

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

### I. Eligibility

- a. Students will be considered eligible to apply if any of the following apply:
  - i. He/she is a future VSU undergraduate student who will be required to apply for an F-1 visa and maintain F-1 visa status.
  - ii. He/she is a future VSU undergraduate student who will be required to maintain F-1 visa status.
  - iii. He/she is a future VSU undergraduate student who has US Permanent Residency or US Citizenship, but has resided in a foreign country for a majority of his/her life.
  - iv. He/she is a current VSU undergraduate student who has maintained their F-1 visa status.
  - v. He/she is a current VSU undergraduate student who has US Permanent Residency or US Citizenship, but has resided in a foreign country for a majority of his/her life.
  - vi. He/she is a future VSU undergraduate student who has a visa status that allows them to study at the college /university level. Example: H-4 or L-2

### II. How to Apply

- a. Submit a completed application packet by the deadline.
  - o Summer/Fall entry: March 15
  - o Spring entry: October 1
- b. Scholarship packet includes the following:
  - i. Application Form
    1. Personal Information
    2. Past Community Service Engagement
    3. Personal Essay
    4. Attestation
  - ii. Recommendation Letter
  - iii. Copy of Transcripts: High School and/or College (if any) written at least in the Latin/English Alphabet.
  - iv. Copy of any of the Test Scores that VSU accepts: TOEFL/SAT/ ACT/ IELTS/ ELI Transcript

### III. Awardee Selection

- a. Ranking: The International Student Scholarship Committee will be given access to the applicant list, and their material submissions. Each member of the International Student Scholarship Committee will review applications, and rank the applications with "1" as their top selection, and the total of

applicants as the lowest ranking. This method will be used if there are limited spaces available (number of spaces vs the number of applicants).

- i. Applicants’ ranking will be based on their academic achievements, local community engagement, and leadership experience/potential.
- ii. Applicants’ ranking will not be based on any extra-curricular activities that would be considered an applicant’s participation in interschool/intercollegiate athletics.
- iii. The rankings given by the members of the International Student Scholarship Committee’s will be added up for each applicant, and a spot on the waiver list will first be awarded to the applicant(s) with the lowest cumulative ranking, then the applicant(s) with the next lowest cumulative ranking, etc. An example is given on III.a.iv.
- iv. **Example:** There are 4 committee members who rank a total of 5 applicants for a certain semester.

	Committee Member #1	Committee Member #2	Committee Member #3	Committee Member #4	Ranking Total
Applicant 1	2	1	3	1	7
Applicant 2	4	5	2	3	14
Applicant 3	1	3	1	2	7
Applicant 4	5	2	5	5	17
Applicant 5	3	4	4	4	15

Based on the ranking total, first 2 available spaces go to Applicant 1 and Applicant 3, who have both gotten a total of 7, then Applicant 2 with 14, and so on.

- v. If there are two or more applicants with the same ranking, and spaces for the identically ranked applicants are not available, as shown in the example above for Applicants 1 and 3, the Committee will have to do a second round of reviews for those applicants.
- b. **Yes/No:** This method will be used if there are more spaces than applicants for a given cycle. Committee members are requested to vote either “Yes” to awarding an applicant a spot on the waiver list, or “No” to deny them a spot on the waiver list.
  - i. Committee members’ decisions will be based on their academic achievements, local community engagement, and leadership experience/potential.
  - ii. Committee members’ decisions will not be based on any extra-curricular activities that would be considered an applicant’s participation in interschool/intercollegiate athletics.

#### IV. Waiver Renewal Requirements

##### a. GPA Requirement

- i. Students have to maintain at least a cumulative VSU GPA of 3.0 every semester.

##### b. Service Activities

- i. Students have to earn at least 25 community service hours each fall and spring semester.
- ii. The term “service hours” can be the value an activity is given, instead of the number of hours spent on the number of approved service activities,
  1. **Example:** Sheet Painting for an Event can be valued at 5 service hours, while being an active participant for the Annual International Dinner’s Cooking Committee can be valued at 20 service hours.
- iii. Service activities must promote global culture and diversity to the local VSU and Valdosta community.

##### iv. Approved Service Activities

###### 1. **International Student Orientation Week Events**

- a. Orientation Preparations
- b. During Orientation
- c. Welcome Cookouts
- d. Other Orientation Week Events

###### 2. **Cultural Hours**

- a. Host a Cultural Hour – A student will share information and a sample of the cuisine of either their country of citizenship, or another country that they know very well.
- b. Participant(s) in this activity is/are awarded 10 hours.

###### 3. **International Education Week Events**

- a. IEW events vary from year to year, there may be one or more events hosted in the fall semester
- b. Participants are awarded service hours depending on the events/activities hosted each year and the events/activities they participate in.

###### 4. **VSU Homecoming Activities**

- a. Homecoming Parade Preparations and Participation in the Parade.
- b. Sidewalk Chalk – participation in this event will depend on the availability of a willing and able student volunteer
- c. Other Homecoming Week Events

d. Participants are awarded service hours based on the activities they participate in.

**5. Annual International Dinner Preparations and Event**

- a. Active Participation in the committees: Cooking, Entertainment, Fundraising and Publicity
- b. Participants are awarded hours based on the activities/committees they select. Participants in the Cooking and Entertainment Committee are typically awarded 20 hours, though this is subject to the circumstances.

**6. Local School Visits**

- a. Presenting at a classroom at partner school(s)
- b. The school visits must be cultural in some way, and must teach the local school's students something about a foreign culture.
- c. Younger grade levels get awarded more hours.

**7. SIS Leadership**

- a. Students who choose to take on an active role in the SIS leadership, and help facilitate that semester's activities for the SIS (see activities 1-5), and represent the SIS, can choose to fulfill their service activity requirements this way.

**8. Other Service Activities**

- a. This list is not exhaustive, and if any student finds a service opportunity that promotes global culture and diversity within the VSU and Valdosta community, they will need to get the approval of the International Student Advisor if they would like to have the service opportunity to count towards the semester's service requirements.
- b. This list may also change depending on changing partnerships with the VSU and Valdosta community, but the objective of the service requirements will always be to spread information about global culture and diversity in the VSU and Valdosta community.

**v. Recognition**

- 1. Students who are in good standing with their service activities requirements, and have done more than the required minimum of 25 community service hours in a semester will be allowed carry their points over to the next semester.

2. Their efforts will also be recognized at the end of the semester via the International Student Listserv and the VSU Merit Pages.

#### V. Probation Status - Waiver

- Probation status for the International Student Scholarship is not the same as being on academic probation.
- Students will received a status report every semester regarding their International Student Scholarship.

##### a. Service Activity Requirement

- i. Students are put on this probation for failing to meet the required amount of service activities in a semester.
- ii. Students will have a chance to make up the unfulfilled service activity requirements the following semester, on top of the usual service activity requirements for that semester.

1. **Example:** Student A only earns 5 service hours for the fall semester and is put on probation for the spring semester. Student A and will have to do at least 20 service hours in the spring semester to make up for the fall semester. If Student A does not meet the 45 service activities at the end of the spring semester, he/she will not continue to get the waiver applied to his/her account in the summer semester. If he/she does meet the 45 service activities at the end of the spring semester, he/she will be taken off probation.
2. **Example:** Student B only does 15 hrs service activities for the spring semester, and is put on probation afterwards. Student B will have the summer and fall semester to earn that 10 service hours on top of the required minimum of 25 service hours.

##### b. GPA Requirement

- i. Students who get a cumulative GPA of less than 3.0 are automatically put on probation. (Again, separate from the academic probation that VSU puts students on).
- ii. Students will have to prove that they are trying to raise their grades to a 3.0, by doing the following:
  1. Get a 3.0 for their next semester GPA.
  2. Cumulative GPA should not decrease further from the GPA that got them put on probation.
    - a. Student C earns a 2.8 cumulative GPA for a semester. Student C should either maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or show progress towards of 3.0 cumulative GPA.

- iii. Students can be on probation for more than 1 semester for the GPA, if their cumulative GPA does not go lower. Again, progress and some proof that they are attempting to raise their GPA to the required minimum is important to see.

#### VI. Grounds For Losing A Spot On The International Student Scholarship

- a. If a student has not completed their required service activities, which includes the service activities they need to make up, after being put on a semester of probation. Students will be allowed to reapply for a spot on the International Student Scholarship after 1 semester, and will have their application reviewed by the International Student Scholarship committee again.
- b. If a student does not meet their required service activity requirements for a second time after being put on probation, then getting back on good standing.
- c. If a student's cumulative GPA declines after being put on probation. Students will be allowed to reapply for a spot on the International Student Scholarship after 1 semester, and will have their application reviewed by the International Student Scholarship committee again
- d. If a student gets suspended from VSU, or arrested for breaking local and federal laws. Students will be allowed to reapply for a spot on the International Student Scholarship after 1 semester, and will have their application reviewed by the International Student Scholarship committee again
- e. If a student fails to maintain their F-1 visa status (if on an F-1 visa), or any immigration status that they may have. Students will be allowed to reapply for a spot on the International Student Scholarship after 1 semester, and will have their application reviewed by the International Student Scholarship committee again.