

Scholarship Resources for H-4 / H-1B Dependent Students

For H-4 students, the **biggest source of money is usually not outside scholarships but institutional merit scholarships from colleges themselves**. Merit scholarships often start with admission applications, so students should not wait to apply to a school they are already interested in. Applying early in admission cycles can get students in the door earlier to be reviewed for institution-specific aid, increasing their eligibility.

College and University Scholarships (Best Place to Start)

Many colleges offer merit scholarships to all admitted students regardless of citizenship status. Some institutions also provide need-based aid for international and non-citizen students.

Students should:

- Review each college's financial aid website.
- Search for "international student scholarships."
- Ask admissions offices whether H-4 students qualify for institutional aid.

Key Question H-1B Students Should Ask:

Have students email admissions offices at the schools they hope to apply to.

"I am an H-4/H-1B dependent visa holder attending high school in Georgia. Am I eligible for all institutional merit scholarships, and are there any scholarships specifically available to international or non-citizen students?"

At some institutions, departmental or honors college scholarships are not advertised on their sites. This simple email can open doors!

In some instances, **Smaller private colleges can be cheaper than public universities**

Families often compare State flagship sticker price vs. Private college sticker price, but the comparison should be actual cost after scholarships vs. actual cost after scholarships. Sometimes, private colleges have more merit aid than state schools. So, don't rule out private colleges based on their sticker prices.

EducationUSA Scholarship Database

EducationUSA, a U.S. Department of State program, maintains a searchable database of scholarships for students studying in the United States.

Make sure to search by degree level = Undergraduate(Bachelors) and check each scholarship website for citizenship requirements before applying.

InternationalScholarships.com

A comprehensive scholarship search platform specifically for international students.

Students can search for:

- Merit scholarships
- Need-based awards
- Field/Major-specific scholarships
- Undergraduate and graduate funding opportunities

MPOWER Financing Scholarships

MPOWER Financing offers several scholarships for international students studying in the U.S. and Canada. Citizenship is often not required.

Examples:

- Monthly Scholarship
- Women in STEM Scholarship

Student Independent Searches: Scholarships That Do Not Require U.S. Citizenship

Students should search specifically for:

- "No citizenship requirement scholarships"
- "International student merit scholarships"
- "Global student scholarships"
- "Private scholarships open to non-citizens"