

Eligibility

Form Title	Eligibility
First Name	Carl Vincent
Middle Name [optional]	Ladres
Last Name	Kho
For which scholarship are you applying? (Applications with an incorrect region selected will be unsubmitted and not reviewed.)	Generation Google Scholarship (North America)
I was enrolled as a full-time student in a bachelor’s program at an accredited university or college in North America OR enrolled as a high school senior in North America in the 2024-2025 academic year. I intend to be enrolled as a full-time student in a b	Yes
My major field of study in college or university is or will be computer science, computer engineering, or a closely related technical field.	Yes
{{Privacy-Policy-English-Privacy-Policy-Heading}}	
{{Privacy-Policy-Form-Field-Label}}	Yes

Personal and Contact Information

Birthdate	01/22/2004
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Mailing Address	
Street	16 Turk St
City	San Francisco
State/Region	CA
Postal Code	94102-2808
Country	United States

Permanent Address same as Mailing Address	No
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Permanent Address	
Street	Phase 1, Block 5, Lot 7, San Rafael Street, Collinwood Subdivisio
City	Cebu
State/Region	Central Visayas
Postal Code	6015
Country	Philippines

Country of Citizenship	Philippines
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Gender	Male
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Educational Information

Form Title

Educational Information

High School Information

Name of High School	Science and Technology Education Center
Country of High School	Philippines
High School Start Date	08/2016
High School Graduation (or expected graduation) Date	06/2022
High School Dates Check (Admin)	2130
Your High School GPA (average or cumulative)	96
Maximum GPA Available (eg: 4.0 or 100)	100

College/University Information

I am currently in college or university, pursuing a bachelor's degree. You may want to review the scholarships' eligibility criteria.	Yes
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Current College/University

Your College/University GPA (average or cumulative)	3.67
Maximum GPA Available (eg: 4.0 or 100)	4
What is/was your current year in school for the 2024-2025 academic year?	3rd Year
What is your current college major?	Computer Science
Further explanation of college major [optional]	Computational Sciences (Applied Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence)
Current college or university	Minerva Schools at Keck Graduate Institute
Current college or university city	San Francisco
Current college or university country	United States
Current college or university date of enrollment	09/2022
Are you a visiting or exchange student at your current college or university?	No
Are you planning to attend the	Yes

Educational Information (continued)

same college or university in
2025-2026?

College or University for 2025-2026

Intended enrollment status for
the 2025-2026 academic year

Full time

Expected date of college or
university graduation

05/2026

Transcripts

Please upload a complete copy
of your official transcript for
your current institution. We
encourage you to include an
English certified translation, if
possible.

Uploaded 08/01/2025



Activities -Page 1

Activity 1			
Activity	[Champion] Google AI for Impact Hackathon - Founder & Lead Developer, Padayon Ko (AI Scholarship Platform)		
Activity Type	Leadership program	Current Activity	Y
From	06/2022	To	
Average Hour Per Week	15	Est. Total Hours	240
Additional Description	<p>As the winner of the Google AI for Impact Hackathon, Padayon Ko is a full-stack AI platform I founded to address the financial barriers preventing 3.3 million Filipino students from attending college. Built on Google Cloud (Vertex AI, Cloud Run, Chirp, Synthesize), the platform provides multilingual (English, Tagalog, Cebuano) scholarship matching, AI-powered essay assistance, and skill development tools. Starting as a Notion repository filled with scholarships from volunteer work in the small island of Lapu-Lapu City, Padayon Ko has already empowered over 500 students at my former high school (with 3 international scholarships recipients), demonstrating a direct, scalable impact on educational accessibility in my home community.</p>		
Activity 2			
Activity	[Dell Technologies] Chaos Engineering for pre-release enterprise cloud-native hardware solution		
Activity Type	Paid or unpaid internship	Current Activity	Y
From	05/2025	To	
Average Hour Per Week	40	Est. Total Hours	480
Additional Description	<p>At Dell Technologies, I am designing and implementing a multi-scenario fault injection framework for enterprise-level infrastructure. This project proactively identifies system vulnerabilities to enhance resilience and prevent outages. My work involves a major pivot in project direction, requiring rapid adaptation and development to meet new objectives. I am also seeking mentorship from senior leaders, including requesting a GPU from Michael Dell to accelerate my project.</p>		
Activity 3			
Activity	[Northeastern University] Game Developer & UX Researcher, ReGame-XR Lab		
Activity Type	Paid or unpaid internship	Current Activity	N
From	06/2023	To	08/2023
Average Hour Per Week	40	Est. Total Hours	480
Additional Description	<p>Leading a team of 6 Neurodivergent individuals at Northeastern University's Bouvé College of Health Sciences, I developed core mechanics for a VR therapy game in Unreal Engine 5, targeting a 15% improvement in communication skills for nonverbal children with autism. This role required me to rapidly learn a new engine (UE5) and apply my technical skills to a deeply human-centered problem, solidifying my passion for creating accessible technology with real-world health benefits.</p>		



Activities -Page 2

Activity 4			
Activity	Youngest Full-Stack Developer & Product Designer		
Activity Type	Paid job	Current Activity	N
From	01/2020	To	08/2022
Average Hour Per Week	40	Est. Total Hours	5548
Additional Description	<p>Hired at 16, I quickly grew from a designer to a full-stack developer at Symph.co, a leading Philippine software agency. Among many other projects, I demonstrated leadership by spearheading a proof-of-concept for BPI, one of the nation's largest banks, which was instrumental in securing them as a major client. This experience taught me to take initiative and drive projects forward, even as the youngest member of a senior team. This kept me productive during the pandemic.</p>		
Activity 5			
Activity	Philippines Community Tech Lead (Typhoon Relief & Digital Divide Initiatives)		
Activity Type	Volunteer work	Current Activity	N
From	06/2020	To	03/2022
Average Hour Per Week	10	Est. Total Hours	900
Additional Description	<p>I have consistently leveraged technology to address urgent community needs. As co-developer of Tabangay Ta, our typhoon relief web app aided 6,601 victims and raised \$6,138. As Creative Marketing Lead for One Gadget One Child, I helped raise \$2,680 and coordinate logistics to convert pre-loved gadgets and fix them to provide 126 students with devices for distance learning during the pandemic. These initiatives demonstrate a sustained commitment to using my skills for social good and community empowerment.</p>		

Essays

Form Title

What impact will the scholarship have on your academic goals? Describe any financial circumstances affecting your need for a scholarship. (limit: approximately 100 words)

Essay 1: Tell us about a time when you faced a complex problem without a clear path to a solution. Describe the steps you took to get to the solution in detail. What resources and solutions did you consider? What did you learn from this experience? Keep in

Essays

Shortly after the stories detailed in the essays below, my grandfather was diagnosed with lung cancer and my brother needed emergency surgery, draining our family in medical bills. The money we had reserved for my tuition was gone. The pressure became immense, forcing me to work three jobs last summer just to stay afloat, leading to burnout that threatened the very academic excellence I was fighting for.

Without the money from my city's mayor and donors, I wouldn't have the funds to make my first flight to San Francisco. The problem is compounded by the weak Philippines Peso to US Dollar conversion.

The email from the University of British Columbia felt like a finish line. My award nomination was "very strong," and I was on the waitlist for a full-ride scholarship. For weeks, that hope was everything. Then the final email came: "Regrettably we are not able to offer you an award." I felt like a failure.

With my dream path closed my first coping mechanism was brute force: applications, applications, applications.

The chaos was unsustainable. Information was scattered across dozens of websites and social media groups, and the application processes were a nightmare. My first real step was to treat this logistical failure as a system design problem. I built a simple scholarship database in Notion, my first attempt to create order. This tool, the seed of what would become Padayon Ko, helped me organize my search. Then someone messaged me about Minerva University. I applied, and I got in despite the 1.9% acceptance rate with a partial scholarship.

For a moment, it felt like I had won.

Then, my dad and I did the math. The first words out of his mouth were, "Sorry, but we can't afford this." The partial scholarship wasn't enough. I had solved one problem only to hit a bigger, harder wall.

I stopped thinking like a student waiting for permission and started thinking like a founder creating an opportunity. The solution wasn't another database, it was a marketing campaign for a single product: me. Drawing on advice from my mentor at Symph, who always pushed me to think unconventionally, I decided to build a personal website. The resources weren't grants or loans, they were my own skills in Webflow, UI/UX design, and storytelling. I engineered carlkho.com not just as a portfolio, but as a direct appeal for sponsorship. A tool to bypass traditional bureaucratic gatekeepers. I detailed my projects, my passion for research, and my journey from a public high school in Cebu. I then strategically sent it to local business leaders, philanthropists, and my city's Mayor.

The result was beyond my expectations. The Mayor's office responded, awarding me a grant to cover my flight. An ex-McKinsey advisor who saw

Essays (continued)

my story was so impressed that he matched the city's donation on the spot. I had closed a portion of the funding gap myself.

Incredibly, Webflow later discovered my site and featured my story on a Times Square billboard.

From this experience, I learned that the most complex problems aren't solved by working harder within a broken system, but by engineering a new one. This journey taught me that an authentic story, amplified by technology, can be more powerful than a perfect application. It's the reason I'm building Padayon Ko today: to give every Filipino student the tools to build their own doors when the ones in front of them are closed.

Essay 2: From your personal experience, describe a barrier that prevents equitable access to the field of technology. What do you believe is the root cause? What actions have you taken to address this inequity and what actions do you plan to take? Please f

Growing up on the island of Lapu-Lapu City, Philippines, the world of global technology felt like a distant galaxy. I knew opportunities existed beyond my island, but accessing them was like trying to navigate a foreign star chart without a map. This experience revealed a barrier to equitable access in tech: informational and geographic isolation. The root cause is not merely a lack of resources, but the centralization of knowledge and opportunity. Critical pathways like scholarship listings, test preparation, and mentorship are concentrated in capital cities, creating a systemic barrier that filters out immense talent from the provinces long before it has a chance to shine.

My actions have been focused on dismantling this barrier piece by piece.

My most significant effort is Padayon Ko, a full-stack AI scholarship platform I founded in 2021. To combat the chaos of scattered information, I built a centralized database of local and international scholarships. I initially sought volunteer labor for filling opportunity details in a Notion Database. Later, I used Gemini to automate extracting and posting these opportunities to Facebook, meeting students on the platform where they are most active. This solved the discovery problem, but access is more than just awareness.

Recognizing that expensive standardized tests like the SAT are a luxury, I built MathYou, a Socratic math tutor powered by the Gemini API that makes preparation engaging by converting abstract problems into scenarios aligned with a student's personal interests, with answers verified by Google's Code Execution. For interview preparation, a major hurdle for non-native English speakers, I developed Fluent, a communication practice tool using Google Cloud's Chirp (STT) and Synthesize (TTS) to have live, voice-only conversations. To bridge the articulation gap, the Achievement Tracker and Super Essays features guide students to transform their lived experiences into the quantified, impactful narratives that selection committees look for while ensuring their unique voices are not lost in translation. This was co-written by Gemini with embeddings about their profiles.

This drive to build immediate, tech-based solutions for my community is a consistent thread in my work. Before Padayon Ko, I co-led the "One

Essays (continued)

Gadget One Child” initiative, raising funds to provide 126 students with devices for distance learning during the pandemic. I also co-developed the “Tabangay Ta” web app, which became a vital lifeline connecting over 6,600 victims with resources after a devastating super typhoon.

My future actions are aimed at scaling this impact. In the short term, I plan to partner with more schools, as this is already piloted in my Alma Mater with 3 international scholars already. Plus government bodies to integrate Padayon Ko into the national educational framework.

My long-term vision is to reverse the very brain drain I am currently a part of. After completing my studies in AI and Computational Neuroscience, my ultimate goal is to establish R&D hubs in the Philippines.

Talent is distributed universally, but opportunity is not. I want to build opportunities at home that I had to travel the world to find.

Family and Household

Form Title	Family and Household
Are you a first generation college student?	No
In 2024, were you claimed as a dependent by your parent(s)?	No
In 2024, what was your family size?	4
In 2024, what was your family's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)?	Less than \$24,600
Does your family own or rent their home?	Own
Does anyone in your household receive or qualify for any of the following benefits?	None of the above
I understand that financial need is an eligibility requirement for the Generation Google North America Scholarship and I may be required to submit a Student Aid Report (SAR) or Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (my own or my parents' form, depen	Yes
Describe any financial circumstances affecting your need for a scholarship. In your answer be sure to describe any obstacles you have overcome to get to where you are today. What goals will this scholarship enable you to accomplish?	<p>My 2024 Adjusted Gross Income of \$10,220 is the financial reality of my journey as a self-supporting international student. As a non-U.S. citizen, I am ineligible for federal aid programs like FAFSA, leaving me entirely dependent on my own limited resources. Surviving on this income in San Francisco has led to portioning a single five-dollar sandwich to last an entire day or subsisting on a box of cereal for a week.</p> <p>This financial pressure escalated when unforeseen medical emergencies (grandfather's lung cancer) depleted my family's savings (lack of health insurance). These were funds originally intended for my education. To continue my studies, I was forced to work three jobs last summer, leading to a significant burnout that compromised the academic focus I had fought so hard to maintain. This has been an immense and sustained obstacle over the past four years.</p> <p>The Generation Google Scholarship would provide the stability needed to move beyond this cycle of survival.</p>