



## Out for Education 2021 Scholarship Instructions

### OBJECTIVE

**Out for Education (OFE)** recognizes outstanding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer – plus (LGBTQ+) students and contributes toward their college education. This scholarship program celebrates the achievements of the individuals who are worthy of our support.

### SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION

Scholarship awards will be determined by funds available at the time they are granted. During the last several years, **OFE** has recognized and granted outstanding LGBTQ+ students multiple scholarships ranging from **\$1,000 over one year to \$10,000 over four years**.

Student must maintain a minimum **2.75** out of 4.0 GPA and a full-time student workload (24 hours over an academic year) to continue to be eligible.

**The scholarship recipient MUST provide an official transcript at the end of each academic year to be eligible for continued disbursement of funds for the following academic year.**

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The award of this scholarship will be based on a combination of achievement in the areas of academic excellence, leadership, extra- and co-curricular activities, and financial need.

Applicants will be required to complete the attached application and submit an essay. If an application is not complete on time and student has not reached out to OFE, applicant will forfeit their submission. The essay should include a biographical narrative discussing your self-identification as a member of the LGBTQ+ community. It needs to include your role in relation to your family, your school, your friends and community, and your personal and professional goals. This essay may differ from the traditional essays required by scholarship organizations, as we want to know about you as an individual.

### ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants must be attending or have attended a Houston-area (which includes Harris or a contiguous county) high school or college at the time of application and must be ages 17 - 25 (as of **February 28, 2021**). Students may use scholarship at any eligible college/university in the U.S.

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## SELECTION PROCESS – UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE SCHOLARS

To qualify for the selection process the student must submit:

- A completed application;
- A current *official transcript* in a sealed envelope;<sup>1</sup>
- An essay;
- A resume; and
- Two letters of reference (emailed as scanned copies directly to us by each reference)

OFE will judge each applicant's completed application, overall achievements, and financial need. The selection committee will then make preliminary selections for finalists who will be invited to an interview.

### INTERVIEWS

These finalists will be interviewed individually by a panel of community members **March 20 & 21, 2021**.

### SCHEDULE FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:

Applications, except for the transcript (see footnote 1, below), must be **emailed to [scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org](mailto:scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org)** no later than **February 28, 2021**, and must include a completed application, essay, and the resume.

References should be emailed separately by each reference, and each reference letter must also be **emailed** no later than **February 28, 2020**.

All completed forms must be emailed to [scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org](mailto:scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org) by the due date. **Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.**

Remember to mail **ONLY** your official transcript, to be **postmarked by February 28<sup>TH</sup>**, to the following address:

**Out For Education**  
**PO Box 667010**  
**Houston, TX 77266-7010**

### AWARDS CEREMONY

The awards ceremony will be held (tentatively) on **May 15, 2021**, location TBD. All scholarship recipients are expected to attend. **Students will be notified if they are receiving an award in the first week of May.**

If you forget any of these dates, please contact us on [Facebook.org/outforeducation](https://www.facebook.com/outforeducation) or email additional questions to [scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org](mailto:scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that you must send your official transcript, in a sealed envelope, to be **postmarked no later than February 28, 2021**, to the following address: **Out for Education, P.O. Box 667010, Houston, TX 77266-7010**. The rest of your application materials should be emailed, no later than **February 28, 2021**, to [scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org](mailto:scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org).

## OUT FOR EDUCATION 2021 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**Please type or print legibly:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (check preferred #)

Are you enrolled in high school or college/university? \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Age as of 02/28/2021: \_\_\_\_\_

High School Attending or Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Expected/Actual Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Class Ranking, if known (For example: 23 of 42) \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

College Currently Attending or Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Degree (BA, BS, etc.) & Major \_\_\_\_\_ Expected/Actual Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Class Academic Ranking, if known (For example: 23 of 42): \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

How do you self-identify?:    Gay    Lesbian    Bisexual    Transgender    Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't forget to send a current *official* transcript!**

**RESUME**

Submit a resume that lists the following: extra- and co-curricular activities, hobbies, achievements in and out of school, academic honors, and other experience pertinent to the receipt of this scholarship.

Do you participate in any LGBTQ+ -based youth groups?    Yes    No

If "Yes" for the question above, please list the youth group(s). If "no", please provide insight on your school queer environment.

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Are you "out" to anyone? Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

What is/will be your major field(s) of study in college? \_\_\_\_\_

Which educational institution(s) have you applied to or are you currently enrolled in?

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Which educational institution(s) have you been accepted to or are attending?

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**OFE ESSAY**

Please attach a typed essay. This is an essential part of the application that allows us to better understand your motivations for seeking higher education. This essay should be 500 words and should be a biographical narrative about your life: how do you interact with your family; what are your two proudest accomplishments; what impact do you have in your community or at school; what are your personal and professional goals; and how you expect to make future contribution to a better LGBTQ+ society? What **distinguishes** you from other applicants? Is there anything vital you want to share that we have failed to ask?

Limit essay to approximately **500 words**, focusing on key factors that allow us to learn items outside your resume.

*\*\*Don't forget to add your name in the UPPER-RIGHT HAND CORNER of each page\*\**

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

What are your anticipated total costs of college **per academic year**, including tuition, fees, room & board, and books? Please check the option below that you think is the most accurate:

Unknown                      <\$10,000                      \$10,001 - \$20,000                      >\$20,000

What sources of income do you anticipate using to pay your college costs? Indicate below each applicable source which has been granted and/or which is still in process.

Scholarships      Income from Work      Savings      Grants      Student Loans      FAFSA

What is your parent(s)/guardian total yearly income? Please select the option below that you think is the most accurate:

<\$25,000                      \$25,001 - \$50,000                      \$50,001 - \$75,000                      >\$75,000

Are your parent(s)/guardian **willing** to help you with the cost of your education/ If yes, how much can they contribute annually? \_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Do your parents/guardian presently provide college financial support for other siblings in your family? If so, how many?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not receive this scholarship, what steps will you take to pursue your education? Please list other scholarships/grants for which you have already applied. Note in parenthesis whether you have already been awarded this scholarship.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**COLLEGE INFORMATION**

In order to distribute scholarship funds to your educational institution, you must provide the following information PRIOR to classes resuming in fall. If you are unsure of the correct contact information to include, please call your school's financial aid/scholarships office and ask them what address scholarship checks from outside organizations should be mailed to –and to whose attention, if needed.

**Note that if you fail to provide the correct information, such failure may delay receipt of OFE scholarship funds at your school's financial aid office and delay the crediting of such funds to your account.**

Educational Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Aid/Scholarship Office Name: \_\_\_\_\_

University Street/Box Address: \_\_\_\_\_

University City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**You must provide a current *official* transcript at the end of each academic year (postmarked no later than **February 28**) in order to keep an ongoing scholarship.**

**NO TRANSCRIPT = NO MONEY**

**OFE SCHOLAR AGREEMENT**

**A. Providing Records -- If I am granted an OFE Scholarship, I agree to provide the following information to OFE while I am enrolled in a university/institution of higher learning and receiving said scholarship funding:**

1. I will supply OFE with a copy of my *current, official transcript* at the completion of each academic year (postmarked no later than **February 28**). Official transcripts must come in a sealed envelope from the school. **Remember, NO TRANSCRIPT = NO MONEY.**

2. Should I withdraw from the university after registration, I will promptly inform OFE so an application for a refund of scholarship funds can be submitted.

3. I will keep OFE current on all my addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail changes throughout the academic year.

**I understand that failure to provide the requested information may lead to withdrawal of ongoing scholarship funds.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**B. Publicity** -- If I am granted an **OFE** scholarship, I understand that from time to time OFE may wish to use my name and/or photograph in an **OFE** publication or in a publicity item submitted elsewhere by **OFE** for publication. By signing “yes” below, I give **OFE** a release to use my name and/or photo.

**Alternatively, I also understand that I may deny such permission without in any way jeopardizing my scholarship funding.**

Yes, you may use my name and/or photo for publicity \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

No, you may **not** use my name and/or photo for publicity \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

**C. Volunteer Assistance** – If I am granted an **OFE** scholarship, I understand that I *will* be asked to volunteer from time to time **AT LEAST** one event related to Out for Education and/or a fundraising event for an organization that donates to OFE. I understand that an unexcused failure to volunteer may disqualify me from continued scholarship support.

Signature

Date

**D. Communication** – Please follow contact us on [Facebook.com/OutForEducation](https://www.facebook.com/OutForEducation) or via email at [scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org](mailto:scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org) if you have any questions or to update the college that needs to receive your scholarship check.

**E. References** -- Two personal reference forms are enclosed with this package. Please select people who are not close friends or relatives but who know you well and can tell us about your capabilities and achievements. They should send the completed forms directly to the email address on the form, to be **received no later than February 28, 2021**. Please enter the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of your references in the spaces below.

**Reference 1:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street/City/State/Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant (e.g. Teacher, Counselor, Supervisor) \_\_\_\_\_

**Reference 2:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street/City/State/Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant (e.g. Teacher, Counselor, Supervisor) \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECKLIST FOR 2021 OFE SCHOLARS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ OFE application
- \_\_\_\_\_ Biographical Essay
- \_\_\_\_\_ Resume
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two letters of reference (emailed directly to us by each reference)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Current *official* school transcripts in a sealed envelope (**PHYSICAL COPY MAILED IN**)

Have questions on application? Please contact us on [Facebook.org/outforeducation](https://www.facebook.com/outforeducation) or email [scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org](mailto:scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org)

**TRANSCRIPT ARE TO BE MAILED TO:**

**OUT FOR EDUCATION**

**PO Box 667010**

**Houston, TX 77266-7010**

**Your checklist for a completed application, to be emailed no later than**

**February 28, 2021**

Students will forfeit scholarship application if packet is not complete and no special circumstances have been discussed with OFE PRIOR to deadline.

Please keep a copy of this entire application for your file. Again, remember that ALL application materials are to be emailed to [scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org](mailto:scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org) by the due date – **except for your current, official transcript, which MUS be postmarked by the due date.**



## OUT FOR EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP REFERENCE FORM

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is part of an international organization with more than 460 chapters. PFLAG and HATCH (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals) jointly created the PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation (PHYSF) in 1999, which offers a scholarship program to assist worthy LGBTQ+ youth in the Houston-area in pursuing a college education. The scholarship program is for Houston-area LGBTQ+ students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement while in high school or college. In October 2013, PHYSF changed its name to Out for Education to better reflect the scholarship organization's mission and core constituency.

Please complete the following to assist us in evaluating this student's application for this scholarship, which could be as high as \$2,500 per year, renewable for four years. The amount will depend on funding available when the scholarships are granted. We thank you in advance for your time and effort. Completion at your earliest convenience would be appreciated.

If you have any questions please feel free to email the following address: [scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org](mailto:scholarshipapps@outforeducation.org).

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please briefly describe your relationship to the Student:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Address (street/city/state/zip)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Feel free to approach your answer to the questions on the following pages in a conversational way – as though you were visiting with us about him/her. This is your chance to help us know this student as you do. And thank you in advance for your support of this student.

Please email the completed form, to be **received** no later than **February 28, 2021**, to **[SCHOLARSHIPAPPS@OUTFOREEDUCATION.ORG](mailto:SCHOLARSHIPAPPS@OUTFOREEDUCATION.ORG)**





4. How able is this student in securing funds for his or her college education through either help from family, student loans, other scholarships, etc.?

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5. What else do you consider important for us to know about this student regarding family, school, extracurricular activities, or any other aspect that you consider relevant to mention?

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*Please attach additional pages if you would like to include more information.*

Consider setting us as your **Smile Amazon Partner!** Search **Out For Education** on the NPO search.





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