



## **YMCA International Services Refugee Scholarship Program Application Information**

### **BACKGROUND**

YMCA International Services is a unique center of the YMCA of Greater Houston that delivers client-centered programs to refugees, immigrants and other vulnerable populations to advance their economic independence, social integration and civic participation. The Y helps newcomers restore hope, build stability, create opportunity and change futures.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

1. Applicant must be accepted or enrolled as a student at an accredited, post-secondary, educational institution (university or college) and taking **at least 6 hours** during the Fall 2025 semester or accepted or enrolled in an appropriate vocational training institution.
2. Applicant must possess or have possessed one of the following immigration statuses with legal documentation: refugee, affirmative asylee, survivor of human trafficking, special immigrant visa holder, and Cuban or Haitian entrant.
3. Applicant must be a resident of the Greater Houston Area for at least the last six (6) months.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Awardees will be selected by a committee composed of staff of YMCA International Services, and personnel from local educational institutions, refugee communities, and agencies serving eligible populations. The committee reserves the right to modify this program as necessary.

**The committee will take the following into consideration: applicant's date of arrival to the country, community involvement as demonstrated by work experience, volunteer experience, or extracurricular activities, financial need, and demonstrated resiliency and character, as evidenced in their writing, speaking, and reference letters.**

### **AWARDS**

One-time educational scholarships in the **minimum of \$1,000.00** will be awarded for enrollment in any accredited, post-secondary educational institution (college or university) or vocational training. The **maximum award amount is \$2,000.00** per applicant. Applicants who are awarded the scholarship will be invited to attend an awards ceremony.

**Scholarship checks will be mailed directly to the educational institution/vocational training designated on applications.**



## SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND AWARD DATE

Applications will be accepted from May 20 through June 9, 2025. **All applications must be received no later than Monday, June 9th at 4pm.** These dates are subject to change.

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

There are two parts to the application: **a completed application** and **an in-person interview**. Only candidates who have completed both parts will be considered for a scholarship award.

### PART ONE:

Applications may be hand-delivered, mailed, or emailed. Only **complete** applications, including all required paperwork, will be considered. Applications that are partially sent by mail, partially hand-delivered or sent in multiple emails will **not** be considered. **To be considered complete, applications and all required documents must be turned in all together.**

Please hand-deliver or mail a complete application to:

**Attn: Refugee Scholarship  
YMCA International Services  
3110 Hayes Road, Suite 300  
Houston, TX 77082**

OR

Email a complete application to: [refugee.scholarship@ymcahouston.org](mailto:refugee.scholarship@ymcahouston.org)

### A COMPLETE APPLICATION INCLUDES:

- **Completed Application Form.** The form is attached to this document. Application forms may be hand-written.
- **One (1) Recommendation Letter** Recommendation Letters may be written by a work supervisor, teacher, or someone who knows you and can testify to your academic ability and/or character. It is not appropriate for family members to write recommendation letters. Be sure your recommendation letter includes the phone number of the person who wrote it and how they know you.
- **Financial Information** Please provide your 2023 or 2024 Tax Return or W-2 Form. If you have none of these things, you may provide your last 3 pay slips. If you are a high school student or a dependent in your household, please provide parent/guardian financial information and your financial information if you have worked. If you are unsure which documents to submit, contact Jessica Laureano ([Jessica.Laureano@ymcahouston.org](mailto:Jessica.Laureano@ymcahouston.org))
- **Copy of High School Transcript, High School Diploma or GED Certificate** If you have attended college previously in the US, please submit those transcripts as well. If you attended university outside of the United States and have had your degree evaluated, please submit a copy of that also. Unofficial transcripts are accepted.
- **Copies of Immigrant Documents** Such as I-94 Departure/Arrival Record, Asylum Court Papers, Visa for SIVs, Permanent Resident Card, or Letter of Certification for Victims of Human Trafficking.

## **PART TWO:**

All candidates with completed application forms will be invited to the YMCA office for an in-person interview. To qualify for the scholarship award, **all eligible candidates must attend the interview.**

Once your completed application is accepted, you will be contacted by the YMCA for your interview date and time.



## Refugee Scholarship Program Application Form

### PERSONAL INFORMATION:

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name You Prefer to be called (if different from legal first name): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Alien Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (check one):    Male    Female

Date of Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship/Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Immigration Status upon entering the United States (check one)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Asylee                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cuban or Haitian Entrant    | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Immigrant Visa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victim of Human Trafficking |   |

### EDUCATIONAL STATUS:

1. Are you a graduating high school senior, have a high school diploma, have a GED/Hi-SET certificate or other high-school equivalency from another country? (Check one)    Yes    No
2. When did you receive your high school diploma or GED/Hi-SET? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Please fill in the following information regarding previous higher educational institutions attended.

<b>Educational Institution Name</b> (example HCC)	<b>Dates Attended</b> Date Began – Date Completed or Current	<b>Year Completed or Degree Awarded or Expected to Complete</b>	<b>Have you graduated yet?</b> Yes or No

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4. What is the name of the college, university, or vocational training you will attend in Fall 2024?

5. What is your college Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is your educational goal? Please describe what career path you are pursuing and what you intend to major in or which vocational training you are attending:

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### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Please list the most significant school, community, or extracurricular activities in which you have participated (for example: clubs, associations, religious participation, volunteer work, sports, etc.). This includes activities in the US **and** other countries.

Organization/Group Name	Time Commitment (how many hours/month)	Your activities

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

Please list your employment experiences **beginning** with the most recent job in the US **and** other countries.

Company Name	Position Held	Month/Year Began Work - Month/Year Ended Work

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## FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Number of People Living in your Household: \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of Each Person Living in your Household:

Total Annual Household Income from 2023:\$\_\_\_\_\_

Financial Documentation Provided (check one or more)

2023 tax return      2024 tax return      2024 W2      last three pay stubs

**REQUIRED CERTIFICATES AND PHOTO RELEASE:**

I certify that the information provided in this application and essays is, to the best of my knowledge, true, complete, and accurate. I have not knowingly withheld any facts or circumstances that could otherwise jeopardize consideration of this application. I understand that if any of the information is found to be false, it is sufficient cause for rejection or dismissal from the program. I understand that the information submitted in this application will be shared with the Refugee Scholarship Committee and the Board of Directors of YMCA International Services. If selected to receive this scholarship, I give permission for the release of application materials for promotional purposes. If I attend the award ceremony, I give permission for the release of any photos or videos taken of me and my guests for promotional purposes.

Signature of Applicant

Date \_\_\_\_\_