

# Your Friendly Guide to Scholarship Eligibility for Afghan Students

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**Note:** This guide is specially crafted for Afghan students who haven't completed high school but dream of studying abroad on a scholarship. We'll walk you through every step, provide helpful links, and share tips to make your journey smoother.

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# Welcome Message

**Hello there!**

If you're reading this, you're probably dreaming of studying abroad on a scholarship but aren't sure where to start. Maybe you haven't completed high school yet, and the whole process seems overwhelming. **Don't worry!** This guide is here to help you every step of the way.

We're going to explore how you can become eligible for scholarships, even if you haven't finished high school. We'll cover everything from completing your education to improving your English, preparing for tests, and applying for scholarships.

**Let's embark on this exciting journey together!**

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## Understanding Scholarships

### What is a Scholarship?

A **scholarship** is financial support awarded to students to help pay for their education. Scholarships are like gifts—you don't have to pay them back! They can cover tuition fees, books, accommodation, and sometimes even living expenses.

### Why Scholarships are Important

- **Financial Assistance:** Scholarships help you afford education that might otherwise be too expensive.
- **Opportunities:** They open doors to studying at prestigious universities around the world.
- **Recognition:** Earning a scholarship recognizes your achievements and potential.

### Types of Scholarships

- **Merit-Based:** For students with excellent academic records or talents.
  - **Need-Based:** For students who need financial assistance.
  - **Country-Specific:** Some scholarships are specifically for students from certain countries, including Afghanistan.
  - **Field of Study:** Scholarships for specific fields like engineering, medicine, or arts.
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## Step 1: Completing Your High School Education

Before you can apply for a bachelor's degree scholarship, you need to have a high school diploma or an equivalent certification.

## **Option 1: Finishing High School in Afghanistan**

### **Why Finish High School?**

- It's the foundation for higher education.
- Universities require proof of high school completion.

### **How to Do It**

- 1. Enroll in School**
  - If you're not currently in school, find a local high school where you can enroll.
  - Talk to school administrators about enrollment requirements.
- 2. Focus on Your Studies**
  - Attend classes regularly.
  - Participate actively and do your homework.
  - Seek help from teachers if you're struggling with any subjects.
- 3. Aim for Good Grades**
  - Scholarships often consider your academic performance.
  - Create a study schedule to manage your time effectively.
- 4. Stay Motivated**
  - Remember your goal of studying abroad.
  - Keep in touch with friends and family who support your dreams.

## **Option 2: Getting an Equivalent Certification (GED)**

If finishing high school isn't possible, you can get an equivalent certification like the **GED (General Educational Development)**.

### **What is the GED?**

- It's a test that certifies you have high school-level academic skills.
- Accepted by many universities worldwide.

### **How to Get the GED**

- 1. Learn About the GED**
  - Visit the official GED website: [GED.com](https://www.ged.com)
  - Understand the subjects: Reasoning Through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies.
- 2. Prepare for the Test**
  - Use free online resources:
    - **Khan Academy** for math and science: [khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org)
    - **GED Practice Tests: Test-Guide.com**

- Study guides and books:
  - **Kaplan GED Test Prep**
  - **McGraw-Hill Education Preparation for the GED Test**
- 3. **Find a Testing Center**
  - Use the GED website to locate a testing center near you.
  - Due to location constraints, you might need to travel to a neighboring country.
- 4. **Register for the Test**
  - Create an account on **GED.com**.
  - Schedule your test dates.
  - Pay the exam fee (look for financial assistance if needed).
- 5. **Take the Test**
  - Stay calm and focused.
  - Remember, you can retake sections if necessary.
- 6. **Receive Your Certification**
  - Once you pass all sections, you'll receive your GED certificate.
  - Keep it safe; you'll need it for university applications.

**Important Note:** Always check with the universities you're interested in to ensure they accept the GED.

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## Step 2: Improving Your English Skills

### Why English is Important

- Most international universities teach in English.
- Scholarships often require proof of English proficiency.
- Good English skills help you adjust to life abroad.

### How to Improve Your English

1. **Start with the Basics**
  - **Alphabet and Pronunciation:** Ensure you know how to pronounce all letters.
  - **Basic Vocabulary:** Learn common words and phrases.
2. **Use Online Resources**
  - **Duolingo:** [duolingo.com](https://www.duolingo.com) – Fun, game-like lessons.
  - **BBC Learning English:** [bbc.co.uk/learningenglish](https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish) – Lessons on grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.
  - **British Council – LearnEnglish:** [learnenglish.britishcouncil.org](https://www.learnenglish.britishcouncil.org) – Comprehensive resources for all levels.
3. **Practice Daily**
  - **Listening:** Watch English movies or listen to English songs.
  - **Speaking:** Try speaking in English with friends or family members.
  - **Reading:** Read English books, newspapers, or websites.
  - **Writing:** Keep a journal in English.

#### 4. Join Online Communities

- **HelloTalk:** [hellotalk.com](https://hellotalk.com) – Language exchange with native speakers.
- **Tandem:** [tandem.net](https://tandem.net) – Find language partners worldwide.

## Preparing for English Proficiency Tests

### Common Tests:

- **IELTS (International English Language Testing System)**
  - Website: [ielts.org](https://ielts.org)
- **TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)**
  - Website: [ets.org/toefl](https://ets.org/toefl)
- **Duolingo English Test**
  - Website: [englishtest.duolingo.com](https://englishtest.duolingo.com)

### How to Prepare:

1. **Understand the Test Format**
  - **IELTS:** Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking.
  - **TOEFL:** Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing.
  - **Duolingo Test:** Adaptive test covering reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
2. **Use Official Preparation Materials**
  - **IELTS Official Prep:** [ielts.org/usa/prepare](https://ielts.org/usa/prepare)
  - **TOEFL Practice:** [ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/prepare](https://ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/prepare)
  - **Duolingo Test Prep:** [englishtest.duolingo.com/guide](https://englishtest.duolingo.com/guide)
3. **Take Practice Tests**
  - Helps you get used to the timing and format.
  - Identify areas where you need improvement.
4. **Join Preparation Courses**
  - **Online Courses:**
    - **Udemy:** Search for IELTS or TOEFL preparation courses.
    - **Coursera:** Offers courses like "TOEFL Preparation Specialization".
  - **Local Classes:**
    - Check if any language centers in your area offer test prep courses.
5. **Register for the Test**
  - Choose a date giving you enough time to prepare.
  - Register online via the official websites.
6. **On Test Day**
  - Get plenty of rest the night before.
  - Arrive early with necessary identification.
  - Stay calm and focused.

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## Step 3: Preparing for Standardized Tests

Some universities require standardized test scores as part of their admission process.

## Understanding the SAT and ACT

### SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)

- **Website:** [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org)
- **Sections:** Reading, Writing and Language, Math, and an optional Essay.

### ACT (American College Testing)

- **Website:** [act.org](https://act.org)
- **Sections:** English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test.

### Why They Matter

- They assess your readiness for college-level work.
- High scores can improve your chances of getting scholarships.

## How to Prepare for These Tests

1. **Familiarize Yourself with the Test**
  - Understand the format and types of questions.
  - Check out sample questions on the official websites.
2. **Use Free Online Resources**
  - **Khan Academy SAT Prep:** [khanacademy.org/sat](https://khanacademy.org/sat)
  - **ACT Academy:** [academy.act.org](https://academy.act.org)
3. **Study Guides and Books**
  - **The Official SAT Study Guide** by College Board.
  - **The Real ACT Prep Guide** by ACT, Inc.
4. **Create a Study Schedule**
  - Dedicate specific hours each day to study.
  - Alternate between subjects to keep it interesting.
5. **Take Practice Tests**
  - Simulate test conditions by timing yourself.
  - Review your answers to understand mistakes.
6. **Consider Online Courses**
  - **edX:** Offers SAT prep courses.
  - **Magoosh:** Provides affordable prep courses for both SAT and ACT.
7. **Register for the Test**
  - Choose a test date and location that suits you.
  - Register online via the official websites.

**Note:** Due to changes in admissions policies, some universities may not require these tests. Always check the specific requirements of each university.

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## Step 4: Finding Scholarships and Universities

### Where to Look for Scholarships

1. **Scholarship Databases**
  - Scholars4Dev: [scholars4dev.com](https://scholars4dev.com)
  - ScholarshipPortal: [scholarshipportal.com](https://scholarshipportal.com)
  - Afghanistan Scholarships: [opportunitiesforafghans.com](https://opportunitiesforafghans.com)
2. **University Websites**
  - Visit the international student section.
  - Look for scholarships or financial aid pages.
3. **Government Scholarships**
  - Fulbright Program: [foreign.fulbrightonline.org](https://foreign.fulbrightonline.org)
  - DAAD Scholarships (Germany): [daad.de](https://daad.de)
4. **International Organizations**
  - UNESCO Scholarships: [unesco.org](https://unesco.org)
  - World Bank Scholarships: [worldbank.org](https://worldbank.org)
5. **Local Embassies**
  - Visit or contact embassies of countries you're interested in.
  - They often have information on available scholarships.

### Researching Universities

1. **Make a List**
  - Identify universities offering your desired program.
  - Consider factors like location, tuition fees, and language of instruction.
2. **Check Admission Requirements**
  - Academic qualifications.
  - Language proficiency.
  - Standardized tests.
3. **Explore Financial Aid Options**
  - Scholarships specifically for international students.
  - Work-study programs.
4. **Read Student Reviews**
  - Websites like **StudyPortals** or **TopUniversities**.
  - Gives you insight into student life and campus facilities.
5. **Attend Virtual Fairs**
  - Many universities host online events for prospective students.
  - Great opportunity to ask questions directly.

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## Step 5: Preparing Your Application

## **Gathering Necessary Documents**

1. **Academic Transcripts**
  - Official records from your high school or GED scores.
  - Must be translated into English if originally in another language.
  - Certified copies may be required.
2. **English Proficiency Test Scores**
  - IELTS, TOEFL, or Duolingo English Test results.
3. **Standardized Test Scores**
  - SAT or ACT scores, if required.
4. **Passport**
  - A valid passport is necessary for international applications.
5. **Financial Statements**
  - Some universities require proof of ability to cover expenses not covered by scholarships.

## **Writing a Personal Statement**

### **What is a Personal Statement?**

- An essay where you tell the university about yourself.
- Opportunity to showcase your motivation, goals, and why you're a good fit.

### **How to Write One**

1. **Brainstorm Ideas**
  - Reflect on your experiences, achievements, and challenges.
  - Think about what makes you unique.
2. **Create an Outline**
  - Introduction: Grab the reader's attention.
  - Body: Discuss your academic interests, experiences, and goals.
  - Conclusion: Summarize your key points and express enthusiasm.
3. **Write the Draft**
  - Be honest and authentic.
  - Use clear and concise language.
  - Avoid clichés and generic statements.
4. **Get Feedback**
  - Ask teachers, friends, or family to read it.
  - Consider their suggestions for improvement.
5. **Proofread and Edit**
  - Check for grammar and spelling errors.
  - Ensure it flows smoothly.

## **Getting Letters of Recommendation**

1. **Choose the Right People**



- Teachers, mentors, or employers who know you well.
    - They should be able to speak about your abilities and character.
  - 2. **Ask Politely and Early**
    - Give them plenty of time.
    - Explain your goals and why you need the letter.
  - 3. **Provide Necessary Information**
    - Details about the scholarship or program.
    - Your resume or a summary of your achievements.
  - 4. **Follow Up**
    - Gently remind them as the deadline approaches.
    - Thank them sincerely after they complete it.
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## Step 6: Applying for Scholarships

### Online Application Process

1. **Create an Account**
  - On the university or scholarship portal.
2. **Fill Out Application Forms**
  - Provide accurate personal and academic information.
  - Double-check for any errors.
3. **Upload Required Documents**
  - Follow the specified formats (PDF, JPG, etc.).
  - Ensure all documents are clear and legible.
4. **Write Any Additional Essays**
  - Some applications require short essays on specific topics.
  - Follow the same guidelines as the personal statement.
5. **Pay Application Fees (if applicable)**
  - Some universities may have a fee.
  - Check if fee waivers are available.
6. **Review and Submit**
  - Go through every section carefully.
  - Once submitted, you may not be able to make changes.

### Tracking Your Applications

1. **Keep a Spreadsheet**
  - List all universities and scholarships you've applied to.
  - Include submission dates and any login details.
2. **Check Your Email Regularly**
  - Universities may contact you for additional information.
  - Add their email addresses to your contacts to avoid spam filters.
3. **Prepare for Interviews**
  - Some scholarships require an interview.

- Practice common interview questions.
  - 4. **Stay Patient**
    - Application results may take weeks or months.
    - Use this time to continue improving your skills.
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## Additional Resources and Links

### Educational Websites

- Coursera: [coursera.org](https://www.coursera.org) – Free courses from universities.
- edX: [edx.org](https://edx.org) – Access to university-level courses.
- OpenLearn: [open.edu/openlearn](https://open.edu/openlearn) – Free learning from The Open University.

### Helpful Videos

- IELTS Preparation
  - IELTS Liz: [youtube.com/user/ieltsliz](https://www.youtube.com/user/ieltsliz)
  - British Council IELTS: [youtube.com/user/BritishCouncilLE](https://www.youtube.com/user/BritishCouncilLE)
- TOEFL Preparation
  - Magoosh TOEFL: [youtube.com/user/MagooshTOEFL](https://www.youtube.com/user/MagooshTOEFL)
  - ETS TOEFL: [youtube.com/user/TOEFLtv](https://www.youtube.com/user/TOEFLtv)
- SAT Preparation
  - Khan Academy SAT:  
[youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqG356ExoxZV\\_U1TTOdtISV6TiUnP4t7E](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqG356ExoxZV_U1TTOdtISV6TiUnP4t7E)
- Scholarship Application Tips
  - Afghan Youth Channel: (Search on YouTube for relevant channels)
  - Study Abroad Guide:  
[youtube.com/channel/UCz4jHQT\\_NWlJ9J3sEOO5Eew](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz4jHQT_NWlJ9J3sEOO5Eew)

### Websites for Practice and Learning

- Grammarly: [grammarly.com](https://www.grammarly.com) – Helps with writing and grammar.
  - Quizlet: [quizlet.com](https://www.quizlet.com) – Flashcards for vocabulary building.
  - Memrise: [memrise.com](https://www.memrise.com) – Learn new words with interactive games.
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## Tips for Success

1. **Start Early**
  - Give yourself plenty of time to prepare.
  - Avoid last-minute stress.
2. **Stay Organized**

- Keep all your documents and notes in one place.
  - Use folders (physical or digital) to separate different applications.
  - 3. **Set Realistic Goals**
    - Break down big tasks into smaller, manageable steps.
    - Celebrate small achievements along the way.
  - 4. **Seek Support**
    - Talk to teachers, mentors, or friends who can guide you.
    - Join online forums or groups for scholarship applicants.
  - 5. **Take Care of Yourself**
    - Get enough sleep and eat healthily.
    - Exercise to keep your mind and body active.
  - 6. **Stay Positive**
    - Believe in yourself and your abilities.
    - Don't get discouraged by setbacks.
  - 7. **Be Persistent**
    - If one opportunity doesn't work out, keep trying.
    - There are many paths to achieving your dreams.
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## Conclusion

Embarking on the journey to study abroad on a scholarship is a big step, but with determination and the right guidance, it's absolutely achievable.

Remember:

- **You're Not Alone:** Many students have been in your shoes and succeeded.
- **Use Available Resources:** There are countless tools and people ready to help.
- **Keep Your Goal in Sight:** Whenever things get tough, remind yourself why you started.

We hope this guide has given you a clear roadmap to follow. **Believe in yourself, stay focused, and take it one step at a time.**

**Best of luck on your exciting journey ahead!**