

What email address should I use?

The email address you check the most often. If we do not receive a response from you within thirty (30) days, the scholarship will be awarded to an alternate.

I am graduating before the application period. Am I still eligible?

No. You must be a full-time student to apply.

I am in a one-year graduate program. Am I eligible?

Yes. If you will be a full-time student when your application is submitted and remain a full-time student throughout the following semester.

Are there any fees?

Yes, the Student IALD membership is \$40 USD, but there is no fee to apply for a scholarship.

Can my professor submit my recommendation privately?

No. Please obtain a one-page recommendation from your professor or lighting professional and upload it in the recommendation section of the application.

I am a Freshman (first-year) or a Sophomore (second-year) university student. Am I eligible?

No. Please wait until you are a Junior or Senior (third- or fourth-year university student) to apply.

When will I know if I was awarded a scholarship?

Awardees will be notified approximately one month after the application period closes.

Can I receive a scholarship twice?

No. Recipients of the Thomas M. Lemons Scholarship can contact trust@iald.org for information on potentially receiving a second year of funding.

How are the submissions evaluated?

The volunteer evaluation committee is made up of lighting educators and practicing professionals. They rank each requirement (resume/CV, recommendation, portfolio, and personal statement) for each applicant. The top-ranked are reviewed during a conference call, and the recipients are chosen. Please make the portfolio portion of your application as strong as possible.

What are the submissions evaluated on?

The applications are evaluated on enthusiasm, strength, effort, and creativity. Not following the directions will result in your application being rejected.

I still have questions not covered here. Can I talk to someone?

Yes. Please email the IALD Education Trust Director (may@iald.org).