



# Ellucian Foundation PATH Scholarship Program 2023-24 Application Guide for Higher Education Institutions in Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

Thank you for your interest in applying for funding from the Ellucian Foundation's **2023-24 Progress \* Accomplishment \* Thriving \* Hope (PATH) Scholarship Program**. In this fourth year of the program, the Ellucian Foundation is inviting applications from Associate's and Bachelor's degree-granting, not-for-profit institutions in selected countries for funds that will allow them to assist students who have experienced economic hardships that could negatively impact their ability to remain enrolled. The selected countries are Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

The Ellucian Foundation will award block grants of \$10,000, \$15,000, and \$25,000 (USD) to selected institutions, which will use the funds to provide awards of up to \$1,500 (USD) to eligible students. Institutions will have considerable flexibility in determining the selection criteria and individual award amounts that best fit their affected students' needs.

This guide will assist you in completing and submitting the application, available at [stayonpath.org](https://stayonpath.org). It will also offer suggestions that we hope will help you to become a successful applicant.

## Application Timeline

Applications for 2023-24 **PATH Scholarship** funding are due to the Ellucian Foundation by May 26, 2023 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Institutions will be notified of the results of their application on or about September 15, 2023. Decisions of the committee will be final.

Selected institutions will receive their funds on or about January 31, 2024, and will be required to disburse those funds no later than March 29, 2024. Institutions will then be required to use the reporting format provided to submit awarding and disbursement details to the Ellucian Foundation by **December 13, 2024**.

Key dates for the 2022-23 **PATH Scholarship** are listed below:

March 27, 2023	PATH Scholarship materials available to schools
May 26, 2023	Institutional application deadline
June 19, 2023 to July 14, 2023	Committee review of applications
On or about September 15, 2023	Institutions notified of committee decisions
September 18 – January 30, 2024	Awardees evaluated for grant eligibility through the Charities Aid Foundation America (CAFA)
January 31, 2024	Institutions receive PATH Scholarship funds from the Ellucian Foundation to distribute to students
March 29, 2024	PATH Scholarships distributed in full by recipient institutions
December 13, 2024	Institutions complete reporting requirements

## Application Overview

### Institutional Eligibility

Institutions must meet the following criteria to apply:

- Be an Associate's or Bachelor's degree-granting, not-for-profit institution. (System offices that oversee multiple institutions may apply, but each school will be evaluated individually.)
- Be approved by their Ministry of Higher Education or other national government ministry.

Institutions must also agree to established terms and conditions, which include:

- Affirming that **PATH Scholarship** funding will not replace or supplant other grant assistance.
- Committing to the timeframe of awarding funds and reporting data.
- Affirming that it will award only eligible students.
- Affirming that it is authorized to accept and disburse funds from a U.S.-based nonprofit foundation subject to eligibility validation through the Charities Aid Foundation America (CAFA).

Institutions will be asked for demographic information about the institution, and basic questions about their population experiencing financial hardships. In addition to demographic information and required affirmations, institutions will be asked to provide information concerning the:

- Top three current needs of their student population. Anticipated effects of the funding on recipients;
- Philosophy and approach for how the institution will select students (including any additional criteria imposed);
- How the proposal assists students experiencing economic hardships, ensuring that they are able to continue their education;
- Plans for promoting the program;
- Proposed selection process;
- Plans for how the funds will be disbursed;
- Proposed individual award amounts;
- Percentage of enrolled students who meet the established eligibility criteria;
- Compliance with reporting requirements, including the need to collect permission from recipients to share personally identifiable information with the Ellucian Foundation, if applicable;
- Current student retention and/or persistence initiatives and how the PATH Scholarship funds would assist with those efforts; and
- Efforts made by the institution, if any, to provide new, expanded, and/or modified programs designed to serve the evolving needs of the community and respond to students' financial challenges.

## Student Eligibility

In addition to having been adversely affected by financial challenges, students must meet the following minimum criteria to be eligible to receive funds:

- Be a regular student, defined as:
  - Seeking an Associate's or Bachelor's degree
  - Not dual-enrolled in high school and postsecondary education.
- Currently enrolled at least half-time at the institution.
- In good academic standing at time of awarding and disbursement;
- Either a resident or non-resident student

# Fund Disbursement

The **PATH Scholarship** program is designed to help institutions meet the immediate needs of their students who are experiencing financial challenges, so that those students can continue to attend. For that reason, the funds must be fully disbursed by March 29, 2024. Institutions may choose the disbursement methods that best meet their students' needs.

Institutions may determine that some recipients' needs might require more than the \$1,500 (USD) maximum award. In those rare cases, institutions may request exceptions to the maximum award. To request an exception, email [blueicon@nasfaa.org](mailto:blueicon@nasfaa.org) or Briana Faulkes at [Briana.Faulkes@ellucian.com](mailto:Briana.Faulkes@ellucian.com) with a brief narrative explaining the reason for the exception. Requests for exceptions will be evaluated on the basis of 1) being reasonable and 2) not diminishing the impact of the **PATH Scholarship** funding for other recipients or the institution.

# Fund Reporting

The Ellucian Foundation uses data to evaluate the success of the program, and to plan improvements for subsequent years. To that end, institutions will be required to report the following information about each awarded student:

- Full name
- Age at time of disbursement
- Program of study
- Citizenship information
  - Citizen of your country
  - Non-citizen/international student
- Anticipated graduation/completion date
- Award amount
- Brief (not to exceed 100 words) explanation of the student's need for PATH Scholarship funds
- Copies of student statements (which are encouraged and can be anonymous) that describe the importance of receiving the funds in allowing their continued enrollment or completion of their academic program.

This information is due to the Ellucian Foundation by December 13, 2024.

# Application Tips

We hope that the following will help you complete and submit a successful application:

- Follow instructions closely to ensure that your application is complete and submitted by the established deadline.
- Consider all of the ways that students may have experienced financial challenges that placed their continued enrollment in jeopardy, and how those students can best demonstrate that impact to you.
- Make a compelling case for how you will use the funds to ensure that your recipients will have the best chance of completing their educations.
- Consider how **PATH Scholarship** funding will complement other available funding to provide optimal assistance to your students.
- Contact **NASFAA's Blue Icon Advisors** at [blueicon@nasfaa.org](mailto:blueicon@nasfaa.org) or Briana Faulkes at [Briana.Faulkes@ellucian.com](mailto:Briana.Faulkes@ellucian.com) if you have questions about the application or process.