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**🎓 Scholarship Application Guide & Success Checklist**

💡 Why WAI Scholarships Matter

Women in Aviation International offers hundreds of scholarships annually to support the career advancement and education of members at all stages — from students to seasoned professionals, in all fields of aviation and aerospace. Whether you’re pursuing:

* Flight training
* Engineering or maintenance
* Uncrewed systems or ATC
* Business aviation, dispatch, or airport operations
There’s something here for you.

You may apply for up to three (3) scholarships per cycle — but choosing the right ones and submitting a strong, polished application is key.

✈️ Step-by-Step: Applying with Confidence

🔍 **1. Find the Right Scholarships**

* Browse the full list at WAI.org/scholarships and filter by:
	+ Field of interest
	+ Certification level
	+ Demographics (some are region-, career-, or identity-specific)
* Save or flag the three scholarships that fit your goals, qualifications, and vision best.

**🧾 2. Build a Standout Application**

✨ Personal Statement Tips:

Your personal statement is where you shine. It should be:

* Authentic: Who are you? What’s your story?
* Focused: Why this scholarship? Why now?
* Impactful: What will this opportunity allow you to do?

🖊️ Structure It Like This:

1. Introduction: Brief background and aviation journey.
2. Why You're Applying: Goals, purpose, how the scholarship will help.
3. WAI Connection: How has WAI supported your journey? How will you give back?
4. Conclusion: Confident, future-focused ending.

🧠 Pro Tips:

* Use a friendly but professional tone.
* Avoid repeating your resume.
* Use specific examples — achievements, mentors, pivotal experiences.
* Edit, review, revise — then do it again.

**📋 3. Checklist: Complete Your Application**

**✅ Application Essentials**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Selected up to 3 eligible scholarships |
|  | Completed personal statement/essay (1 per scholarship) |
|  | Current resume/CV (aviation-focused if possible) |
|  | Submitted two professional or academic reference letters |
|  | All fields of the online application filled out |
|  | Proofread by 2+ people |

**4. Use Your Chapter as a Resource**

Your WAI Chapter is a built-in support network:

* Ask for help reviewing your materials.
* Join or start a **Scholarship Support Group**.
* Attend a **prep workshop** (or host one with your Chapter Leaders!).
* Seek feedback from past winners.

🙌 This is what community is for. You don’t have to do it alone!

**⏰ 5. Plan Ahead & Stay Organized**

**🗓️ Timeline Tips**

* Applications typically open in **July** and close in **October**.
* Set calendar reminders for:
	+ Personal statement drafts
	+ Recommend deadlines
	+ Final review dates
	+ Su
	+ bmission day (aim for **1 week early**!)

**🎯 6. Follow-Up & Stay Engaged**

* Winners are announced in **late winter**.
* If you don’t receive a scholarship this year:
	+ Request feedback if available
	+ Save your materials and **try again next year**
	+ Stay involved with your Chapter and WAI community — **it helps you grow and stay visible**

**💬 Encouragement Corner**

Every year, **thousands of applications** are submitted by incredible, qualified individuals. If you don’t win on your first try — **that doesn’t mean your story isn’t worthy**. Stay persistent.

WAI membership is about so much more than scholarships.
It’s about:

* ✈️ **Career connection**
* 🤝 **Networking and mentorship**
* 💬 **Supportive community**
* 🎓 **Lifelong learning and leadership**
* 🚀 **Empowerment at every level**

You belong here. We believe in you.

 **Ready-to-Use Quick Checklist**

✍️ Application Checklist:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Chosen 1-3 scholarships |
|  | Tailored personal statements/essay |
|  | Resume/CV upload if required |
|  | Two strong recommendation letters |
|  | All documents uploaded properly |
|  | Application proofread and submitted early |

🤝 Chapter Checklist

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Asked for peer or mentor feedback |
|  | Participated in a review or support session  |
|  | Connected with past applicants or winners |