

THE CHICAGO SOCIETY FOUNDATION

James and Lillian Kulze Scholarships – 2025

Program Description

The Chicago Society Foundation is a tax-exempt foundation affiliated with the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, Lodge #1450 of the Polish National Alliance. The Foundation will be funding up to five scholarships, consisting of one \$10,000 scholarship and four scholarships of \$5,000 each, to qualified undergraduate or graduate students pursuing full-time studies at an accredited college or university in the United States. HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE. Scholarships will be awarded in April 2025 for the forthcoming academic year **September 2025 - May 2026**. Selection of Kulze Scholarship winners will be made on a competitive basis by the Foundation.

More information about The Chicago Society and the Foundation may be found at our website, www.chicagosocietypna.org.

Eligibility

United States citizens or legal permanent residents, of Polish ancestry, with demonstrated financial need, who reside in the United States and attend an American academic institution, and who have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or equivalent. Only one member per immediate family may receive a scholarship during any given academic year. Previous Kulze Scholarship recipients are not eligible.

Selection Criteria

Selections are based on application completeness, recommendations, academic excellence and achievements, interests and motivation, the applicant's essay, and interest in Polish subjects/ involvement in the Polish American community. Financial need is an important requirement for an award. Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis, determined in the sole discretion of the Foundation, whose decisions are final. Scholarships are available to college, graduate or professional school students who will be continuing their studies into the academic year beginning in the Fall 2025.

Application Procedure

A complete application includes the following materials:

1. Scholarship Application and Financial Aid Form
2. Statement of Purpose/essay, which must be signed and dated by the applicant
3. Official Transcripts
4. At least one, but no more than two, Academic Letters of Reference
5. A current photo of applicant suitable for publication in our newsletter

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS OR RESPONSES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED, SO PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. DEADLINES WILL BE STRICTLY OBSERVED. APPLICATIONS MUST BE TYPED, NOT HANDWRITTEN. Use a typed addendum pages(s) if necessary.

Notes:

1. The Scholarship Application and the Financial Aid Form are attached to this description. Responses must be complete.
2. In the Statement of Purpose/essay discuss your actual or intended major, and academic and career goals. Your statement of purpose is to be no longer than three typewritten pages, double spaced, 12 font, SIGNED AND DATED on the last page. Include your full name and page numbers on each page of your statement. The Statement is an important component of your application, so please prepare it thoughtfully and note the requirements above.
3. Submit official transcripts to include at least one full year of academic work through Summer 2024 and Fall semester 2024-2025 when available; Your institution should submit official transcripts via USPS.
4. Submit one (no more than two) confidential letters of reference from academic sources. Letters must be written on school/university letterhead and should be sent by professors directly to the Foundation via e-mail to kulzescholarship@chicagosocietypna.org.
5. Submit a photo suitable for publication in our Newsletter. A smartphone-type photo is acceptable.
6. The Foundation retains discretion to require evidence of the required Polish ancestry and financial information. Your application submission indicates your consent to publish your Statement of Purpose/essay in the Society's monthly Newsletter to its members in the event you are awarded a Scholarship. The Foundation cannot confirm receipt of materials by phone but will attempt to notify an applicant by email when a complete application has been received. All materials submitted become the property of the Foundation and will not be returned.

Send hard copy of Official Transcripts to: Kulze Scholarships Committee, Chicago Society Foundation, 333 Busse Hwy #973, Park Ridge, IL 60068

Documents which MUST be sent by e-mail (scholarship@chicagosocietypna.org) include: Scholarship Application; Statement of Purpose/Essay; Financial Information Form; but NOT official transcripts. Documents submitted by email must be in pdf format with any required signatures plainly visible.

Deadline for application and supporting materials: March 15, 2025 (this deadline will be strictly observed, except that Fall semester 2024 official transcript is to be submitted promptly when available).

Notification of results will be made in writing on or about mid-April 2025.

Changes in contact information after submission of application materials may be forwarded via e-mail to kulzescholarship@chicagosocietypna.org.

Kulze Scholarship Application

(2025-26 Academic Year)

I, _____, have read and understand the conditions of the Kulze Scholarships explained in the current Notes to Candidates for the Chicago Society Foundation James and Lillian Kulze Scholarships for Illinois Students. I affirm that I plan to pursue a career as presented in those documents. I give permission to officials of my institution to release transcripts of my academic record and other information requested for consideration in the Kulze Scholarship program. I understand that this application will be available only to members of the Foundation's Scholarship Committee. I waive the right to access letters of recommendation written on my behalf. I affirm that all of the information contained in this application is my own work, and that I am a United States resident of Polish ancestry. I affirm the information contained herein and in my Financial Information Form is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date _____ Signature _____

Legal name in full _____
Last Name First Name M.I.

Permanent address _____
Number, Street, and Apartment Number
City State Zip

Your address at school (if different) _____
Number, Street, and Apartment Number
City State Zip

Permanent residence is established by: (At least two must apply.)
Home telephone (____) _____
School telephone (____) _____
 Home address for school registration
 Place of registration to vote
 Family's primary residence
 Other: _____
E-mail address _____
Date of birth _____ Age _____
Month/Day/Year

(Check one) I am a U.S. citizen U.S. permanent resident

Enter father's and mother's names (or spouse's name) (including maiden name), address(es) and occupations:

Name of attending institution _____

Current cumulative GPA _____ on a scale of _____

Undergraduate major(s) _____

Number of college credits earned to date _____ Total number of credits required for graduation _____

Expected date to receive degree _____ Degree you will receive _____

Graduate degree(s) sought _____ Concentration of study(ies) _____

Name _____

1. List the secondary school from which you graduated (or will graduate from), and all higher education institutions attended. Include summer, study-abroad, exchange programs and your current institution.

School Location Dates Attended

2. List college and high school activities (student government, sports, publications, school-sponsored community service programs, student-faculty committees, arts, music, etc.). List in descending order of significance. List no more than a total of five college/high school activities.

College Activity Dates Offices

High School Activity Dates Offices

3. List public service and community activities (homeless services, environmental protection/conservation, advocacy activities, work with religious organizations, etc.). Do not repeat items listed previously. List in descending order of significance. Please note that involvement in the Polish American activities is of particular, although not exclusive, interest. You may list up to four.

Activity Role Dates # weeks Active

Name _____

4. List any government activities (internships with government agencies, partisan political activities, ROTC/military, etc.). List student government under Item 2.

Activity	Role	Dates	# of Weeks Active
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5. List part-time and full-time jobs and non-government internships since high school graduation.

Type of work	Employer	Dates	Average # of Hours/Week
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6. List awards, scholarships, publications or special recognitions you have received. List in descending order of significance, not to exceed three.

7. As discussed in the Notes to Candidates under Notes (B), provide a separate Statement of Purpose/essay, not to exceed three pages, typed, double-spaced, 12 font, discussing your actual or intended major and academic and career goals. It will be helpful to discuss in your Statement your interest in Polish subjects and/or involvement in the Polish American community. Please adhere to the other requirements listed in Notes (B).

Name _____

8. What additional personal information do you wish to share with the Foundation in its consideration of your application? Please do not exceed three or four paragraphs.

9. If you are selected as a Kulze Scholarship winner, will you be able to attend as our guest our sponsored Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch in Chicago on May 3, 2025? This is not a requirement but helpful to know.

10. How did you hear about the Chicago Society Foundation Kulze Scholarship program?

Note: An application will not be complete without the submission of a complete Financial Information Form, as financial need is a required component for a Kulze Scholarship award.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FORM

Applicant's First and Last Name:
Marital Status and Maiden Name if Married:
Number of Siblings and Ages:

INCOME

1. Indicate your Total Income from 2023 and spouse's if married (Form 1040, Line 9):
2. If an undergraduate, indicate parents' Total Income from 2023 (Form 1040, Line 9):
3. Any substantial changes in income expected in 2024? Explain:

4. Any extraordinary personal or family expenses, such as medical/hospital, siblings' college tuition expenses, etc. during 2024/5?

APPLICANT'S EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES

5. List name of University, Tuition and Fees, Housing Costs, Books and Supplies, and any other educational expenses for the 2023/4 academic year:

SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID (*Attach* FAFSA form and most recent Form 1098-T)

6. Tuition Waivers/Discounts received, expected or applied for:

7. List all Scholarships and Sources Received, Receivable or Applied for at any time during 2024 or applicable to the academic year 2024/5:

8. Loans Received, Expected or Applied for applicable to academic year 2024/5:

CERTIFICATION BY APPLICANT

I certify that the information supplied by me on this form is, to the best of my knowledge, true, correct and complete. I authorize the selection committee to process, review and discuss my information on a confidential basis.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent (If parent's information is included)

Date