

1-Does ISF have a postgraduate scholarship program?

No. ISF's current scholarship is offered to undergraduate students only. In fact we receive so many e-mails asking for postgraduate scholarships that we have decided not to respond to them. Please see the links at www.iranianscholarships.com for other scholarships available to Iranian-American students.

2- Why do I have to send in the form IRS 4506?

By signing this form you give ISF the right to ask IRS for a copy of your tax return. We keep this form in our files. If you are awarded a scholarship and sometimes in future we receive a report that you had sent us a falsified your tax return. Then we use this form to obtain a copy of your tax return and see if the report we received is correct or not. If you have falsified your tax return then you are in big trouble!! You have to give us back all the money you have received with interest!!

3- Do I have to sent in both tax return and 4506 form?

Yes, you must send in both forms for yourself and your parents.

4- Do I send money with the form 4506?

No. If we decide to use this form then ISF will pay the fees associated with the form.

5- My parents are in Iran, what can I do?

We have a special form that you have to fill, ask for it.

6- Do I need to send all the documents at the same time?

No, you should get your application in before May 31st or deadline if it has been extended. Your transcript can arrive later if it is not ready by the end of May.

7- Is a GPA of 3.5 a minimum requirement to apply for the scholarship?

Yes.

Students who have a GPA of 3.5 or higher are listed on a short list, which is then presented to the scholarship selecting committee.

8- Is this scholarship a Merit based scholarship only?

ISF scholarships are both merit based and need based. However ISF offers two scholarships that are not need based. These are:

- a- Merit based scholarships are given to one or two students with outstanding academic records. Students with National Merit Scholarships are strongly advised to apply for this scholarship as well.
- b- Excellence in community service scholarship is given to one or two students who show exceptional community work and leadership.

These scholarships are not full scholarships. The amount of these scholarships is more in line with those of National Merit Scholarships.

Not all the top students applying for Merit based scholarships will receive a financial reward. Only one or two students will be selected by the selecting committee to receive ISF's Merit Scholarship.

9- I am a high school student. When can I apply?

Once you have been accepted at a 4- year university.

10- Will I receive a scholarship based solely on a GPA of 3.5?

Read the whole answer: ISF scholarships are determined based on both merit and need of the student. Your parents' income is a very important fact on your application. In addition to the 3.5 GPA we require the following information to determine the most qualified candidates for the scholarship:

- Timely completion of your application
- Essay describing your accomplishments and your goals in life. (Your essay must be emailed to admin@iranianscholarships.com)
- At least two letters of recommendation, one from a teacher and one from an organization where you did volunteer work.
- A complete copy of your parents' tax returns - including any W2's and 1099 forms
- A complete copy of your tax returns if you have filed taxes.
- Any other documents that we may request.

ISF has a Merit scholarship too, but your GPA has to be very high. The Merit scholarship is not need based. ISF Merit Scholarship is for high school students who are entering a 4-year university.

11- Why do I have to do community work?

For many reasons, most importantly:

- a- Doing community service helps you develop strong leadership skills. We are looking for leaders of tomorrow who give back to the community.
- b-In order to be able to get into a good university or later on be able to get a job with a good company in USA, you need to have a resume of community service. We want to make sure our community aware of this fact.

12- Am I guaranteed a scholarship if I have a GPA of 3.5?

No,

That is not guaranteed. As much as we would love to give to everyone who has a GPA higher than 3.5, our resources and funds are limited, so we try to select around 10 students each year. It also depends on how much funds we manage to raise. If we don't raise funds required to support 10 students, then we have to reduce the number of students who receive the awards. If you have a GPA of 3.5 you will make it to our short list, but many other factors are involved in getting selected. For example: How good is your essay? Have you done any volunteer work? Can you document your parents'

income? Have you had summer jobs? How well have you filled out your application? Do you reply to our e-mails in a timely manner?

13- My GPA is 3.4. Do I qualify?

We recommend that you apply for the scholarship. Work hard to improve your GPA to reach the 3.5 mark by July, so you can make the short list. If you don't reach the 3.5, you do not qualify.

14- I have just come from Iran and my English is not good enough to get an A in many subjects. Can you accept my application with a lower GPA than 3.5?

No. Sorry, we cannot.

15- I am a student at an Ivy League university and my GPA is less than 3.5. I don't think it is fair that someone from a State University with GPA of 3.5 can qualify but I don't?

We don't agree with this logic, since we think that at any university you must work hard to receive a high GPA. We have limited resources. We cannot give scholarships to everyone. Therefore, we need to draw the line somewhere. We have many successful members of society who have attended State Universities.

16- Where do you get the money for these scholarships?

The funding for the scholarships is totally raised by fundraising events and donations from generous people. This is thoroughly a community effort. We have not received a penny from any government or any organization belonging to any government. We raise all our funds by holding fund raising events. All the members of the ISF Board of Trustees and all committee members are volunteers and do not receive any money from the ISF. ISF does not have a payroll or anyone on 1099 payment schedule. In fact, all the members of the committees are themselves donors to the fund. The children of the committee members and board of trustees are not allowed to apply for ISF scholarships.

17- My parents live in Iran and they don't pay taxes in the US. Can I apply?

Yes. You may apply, but you must give us a lot of information about your parents and how you are supported in the US. We will ask you for documentation. We will do our best to verify the information about your source of financial support.

18- I don't have an e-mail. Can I apply?

No. Please don't apply. We don't have a way to communicate with you in a timely manner. We don't have the resources to send you mail or call you.

19- I sent in my application, but since then my email has changed. What should I do?

You had better send us your new e-mail immediately. If you don't reply to our e-mails we will remove you from the short list.

20- How do I know my application has been received?

You need to email us your essay. Once we receive your essay, we reply to your e-mail within one week. If you haven't heard from us within one week send us another e-mail or call us.

21- How many years is this scholarship for?

The scholarship is awarded yearly. You may apply up to 4 years or until you graduate (whichever comes first) as long as your GPA is over 3.5 and you take at least 15 units each academic term, you do 100 hours of community work per year, and your parents' financial situation doesn't change.

22- I am a graduate student at Harvard. Can I apply?

No. Sorry, this scholarship is only open to undergraduate students.

23- I am a Medical student at UCLA. May I apply?

No. Sorry, again this scholarship is only open to undergraduate students.

24- What do I have to do once I receive the scholarship?

You should be proud of being awarded this scholarship. We expect you to be our ambassador in your community. You must do 100 hours of community work each year. Also you should help us with fundraising. You are required to attend our Yearly Scholarship Gala in Silicon Valley (If you are from outside of the San Francisco Bay Area we pay for your transportation and hotel stay.)

25- Could you not publish my name if I receive a scholarship?

With an attitude like that you just disqualified yourself from receiving a scholarship. The students who receive the scholarship should be very proud of this award since they have proven to be among the best and the brightest.

Not only will we publish your name during the years that you receive the scholarship, we reserve the right to use your name and picture forever to promote our fundraising efforts. We don't have any government backing. We have to rely on the community to raise money to award scholarships. As it is, we have heard false rumors that we award our scholarships to our family members and friends. If we don't publish your name, the community may think we are keeping the money we receive, even though the members of our board of trustees and committee members donate the majority of the fund money. We are working very hard to receive more donations and to be able to establish an endowment. For that we need the help of every Iran-American student who applies for this scholarship.

26- Am I guaranteed to get \$10,000.00?

No, you are not. It depends on the area where you live, the college you are attending, and how much money we manage to raise.

27- What was the percentage of students who received scholarships last year?

We had over 150 new applicants. 98 of these students made it to the short list. We only had funds to award 15 new scholarships.

28- Do I have to be a Moslem to apply?

We don't ask any questions about your religion. Some students volunteer this information. We don't consider your religion during our selection process. In the past we have awarded scholarship to students from all faiths. One of the students awarded a scholarship preferred to wear Islamic Hejab. We have never asked anyone about his or her religion and never will.

29- Do I have to be studying engineering to qualify?

We don't ask our students what they are studying. We feel strongly that our community needs to have a wide variety of professionals in all fields. We are proud of all successful Iranian-Americans. We would like to help our next generation to be more successful and to be proud of being Iranian-Americans. We support you in your chosen field of interest.

30- I live in Iran, I very much want to come to the US to study and become a doctor. Can you help me?

Sorry, we don't have the resources. We don't reply to e-mails from outside US.

31- I live in Canada; I have been accepted at McGill University. Can I apply for your scholarship?

No, ISF can't send money outside of the US.

32- I am a junior and will be going to France for study abroad, can I apply for ISF scholarship?

No. ISF does not support students during their study aboard year. ISF does not send any money outside the US, and does not allow its scholarship recipients to send money out side of the US.

33- I am a junior at an university can I apply for scholarship?

Yes.

34- I am a student at the City Community College. Do I qualify for the ISF Scholarship?

No, but when you transfer to a 4-year college you can apply.

35- I am 25 years old and independent of my parents, Do you still need my parents tax return?

Yes.

36- I am married and not dependent on my parents do you still need my parent's tax return.

Yes. In this case we need three sets of tax return. You and your spouse, your parents and your spouse's parent's tax return. They all have to send in the IRS form 4506 too.

37- My parents are divorced and my father does not support me.

We need his tax return and a letter to say why he doesn't support you. IRS form 4506 for your father too!!