

PAUL & DAISY SOROS SCHOLARSHIP FOR NEW AMERICANS

APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

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All Big 10 candidates work with Scholarship Opportunities Program (SOP) staff, who run the campus advising, application evaluation and endorsement processes. Read this document while you complete the [Pre-Application](#) and refer to it throughout the application process.

UNIVERSAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

BE A UCI UNDERGRADUATE

The SOP is funded to advise current UCI undergraduates only. Students at other universities must work with representatives on their campuses.

UCI ALUMNI EXCEPTIONS

In some cases, SOP staff may coach highly motivated recent UCI alumni IF they meet all eligibility requirements and intend to enroll in a graduate program.

SUBMIT A PRE-APPLICATION BY 4/3/17 (NOON)

You must complete and submit a [2017 Pre-Application](#) to begin the [application process](#).

BE A "NEW AMERICAN"

A new American can be an immigrant themselves or the child of immigrants, including: U.S. Citizens (if both parents were born abroad), Naturalized Citizens or adopted persons born abroad and awarded citizenship as a result of adoption, Green/Permanent Resident Card holders, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients. In any case, both of your parents must have been born abroad as non-U.S. citizens.

BE A JUNIOR OR SENIOR

Submit a [2017 Pre-Application](#) in the spring before your final year on campus. **The full application process lasts six months**, so by the time you complete it you will be in your final year of study at UCI.

You may also submit a Pre-Application in the spring of your final year.

BE GOAL-FOCUSED

The Soros funds graduate study in almost any graduate or professional degree program in the United States.

BE AVAILABLE IN SUMMER 2017

Candidates must participate in draft writing, SOP advising, and correspondence with recommenders.

BE WILLING TO WORK HARD

You will submit a series of application drafts to SOP staff and receive advising and editing suggestions. You will also share drafts of application essays with the faculty who will write your [letters of recommendation](#).

Be ready to devote a minimum of 10 hours/week to the process; the commitment is equivalent to a 4-unit summer class.

BE DEADLINE-ORIENTED

You are responsible for ensuring SOP staff receive all application components by SOP deadlines.

COMMUNICATE WITH SOP STAFF

Candidates must maintain regular communication with SOP staff and with recommendation letter writers.

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[Email ALL staff](#) to submit drafts or ask questions.

APPLYING FOR MULTIPLE AWARDS

Candidates may apply for multiple scholarships simultaneously. However, consider the work required to apply for each, the variances in application components, letters of recommendation and interview scheduling and the time constraints you'll face this summer.

IS THE SOROS FELLOWSHIP RIGHT FOR YOU?

SELECTING A PROGRAM AND INSTITUTION

Ask your faculty which institutions/programs are considered competitive.

FACTORS TO WEIGH

Consider field of study, strength of particular programs and institutions, long-term academic focus, and eligibility requirements relating to GPA and degree requirements.

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Funds up to two years of graduate study leading to a graduate or professional degree in any field. Almost all graduate programs and professional degrees are eligible, except for online degrees, executive MBAs, and five-year undergraduate/master's combined programs.

Soros provides up to \$25,000 in stipend and up to \$20,000 per year for tuition and fees. The total value of the award can be as much as \$90,000. 30 recipients annually, including current graduate students.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The merit review criteria include creativity, originality and initiative; a commitment to and capacity for accomplishment; support for Constitutional values; the promise of continued significant contributions as a leading and influential figure in your field; and the selection of a graduate program of relevance to your long-term career goals.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- Electronic Application
- Resume
- Essay 1, on how your experiences as a New American have shaped or motivated your accomplishments
- Essay 2, on your current and near-term academic and career activities and goals, including the role of your undergraduate studies and intended graduate program in achieving these goals
- 3 to 5 [Letters of recommendation](#) from writers who can provide detailed and specific information about your accomplishments and strengths; illuminate how you demonstrate Soros' selection criteria; and confirm your potential for success in graduate school.
 - If letters are in a less common foreign language, you may provide a translation, but Soros can translate most common languages.
- Transcripts from all colleges attended
- Standardized test scores (if required by your graduate program)
- Up to five optional exhibits to allow you to address qualifications or personal traits not revealed by the essays (such as press clippings, abstracts or publications, artistic portfolio or literary work, etc.)

WINNER CHARACTERISTICS

The Soros does not consider financial need, your undergraduate university, your political agenda, or your heritage/country of origin. It is also not enough to be "a hard worker" or a "good person." Rather, they look for an intellectual spark; a unique approach to problem-solving; commitment to sustained contributions to your

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field (not just one-time success); the promise of intellectual leadership; a well-written application; and strong letters of recommendation. They will evaluate your accomplishments in the context of the opportunities that were available to you, whether you had a lot of academic and social supports or came from an underprivileged background, and will seek to understand how you forged your own path.

APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE

SUBMIT A PRE-APPLICATION BY 4/3/17 (NOON)

You must complete and submit a [Pre-App](#) to begin the campus application process.

ATTEND BIG 10 INFORMATION SESSION

All students who have submitted pre-applications are required to attend one of three information sessions regarding the application process. You will receive a Student Deadline Table and crucial information about the scholarship process. (Students who are abroad or have unavoidable scheduling conflicts will watch a video of the presentation and pass a quiz.)

REVIEW PRE-APPLICATION FEEDBACK

You will select a personalized advising appointment time to discuss your plan for crafting a strong application. If you will be abroad, [email SOP staff](#) in advance to make arrangements for a virtual meeting.

SUBMIT SIGNED LETTER OF INTENT AND CONSENT FORM TO SOP

You will be provided a letter of intent and consent form to return with signature and must also register for an appointment to view past winning scholarship applications in EEE.

READ PAST WINNING APPLICATIONS

On file in the SOP office, past winning applications demonstrate successful methods used by past UCI winners to produce compelling and concise research proposal and personal statement essays. They also showcase successful formatting amid each application's unique space constraints.

You must request an appointment in advance to view these files, as we will select the most closely related applications from our extensive archive and have them ready for you.

MEET WITH YOUR FACULTY

After submitting your Pre-Application, meet in person with at least three faculty members.

DISCUSS YOUR PLANS/PROJECT IDEAS

Explain that you'll [furnish him/her with drafts of your application essays](#) as they evolve, and let him/her know when to expect these. Detail your ideas for graduate study. Ask for advice in narrowing your subfield or graduate research topic.

REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Ask if s/he is willing to write a comprehensive letter of recommendation on your behalf. **Candidates are responsible for ensuring faculty have submitted their letter drafts to Soros by the deadlines.**

For more information, please see our handout on [letters of recommendation](#).

SUBMIT FACULTY SUMMER CONTACT INFO TO SOP

In your [email to SOP staff](#), include full names, positions, departments, emails & phone numbers for each faculty letter writer. If you are applying for multiple scholarships, identify to SOP which faculty will write on behalf of which of your application(s).

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CONFIRM SCHOLARSHIPS & PROVIDE ROUGH DRAFTS

Confirm scholarships to which applying; list proposed program(s) & institution(s) for each.

[Email essay rough drafts and updated CV](#) to SOP staff, your faculty, and your assigned Writing Specialist.

SUBMIT 1ST APPLICATION DRAFT(S)

To produce a competitive application, email a copy of your two essays to [SOP staff](#), your faculty, and your Writing Specialist for review and feedback by the deadline.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

You'll receive feedback from SOP staff, faculty and your Writing Specialist. Incorporate this feedback into your second draft.

SUBMIT 2ND APPLICATION DRAFT(S)

Email your revised essays to [SOP staff](#), your faculty, and your Writing Specialist for review and feedback by the deadline. *If you are preparing any **optional exhibits**, such as an arts portfolio, publications, or press clippings, please provide a copy of your exhibits for our review and feedback.*

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

You'll receive feedback from SOP staff, faculty and your Writing Specialist. Incorporate this feedback into your final draft.

SUBMIT FINAL DRAFT(S)

Please note that the Soros does not require university endorsement and thus does not require a screening committee interview at UCI.

Upload all attachments and submit all required forms in the online application system: Email a PDF or screenshots of finalized full application including forms, essays and optional exhibits [to SOP](#).

ENSURE FACULTY HAVE SUBMITTED LETTERS

SOROS REVIEWS YOUR APPLICATION

In late January, approximately 75 finalists are offered interviews in Los Angeles, including a dinner with past fellows and two personalized interviews with the review committee.

You will be notified of the outcomes of your application by early March of the competition year. **Please forward the status update to [SOP staff](#).**