

2023

# WOMEN IN STEM SCHOLARSHIP



## GUIDELINES FOR CLUBS AND DISTRICTS/REGIONS 2023

The Zonta International **Women in STEM Scholarship** encourages women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in STEM fields.

### Timetable

Applications received by Zonta clubs.....	Contact local club for deadline
Club recipient is selected and application is received by governor/region representative.....	July-August or deadline determined by the district/region
District region applicant selected and application received by Zonta International Headquarters.....	15 September
Official announcement of international recipients.....	November

### Program description

In 2019 and 2021, Zonta International was pleased to support the Zonta International Women in Technology Scholarship to encourage women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in information technology. In June 2022, the Zonta International membership voted to continue the program with an expanded focus on all STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields and not only information technology. With this change, the Zonta International Board approved a name change and will offer the Zonta International Women in STEM Scholarship for the third cycle of the scholarship program.

The program operates at the Zonta club, district/region and international levels. Each Zonta district/region may submit one applicant for consideration for an international scholarship. A single candidate from each of Zonta's 31 districts and one region will receive an award of US\$5,000 from Zonta International.

Clubs publicize the scholarship in their communities and distribute, receive and evaluate applications. Clubs are welcome, but not required, to provide an award to club recipients. The club selects one application to send to the district/region evaluation committee. Please note that an e-Club is eligible to participate in the program in the same manner as a traditional, face-to-face Zonta club.

The district/region evaluation committee selects a district/region applicant from among the applications received from the clubs within the district/region.

The Women in STEM Scholarships are made possible by generous contributions to the Rose Fund from Zontians, Zonta clubs and friends of Zonta.

## How does my club/district/region benefit?

The Women in STEM Scholarship program offers public relations opportunities at the club, district/region and international levels to project Zonta International as a future-oriented, forward-thinking organization committed to programs that work to empower women. Through publicity generated at the club level, communities can follow the local club recipient to the district/region and international levels while learning about the global programs of Zonta International.

Clubs may submit one complete application for a district/region award to their district/region evaluation committee for consideration.

## Eligibility

- Women of any age and nationality, pursuing a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) degree program at an accredited university/college/institute, who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field and are living or studying in a Zonta district/region, are eligible.
- Online students are also eligible to apply if enrolled at an accredited university/college/institute.
- Students must be enrolled in at least the second year of an undergraduate program **through** the final year of a master's program at the time the application is submitted to the local Zonta club. Applicants must be in school at the time the scholarship funds are disbursed and must not graduate before April 2024.
- Previous district and international Women in Technology Scholarship recipients may not apply for the Women in STEM Scholarship.
- Club members and individuals with direct membership with Zonta International and employees of Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women, and their family members (ancestors, descendants, adoptees, siblings, nieces or cousins, and those of their spouse or co-habiting partner), are not eligible to apply for the Scholarship.
- Golden Z club members are eligible to apply.
- Applicants from geographic areas within a Zonta district/region where no clubs are located will be considered and are eligible to

apply for the international scholarships via a Zonta district/region.

## Club guidelines

Districts/regions and clubs may contact universities/colleges/institutes in their own communities and in nearby areas where there are no Zonta clubs to promote the scholarship. They may also promote the scholarship directly to students living in communities where there are no universities/colleges/institutes.

**Evaluation Committee:** Zonta clubs are encouraged to invite non-Zontians who are community leaders to serve on the evaluation committee. Many clubs find that including non-Zontians in a club program is helpful in getting local media coverage.

## Applications

Prior to distributing application forms, clubs should insert the club name, the return address and the deadlines on all pages, as indicated. Photocopies of the official application form will be accepted.

**Please note** that only typed applications will be accepted and considered.

Clubs must provide Zonta International Headquarters with a club email and/or website address to include on the Zonta International website [Club Locator](#). The [Club Locator](#) enables potential applicants to find their local Zonta club and to contact a club representative to request applications.

Clubs may request additional information not required in the official application, but this information should not be sent to Headquarters. Clubs and districts/regions, however, should not alter the questions in the official application. Applicants must submit the Zonta International verification of current enrollment form (see page 7 of application), or an official statement from the university/college registrar stating enrollment and graduation information. Acceptance letters **are not** verification of enrollment and **will not** be accepted.

At club level, candidates or finalists may be interviewed as part of the evaluation process. It is

the responsibility of the club to ensure that all information requested in the application is obtained from the applicant and that the Application Cover Sheet for Clubs\* is filled in before forwarding the application to the governor/region representative. All club participants should notify applicants who were not selected as the club's candidate for district/region level evaluation. A sample letter is posted on the ZI website.

Applicants may not apply to more than one Zonta district. Incomplete applications will not be considered. **Note:** July/August deadline to have club application to the district/region is only a suggested date. Please contact your governor/region representative for deadline.

**Publicity:** Media releases to encourage applicants and to publicize recipients should be sent to all local media. Information about applications should be sent to the media at least one month before the application deadline. Information and photographs of the recipient should be given to local media after the final selection has been made. Clubs need to include the name of the club contact on their promotional material and distribute it widely to reach a wide range of applicants. Through the Zonta International website, clubs may download a Women in STEM Scholarship poster that includes fields for the club's application deadline and address.

**Club Award:** A Zonta club may develop an award or certificate for the local club recipient. Clubs are encouraged to:

- Identify a Zontian or a colleague who could act as a mentor and/or offer an internship in a STEM field.
- Offer opportunities for active involvement of scholar and alumnae (e.g. invite scholarship recipient to participate in meetings organized by the local Zonta club and join a club upon graduation).

## District/region guidelines

**Applications:** Districts/regions should receive the selected application from each club by the **deadline determined by the district**. The district/region may select an evaluation committee from Zontians and/or non-Zontians. The evaluation committee should use the Evaluation Criteria in the selection process. The Evaluation Criteria can be found at <https://membership.zonta.org/Tools/Award-Scholarship-Fellowship-Tools> (need to login). The evaluation committee must choose one application to be considered for an international scholarship. The governor/region representative must send this application with all required documents, including an updated verification of current enrollment and a completed cover sheet with date and signature (application cover sheet is located on the ZI website), to Zonta International Headquarters by 15 September. **Note:** Late applications will not be accepted. Zonta districts/region **cannot** inform the district/region recipients until Zonta International Headquarters makes the official announcement in November.

### Districts/regions are encouraged to:

- Offer opportunities for active involvement of scholar and alumnae (e.g. invite scholarship recipient or alumnae to participate in meetings organized by the district/region and/or speak at district/region conferences about the benefits of the scholarship).

## International scholarship

Zonta International Headquarters must receive applications by **15 September**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. The Zonta International Headquarters team confirms the eligibility of the applicants put forth by the districts/region and submits a recommendation to the Zonta International Board for approval.

For each international recipient, the Zonta Foundation for Women will issue payments in the amount of US\$5,000 payable to the recipient. Excerpts from recipients' essays may be printed in a subsequent issue of *The Zontian* magazine and/or on the Zonta International website.