



The AJ Birkbeck Scholarship

Application – Due April 1, 2024

Purpose

To provide financial support for eligible applicants to complete and disseminate a PFAS-related research project in the fields of public health, environmental science, public policy, or social sciences.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicant must be attending an accredited U.S. college or university.

Applicant must be planning to pursue a career in an environmental field.

At the start of the term for which the scholarship is sought, the applicant must:

- Be enrolled as a full-time student who has junior, senior, or graduate student status.
- Have a declared major and a course of study leading to an environmental career. Preferred courses of study include environmental engineering, physical or natural sciences, natural resources, environmental law, public health, social science, public policy, or environmental education.

Conditions

This is a one-time, \$3,000 scholarship per student. Scholarship checks will be payable jointly to the scholarship recipient and the respective university or college. Scholarships may be used for tuition, books, laboratory fees, publication expenses, conference travel, and other academic purposes.

Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to revise and resubmit an application during a subsequent year.



Application procedure

Students will be required to complete these components:

An essay (800 to 1,000 words) describing the following:

- The proposed research project, anticipated outcomes, budget, and plans for dissemination.
- The applicant's career goals and how they will promote better understanding, awareness, and/or solutions to current or future environmental challenges posed by PFAS chemicals.

A resume showing all full- and part-time employment since high school graduation and while in college; semesters with dates of attendance; and extra-curricular activities listed in chronological order.

Statement of major, GPA, year in school or graduate school, and a copy of the applicant's transcript (un-official transcript is acceptable).

Semester and year that scholarship is being requested for.

The name and phone number of a professor, academic advisor, or department chair who has agreed to provide a recommendation for the applicant and who can confirm the applicant's course of study and academic status.

Selection of recipient

Evaluation criteria is as follows:

The quality of the essay, which will be of primary interest to the Scholarship Committee and should express the reasons for the applicant's interest in PFAS research, the goals and significance of the project, outcomes, and a timeline.

Scholastic achievement, GPA, significant coursework, awards, publications, and presentations.



Selection of recipient (cont.)

Student extracurricular activities, including volunteer work, participation in professional and civic organizations, and advocacy for PFAS-related causes.

Applications will be evaluated by the Scholarship Committee. If in the opinion of the Committee, suitable applications are not received, scholarships will not be awarded. Applicant names and addresses will not be included in the information provided to the Scholarship Committee.

Photos and statements

Scholarship recipients agree to allow AJ Birkbeck Scholarship Committee and members to publish scholarship recipients' name, image, and possibly other application information. This includes publishing on social media and on the AJ Birkbeck Scholarship Committee website. Recipients may also be asked to furnish photographs and an interview to be incorporated into publication.

Funding

Scholarship funding is provided from the AJ Birkbeck Scholarship Fund managed by the Scholarship Committee of the Michigan Environmental Council. Funds are derived from donations, member contributions, corporate sponsorships, and event revenues.

Questions

Please contact AJ Birkbeck Scholarship Committee Chairperson Dr. Richard R. Rediske at redisker@gvsu.edu.

Apply to the scholarship

Interested students may apply to the AJ Birkbeck Scholarship Fund by going to environmentalcouncil.org/aj_birkbeck_scholarship.