

Zonta International Women in Technology Scholarship

Frequently asked questions

1. What is the objective of the Women in Technology (WIT) Scholarship program?

With every industry becoming critically dependent on information technology, women can only have an impact on our future if they also play an active leadership role in information technology. The WIT Scholarship encourages women to pursue their education and careers in information technology and attain leadership positions of chief information officers (CIOs) and chief technology officers (CTOs). In 2021, Zonta International will offer up to 20 scholarships of US\$8,000 each.

2. Why is the Scholarship called Women in Technology and not Women in Information Technology?

The original intention was to simplify the name of the scholarship, but confusion has emerged about the disciplines that could be considered for application. The WIT Scholarship is set up to address the underrepresentation of women and girls in information technology studies and careers specifically. Therefore, the scholarship is limited to information technology and will not extend to other disciplines.

3. Who is eligible to apply?

Any woman who is pursuing an information technology degree at an accredited university/college/institute and has demonstrated an outstanding academic record during her study may apply. The candidate should be able to demonstrate initiative, ambition and commitment to pursuing a career in information technology. The applicant must have completed at least the first year of an undergraduate program and be enrolled in an information technology undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate program by 15 October 2021. Applicants must be enrolled full time until at least 30 April 2022 and must not graduate from their program before that date. For details, please see [Eligibility for the WIT Scholarship](#).

4. Is a student who is not pursuing a degree in information technology or a closely related field but has chosen information technology as one of the subjects in her studies eligible to apply?

No. To enable women to advance to leading positions in the information technology field, there is a pressing need for women to acquire higher qualifications and experience directly related to information technology. Consideration of other disciplines is not consistent with the purpose of this scholarship.

5. Is a student who is pursuing a 2-year postgraduate program and will graduate in the year following the application year eligible to apply?

Any person who intends to pursue a postgraduate program may apply as soon as she is admitted to the program (i.e., in the first year of the program). Any person who has already started her second year of a 2-year postgraduate program would not be considered as students cannot graduate before April 2022 and the funds are granted in May 2022.

6. What kinds of educational institutions are recognized as “accredited universities/colleges/institutions”?

An accredited institution can be a university, college or post-secondary educational institution which is accredited by national or local authorities to provide higher education and award professional and academic degrees, including bachelor, master and doctoral degrees.

7. How to apply?

All applicants must apply directly to the 2021 Zonta International Women in Technology Scholarship at <https://zontainternationalwomenintechnology.awardspring.com/Admin/Scholarships> and submit the application by 15 October 2021 to be considered. In the process of application, applicants are advised to print out the [Women in Technology Application \(For Preparation Purposes Only\)](#) to study what is required in advance. Applicants are also required to upload scanned official transcripts or PDFs in color, and to send requests to referees for recommendation letters. Applicants are responsible to ensure that the recommendations have been submitted through the [AwardSpring platform](#) by the deadline. Applicants should write a 500-word essay to describe their academic and/or professional goals and how the Women in Technology Scholarship will assist them in reaching their goals. Official verification of enrollment by the university/college/institution concerned should also be provided. Applicants will be notified of their status by April 2022.

8. What are the benefits of centralizing all applications at the international level?

The first pilot award cycle in the 2018-2020 Biennium revealed that there are a lot of similarities between the WIT Scholarship Program and the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program with many applicants pursuing a degree program in a country different from their home country. In order that the number of applicants from districts with a lot of technical universities would not be limited to only one from each district, it is considered that centralizing applications at the international level will provide greater flexibility and opportunities for applicants. Districts and Zonta clubs are welcome to encourage eligible candidates in their districts or clubs to apply and grant their own WIT awards. This second pilot program will be evaluated with results presented at the 2022 Convention in Hamburg.

9. Can districts or clubs have access to the details of applicants from their respective districts/clubs for the purpose of awarding their own district/club awards?

We are committed to honoring the privacy and wishes of all of our WIT Scholarship applicants and recipients at all times. Any information provided to Zonta International would not be disclosed to other parties. Any district or Zonta club which intends to organize its own award program may also print the [Women in Technology Application \(For Preparation Purposes Only\)](#) and design its own form for inviting applicants to apply.