

## WINNING INTERNATIONAL GRANTS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE

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**Annotation:** This article discusses international grants, strategies for winning them, the documents required for application and their importance, and reveals the current student performance in winning grants.

**Keywords:** Scholarship, motivation letter, transcript, recommendation letter, grant, scholarship, language certificate, international organizations, discount, diploma/grades, IELTS.

The youth issue is the most important direction for every country, including Uzbekistan. Because in order for the steps we are taking and the reforms we are implementing to bear fruit, we must start the movement by supporting young people. The "Uzbekistan - 2030" strategy also sets out many plans and goals related to the youth issue. Today, the desire of young people to win grants is increasing day by day. These scholarships provide financial assistance to students to help them pay for their college diploma. Scholarship is an English word, and if directly translated into Uzbek, it translates as "scholarship". Its original meaning is a discount on tuition, that is, a discount allocated by the state or university for students' expenses during their studies, based on their grades. These funds allow students to receive education that they would not otherwise have access to.

Grants go far beyond financial assistance for many students. They reward deserving students with the opportunity to pursue higher education. The advantage of this is that by making the most of these opportunities, young people who receive grants are provided with many opportunities and conditions, and discounts are provided for their expenses during their studies, living and studying abroad, and they can focus on their studies without any worries.

These opportunities ensure that they receive quality education. There is probably no young person who does not want to study abroad among those who want to become masters of their craft and qualified specialists in the future. Since most young people have never been abroad, and when it comes to grants in our country, they only understand grants allocated by the state, even those with strong knowledge do not have a complete understanding of the procedure for studying abroad on a grant basis and the correct way to study on it, and they miss out on opportunities to study abroad.

When we hear about a full-time grant, it's natural to imagine that the people who will win it will be multilingual, have done various projects, have high scores on language certificates, are self-confident, or are determined to change the world. That is, we think that at least people who are socially active and have excellent grades are worthy of a grant. In fact, grants are not only for excellent or active people. In fact, the requirements of many grant programs specify exactly these qualities, that is, good grants are awarded to candidates who are leaders, excellent, and have clear goals, who are socially active.

However, the granting organization imagines a promising candidate differently than we imagine. An active candidate is not always the one who has written 2 scientific papers, participated in 3 conferences, or participated in 5 exchange programs, as we think. Many grant programs do not target people who have achieved unexpected successes and extraordinary abilities, but rather people who are sincerely, passionately working on themselves, dedicated to their dreams, have a clear goal and have their own opinion. Grant-granting universities and organizations also give grants to candidates who have not yet achieved great success, but have started some positive work

and made some progress. They understand well that people are people. A person who graduated from university with a “4” grade, worked in an organization for 2.3 years, actively participated in some conferences that were not difficult to attend, and received some certificates on Coursera will win. In many cases, the level of greatness sufficient for a grant may be much lower than imagined.

Of course, ordinary people can also win amazing grants. We were surprised when one of my classmates once won a grant that covered all expenses to study in the United States. We studied at the same university, he was a person like us, we also got the same grades, we were smart enough to do what he was smart enough to do, and he didn't do anything significant, there were more talented people than him, but he won one of the best grants, we thought maybe our people could win such “terrible” grants. Look, what an amazing grant, how many opportunities for education are created, it even buys your ticket.

If the acceptance rate is low, the grades are not excellent, he has not done anything useful, socially significant in his life, and no matter how many young people in the country are applying for this position, you should strive to get it. They also do not expect the results of a PhD-level scientist from young people. Of course, there are many smart people, but grants are awarded only to those with high morals. To do this, first of all, you need to work hard, gain knowledge, find good ideas, take even small steps in practice, and sincerely search. Most importantly, you should not compare the results of these efforts with others. Many grants are awarded to candidates who have not yet achieved great success, but who have a broad outlook, different plans and ideas, and are confident in themselves. Without hesitation in submitting documents and without being afraid to say “I can't win,” you should simply apply on time. Otherwise, ordinary people like us will win it.

We should not forget why grants exist, because universities or organizations that provide grants are not institutions that allocate money for charity. They constantly sweat and are under pressure to keep up with competitors, improve their positions, and meet market demand. If in such a situation they also provide grants to a few or a hundred young people whom they do not know well and give each of them a certain amount of money, there will be their own reasons for this. In addition to supporting talented students, the university or organization that provides grants also announces grand programs with beneficial goals for themselves, such as research, improving various processes or teaching, increasing quality, selecting good personnel, or strengthening their reputation.

Grants are awarded to candidates who are likely to do useful work in the future, who are expected to graduate from the university with excellent results, and who will bring publicity and prestige to the institution. If an institution, for instance, a bank or other organization, allocates funds, then candidates who are likely to become good personnel in the future are selected. Therefore, before applying for a grant program, it is necessary to thoroughly familiarize yourself with who is providing it, which organization, or what the institution is engaged in. If the university itself allocates funds, it is important to familiarize yourself with the most frequently raised topics, mission, and other information on its website, because some grants have a specific goal and theme, that is, candidates who are consistent with the goals and ideology of the grantor are selected. When submitting a document, the grantor should think about how the institution will benefit.

### **Literature review**

Scholarships come in many forms: Scholarships that are awarded through interest, 100%, 80%, 50% or in some universities, various amounts of scholarships are awarded by sponsoring companies to certain students and in addition, additional scholarships are awarded through various achievements and awards. Government grants and special grants organized by universities are the

most common grants today and are more beneficial than other grants, i.e. fully funded. Grant recipients: are provided with a monthly stipend, in some cases, free accommodation and food, are exempt from the tuition fee, and travel, insurance and visa costs are covered. The first thing to do to win a grant is to familiarize yourself with the grant in detail, what kind of grant you are applying for, what are its requirements, and what age, level, and direction the program is suitable for. In fact, becoming a grant recipient is not difficult, on the contrary, it is easier than many people think.

“One mouth, two ears, one word, forty-two listens”. As the saying goes, the sooner a river runs, the faster it finds, the sooner it can become its owner and direct itself to study. Many foundations announce a “Deadline” once a year. If you miss this, you will have to wait another year, and even if you are suitable for the scholarship provider in every way, you will receive a rejection due to late submission of documents, and all your efforts will be wasted. Therefore, you should pay close attention to the deadline and not miss it. So, those who are prepared will never go hungry, and those who know the way will never be late. When preparing a letter of recommendation and motivation, you should also take this into account, and you should not write one motivation letter, make minor changes to it, and submit it to several grants.

A gem does not lie on the ground (if it is a gem). Another key document that guarantees a grant is a curriculum vitae (CV), which is very different from our Uzbek language curriculum vitae, usually consisting of one or one and a half pages. In this, you need to present yourself to the grant-giving foundation, that is, be able to show yourself. In the process of compiling a CV, you should pay great attention to simplicity, focus on “hobby” and avoid generalities as much as possible, because the admissions committee is accustomed to stereotyped general ideas and therefore pays the least attention to such sentences. There should be no boredom and generalized phrases in the process of reading the curriculum, because this is not professionalism, and to avoid this, you need to express your opinion only on your own behalf, based on your worldview, openly and always realistically, know your peer, make a peer, in order to become a grantee, instead of submitting an application to well-known and prestigious grants, it is advisable to submit an application to funds that correspond to your current status, especially since the chances of obtaining a smaller, less extensive grant are higher.

A motivational letter is a 2-page essay in which the candidate should be able to reveal his knowledge, potential and leadership skills, state his goals and why he is applying for this particular field, what he can bring to the chosen university, how he will benefit his future career, why this candidate should be selected for the grant and the benefits he will receive from this program should be clearly and in detail described. One should not be too modest when preparing a motivational letter, personal statement and the like, because others may not notice until they show their achievements. It is enough to be able to beautifully show the qualities, qualities, abilities, work that he has, his achievements to date and how he will benefit the granting institution and why he is suitable for this grant. The next document is a letter of recommendation. A letter of recommendation from a university or workplace that expresses the candidate's good points. This is important, it can be felt how suitable the candidate is for the program. You should never plagiarize by copying other people's work. As they say, there is a catch in an easy job, the reviewers will immediately notice this and will completely reject applications that are not perfectly prepared, or they can cause a bad first impression, so it is necessary to check it carefully before sending it.

The spoken word is like a shot. Errors caused by incomplete concentration of thoughts in the text make it difficult to win a grant, and they will consider it simply copying. A very common mistake in the application process is sending incomplete documents.

Diploma\Grades - a document that reflects the academic performance of the candidate. In some cases, grades can play a role. Although this document is requested for almost all grants, grades are not very important in winning a grant, that is, grades of 90%, IELTS 8.0, but there are many students among us who did not win a grant. Therefore, if the grades are not as expected, you should not lose heart and try harder. If you explain in the motivation letter why the grades are not excellent with a valid reason, you can be accepted for a grant. This does not mean that you can do it even if you do not study, of course, the better the grades, the higher your chances of winning. You also need to know in order to be notified. Many scholarship funds, of course, can find out information about the candidate through these sites, if this person is present on these social networks and these networks provide a professional impression of you. The first impression is important, especially the picture in the application attracts the attention of grantees because it can tell 40% of what kind of person you are. Use social networks like Google, StepStone, Xing, LinkedIn and Facebook to your advantage.

Generally, IELTS in English is required to be at least 6.0. TOEFL IBT 90 or other equivalent level is required, however a high level of language proficiency does not play a role in winning a grant. The language certificate is sufficient to study at that university and understand the knowledge provided. Therefore, it is advisable for candidates who have received 7.0 from IELTS to clearly state their goals and directions and write a good motivation letter, rather than trying to get 8+. SAT, GRE/GMAT certificates may not be required to win a grant, but getting a higher score from them gives an advantage for admission to the program. Another important factor in the scholarship process is the candidate's social activity, because behind all scholarships lies the cultivation of a useful person for society and the establishment of relationships.

More than 1.7 million scholarships are awarded each year. However, only 7 percent of college students receive a scholarship. The U.S. Department of Education allocates approximately \$46 billion in scholarships each year. The average scholarship for 2-year institutions is \$6,010. On average, first-time undergraduates receiving government grants and scholarships at a 4-year college receive approximately \$14,890 annually. Related reports include Financial Aid Statistics | College Fund Statistics.

The cost of college is rising. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, tuition, fees, and fees at public colleges and universities increased by 28 percent from the 2008-2009 school year to the 2018-2019 school year. At private, for-profit schools, college costs increased by 19 percent after adjusting for inflation. Keeping up with the rising costs can be difficult. A scholarship program may require you to complete a FAFSA if it is a need-based award.

Grants can fill a financial gap for some families. They can help students with unmet financial need or can be merit-based. Typically, students do not have to repay scholarships. According to a Sallie Mae report, 7 in 10 families (73%) used scholarships to pay for college in the 2019-2020 school year. In the 2018-2019 school year, 82% did so. A total of 33% of families used grants and scholarships. This helped them pay for college. Many students could use them to cover tuition, books or other expenses. This can help ease financial stress.

General scholarship statistics: more than 1.7 million scholarships and private scholarships are awarded in the United States each year (Dickler, 2020), 25% of college students receive money from scholarships and grants (Sally Mae, 2021), there are approximately 1,581,000 scholarships available to undergraduate and graduate students each year (Scholly, 2020), however, only one in eight college students receives a scholarship (Kantrowitz, 2019), 97% of students who receive a scholarship receive \$2,500 or less (Kantrowitz, 2020), and only 0.2% of students receive \$25,000 or more (Unigo, 2021), and 50% of students who receive private scholarships experience scholarship

turnover. At the same time, 62% of schools reduce institutional grants, 55% reduce student loans, and 24% reduce student work (Kantrowitz, 2021).

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, it is worth noting that there are many types of government grants. The opportunities and benefits are also quite large. At the same time, winning these grants is not easy due to the high competition. Even if it seems that there are many other competitors, you should try your luck, even if the candidate seems weaker than the competitors, but we are talking about situations where the general requirements of the grant are met. It is recommended to start preparing early! Most of our fellow students study abroad on a "Scholarship", that is, grants. Because education in foreign countries is expensive, and living and studying are not affordable for many Uzbek families. Therefore, those who intend to study abroad will certainly try to find a grant.

Therefore, you should always set a goal correctly and not stop working until you achieve it. Winning a grant can change your whole life, or at least save you money, so if you see a grant program and it suits your field, just apply. Even if it seems like you can't win at first, you should apply. Don't give up on yourself and never give up. After all, a high goal leads to victory!

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