

Welcome

Thank you for applying to the 2017 Esperanza Education Fund Scholarship!

The Esperanza Education Fund is an almost entirely volunteer-run organization committed to helping immigrant students or children of immigrant parents achieve their academic potential.

We are delighted that you are applying and want to answer any questions you may have about the process. To that end, we have a variety of ways to answer your questions.

In Person: *We will be hosting two information sessions with the scholarship co-chairs, Erin Fackler and Julia Fuma. These will be held in late February/ early March in Arlington, VA and Washington, D.C. Please check back here in early February for dates and locations.*

By Email: *Please reach out to scholarship@esperanzafund.org with any questions that aren't answered by our FAQ.*

FAQ: *Our FAQ can be downloaded [here](#).*

*Please note that our application deadline is **April 1, 2017**. There will be no extensions.*

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for a scholarship from the Esperanza Education Fund, you need to meet the following eligibility requirements. Please certify that you satisfy the following eligibility criteria:



Extracurricular Activities

Tell us about the activities you've participated in, jobs you've held, and awards you've won. Please list these in the order that they are most important you (as opposed to chronological order).

*Please enter dates in the following format:
Start Date (mm/yyyy) - End Date
(mm/yyyy)*



Essays

Two essays are required. For the first one, we will give you the topic to write about; in the second, you can choose from four topics. Essays may not exceed 500 words each.

Essays offer you an opportunity to share your story and to distinguish yourself as a candidate. Often, grammatical, spelling or punctuation mistakes take away from a candidate's message. We strongly advise you to write, edit, and save your essays in a word processing program such as Microsoft Word and then copy and paste the final text into this form. Formatting will not transfer.

In the first essay, describe your experience as an immigrant or a child of immigrants or how you exhibit one or more qualities traditionally valued and demonstrated by the immigrant community: hard work, resourcefulness, perseverance in the face of adversity, academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to one's community.

*Please choose **one** of the following prompts for your second essay:*

- 1. What are your career goals and why? How do you intend to achieve these goals?*
- 2. What have you done that you are most proud of and why?*
- 3. Describe a typical day in your life.*
- 4. If you could solve one issue in the world, the country, or your community, what would it be and how would you contribute to solving it?*

Letters of Recommendation

Two letters of recommendation are required. At least one letter should be from a teacher or other school official familiar with your academic ability. The second letter can be from any adult who knows you well, such as a teacher, counselor, mentor, coach, employer, community leader, or religious leader. Letters should describe the context in which the recommender knows you, your potential for success, and how you demonstrate one or more qualities traditionally valued by the immigrant community: hard work, resourcefulness, perseverance in the face of adversity, academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to one's community.

*Your recommenders must upload their letters to our website. We cannot accept letters by mail. Please use the buttons below to send your recommenders an email with instructions on how to upload their letters. To ensure receipt of this email, please inform each respondent about this email prior to the submission of your application. All letters must be uploaded by **April 1, 2017**.*

Please list the individuals who will submit letters of recommendation on your behalf. You must provide an email address for each recommender.

You should submit your application after completing it even if your recommendations have not yet arrived. You can come back to this page any time to check whether we have received them.

Certification and Submission

Please check the box below and enter your digital signature and today's date. By doing so, you are certifying that

- *The information in this application is true, complete, and accurate to the best of your knowledge and the essays submitted with this application are your own work.*
- *You understand that your application is not complete until two recommendation letters are submitted.*
- *You understand that, if you are selected as a finalist, you will be required to submit an official high school transcript and copies of score reports for any standardized tests you have taken. You understand that you must have these materials prepared by **May 13, 2017** in case you are selected as a finalist.*
- *You understand that scholarships awarded by the Esperanza Education Fund are contingent on full-time enrollment at an accredited public college or university, and that a scholarship may be revoked if any information in this application is found to be false.*

