Mexican Studies Scholarship Fund 2020

For more Information visit contact
Mexican.studies@lehman.cuny.edu
Mexican Studies Scholarship Fund 2020

Program Overview

The Mexican Studies Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to highly motivated students. The scholarship program is intended to help current and future community leaders to advance their educational goals. Recipients will work closely with the Institute staff and community-based organizations to advance the Mexican and/or immigrant community. Criteria for selection are academic achievement, financial need, and commitment to service in the immigrant and/or Mexican community in New York, without consideration of immigration status.

The Mexican Studies Scholarship Program offers special features:

- A series of leadership and professional workshops
- 3-day team building retreat
- Special invitations to exclusive events throughout the year
- Access to prominent CUNY alumni, faculty, and staff
- Optional Mentorship Program

Award Amount

Up to $7000 to current and prospective CUNY students.

Eligibility Requirements

- Have graduated or will graduate from high school or have earned or will earn a high school equivalency diploma by the end of June 2020
- Intend to enroll full time in an Associate or Baccalaureate program at a CUNY Campus in Fall 2020 AND Spring 2021
- OR If a Graduate Student, must intend to enroll full time in a master’s degree program either Fall 2020 AND Spring 2021
- Must demonstrate significant financial need
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How to Apply

1. Submit application online.
2. Upload required documents.
   - Most recent transcript, can be an unofficial student copy
   - Two essays, 750-word max each
   - Resume
3. List your recommender
4. Make sure to contact your recommender with the link to submit your recommendation letter.
5. You will receive a confirmation email that you have successfully submitted your application.

*New applicants and current scholarship recipients have different applications. Make sure you are using the correct application. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Essay Questions: 750-word max each

1. **Professional Goals**: What is one thing you want to accomplish in college that would help empower the Mexican and or immigrant community?

2. **Financial Need**: What economic factors are limiting you from pursuing your educational aspirations? If you were awarded the scholarship what difference would it make in your aspirations to pursue a college education?

Application Materials Checklist:

- Completed application form (online)
- Most recent transcript, can be an unofficial student copy
- Two essays, 750-word max each
- Resume
- One recommendation letter

Important Dates

- November 25, 2019- Application Opens
- **January 31, 2020 11:59PM. EST Deadline to apply**
- March - Semifinalist Group Interview
- Late April- Awardees Notified
- Late May- Award Ceremony, recipients must attend

Additional Questions: (347)577-4077 OR mexican.studies@lehman.cuny.edu
Frequently asked questions:

Do I have to be currently enrolled in CUNY to apply?
No. As a matter of fact, many of our applicants are high school seniors, GED students or students who are not currently enrolled in college. You MUST enroll in CUNY to receive the scholarship, but not to apply.

Do I have to be Mexican?
No, the scholarship is open to people of any nationality.

Does my immigration status matter?
No, many of our scholarship recipients are undocumented and many are DACA recipients. DACA is not required for eligibility. The committee does not discriminate based on immigration status.

Does it matter which CUNY I attend?
No, scholarship winners may enroll in any of the 24 CUNY campuses.

Can I enroll in a SUNY or private school?
No, the scholarship is only able to cover tuition at a CUNY campus.

How will I know if my application has been received?
You will receive an initial automatic confirmation email that your online application has been received. You will receive a second confirmation email from the scholarship coordinator confirming we have all the supporting materials.

How will I be notified about my application results?
All applicants will be notified via email if they have been selected for the scholarship. Make sure to provide an email that you consistently check. We will notify you at this email through the application process.

How are applicants selected as recipients of Mexican Studies Scholarship Fund?
An independent committee of professors from around the country and local community leaders review the applicants and select the recipients based on the scholarship criteria.

I was called for an interview, now what?
Please schedule the interview as soon as possible. Notification of a scheduled interview is not a guarantee of the scholarship.

What happens if I am put on the waitlist?
If we receive additional funding before July 1, 2020 you will be notified via email that you have been awarded the scholarship. We cannot guarantee a scholarship to everyone who is waitlisted.

If selected as a winner can I defer my scholarship to another academic year?
The high demand for the scholarship does not allow for us to hold the scholarship. If you cannot take the scholarship the academic year it is being awarded then you can reapply in the future. We will not hold scholarships for future use.
How will I get the money from the scholarship?
For undergraduate students, the scholarship will be disbursed to the recipient’s CUNY college in two equal installments to cover the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters. For graduate students, the scholarship will be disbursed to the recipient’s CUNY campus in one full installment for the semester they enroll in.

Does the scholarship cover all of my educational expenses?
No, while the scholarship funding will cover most or all of your tuition for one year if you are an undergraduate or one semester if you are a graduate student, it will not cover student fees, transportation, books, or other expenses.

I am a graduate student, why can’t I receive funding for the entire academic year?
Unfortunately, due to limited funding at the moment we are only able to cover one semester for graduate students. We hope to be able to cover both semesters in the near future.

What if I qualify for FASFA, TAP, an or the New York Dream Act?
On the application you will have an opportunity to indicate the amount of funding that you receive. The selection committee will use this information to determine your financial need in addition to your financial statement.

What if I am awarded the DREAM. US Scholarship?
Congratulations! Due to the high demand for our scholarship program you will have to choose which scholarship program you wish to be a part of. You will not be able to receive extra funding from Mexican Studies Scholarship Fund.

What If I am awarded another scholarship?
If you receive other scholarships totaling or exceeding $5,000 from other organizations the applicant must notify the scholarship program coordinator to update the applicant information.

I am an international student can I apply for the scholarship?
Yes, you can apply to be considered for the scholarship but, priority will be given to students residing in New York State who have limited access to financial aid.

I am an international student my tuition is over $7230 will the scholarship cover the full amount?
Students who hold international visas or other status who are considered out of state students by CUNY are charged different, higher rates and the scholarship will not cover all of the tuition. The student will be responsible for covering the remaining balance on the account.

What if I work and cannot commit to an internship program?
Mexican Studies Scholarship Fund seeks to foster the development of future leaders. We will give you a lot of support and a lot of opportunities for growth and professional development along with an internship placement. These elements require time and commitment and the scholarship is intended to enable you to worry less about tuition and have more time/energy for school and your growth as a leader. We require students to commit to these opportunities. If you feel that you cannot commit to these extra requirements this may not be the scholarship for you.
**What if I am the head of household and cannot commit to studying full time?**

If selected for the scholarship you will have to apply for the MSSF full time status waiver. The purpose of the waiver is to request consideration to be able to continue with the scholarship when the student cannot enroll full-time. There is no guarantee of a waiver and decisions will be made on a case by case basis. Except for those granted a waiver, all recipients must maintain full time enrollment status to receive the scholarship.

**Can I lose the scholarship after I am selected as a scholarship winner?**

Failure to comply with the following conditions may result in the suspension or revocation of scholarship awards and future eligibility: Full-time enrollment at a CUNY school, participation in monthly seminars, completion of a 200-hour internship in an affiliated nonprofit institution, continuous involvement with the Institute events and activities. There is a mid-year and final-year evaluation where the students will be assessed in their progress towards the completion of the requirements.

**What if I change my recommender?**

Immediately contact us with the updated name of your new recommender. We will update your application information.

**What if my recommender declines to write a letter?**

If a recommender declines to write a letter on your behalf (it happens for many reasons), do not be disappointed or discouraged. Sit down and consider who would be willing to write a letter for you. You should have two to three people who you can reach out to ask in the case that your primary one declines.

**Where can my recommender upload my recommendation letter?**

Your recommender will have to upload their letter online. You must share with them the link where they can upload their recommendation online.
2020 Mexican Studies Scholarship Fund Program Terms and Conditions

If selected for the scholarship the student agrees to the following:

**SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT.** The Mexican Studies Scholarship Fund will provide the student a scholarship in the total amount listed in the scholarship award letter for the 2020 academic year. If the student is an undergraduate the amount shall be applied to the recipient’s tuition at a rate of 50% for the Fall semester and 50% for the Spring semester. If the student is a graduate student; the full amount shall be applied to the recipient’s tuition in one installment for the semester. This scholarship only covers the cost of tuition. Students are expected to pay the difference accrued in fees. Amount in fees varies at each college campus. This scholarship does not cover the cost associated with remedial courses.

**OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING.** If the student receives other scholarships totaling or exceeding $5,000 from other organizations the student must notify the scholarship program coordinator.

**ENROLLMENT.** Undergraduate recipients must be enrolled full time in 12 or more equated credits at a CUNY College Campus for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semester. Graduate Students full time status will be defined by their program’s criteria to fulfill full time status.

**PARTICIPATION.** Student is expected to attend monthly professional seminars, institute event, and other events throughout NYC. Student is expected to attend the annual retreat to the YMCA Frost Valley Camp Site at the beginning of the academic year. Recipients are expected to attend the Award Ceremony. Recipients are expected to host and or participate in one Mexican Studies Scholarship Fund promotional workshop at a school or community-based organization. Furthermore, continuous involvement with the student network is expected.

**INTERNSHIP.** Student agrees to complete a 200-hour internship at an institution that caters to the needs of the Mexican and or immigrant community. The student is expected to maintain a timesheet and respond to an internship survey. Failure to properly document and provide proof of internship hours may result in the loss of award. Student may be placed at the Educational Opportunities Initiative to complete their internship requirement.

**SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS.** Student are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress by maintaining a minimum of a 3.0 GPA per semester receiving funding. Failure to maintain the required minimum GPA may affect future eligibility for the scholarship award and may result in loss of scholarship. Students will be held accountable for making progress toward graduation.

**CREDITS ACCUMULATED.** Students will be held accountable for making progress toward graduation. Classes taken must be towards the satisfaction of General Education and or Major/Minor.
**EVALUATIONS.** Student agree to participate in both a mid-year and final year evaluation. Academic progress and satisfaction of working towards the completion of degree will be reviewed using the rubric.

**MENTORS.** Students will have the option to participate in the Mentorship Program.

**COMMUNICATION.** Student is expected to communicate regularly with the Scholarship Program Coordinator. The student must check his or her email on a regular basis. The majority of communication will be electronic.

**CONTINUANCE.** After completing your scholarship year, students are expected to continue participating in the Institute events and inform the Institute about any news and accomplishments including your date of graduation.

**LOSS OF AWARD.** The scholarship may be revoked if the student does not comply with the provisions detailed in the above items.