

ISA+21 SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

We have combined a few helpful tips for applying for ISA+21 Scholarships or any other aviation scholarships. We believe that not only it will assist everyone with the application process, it might make your application more successful.

1. Tell the truth:

- Do not get creative with the truth, do not stretch the truth
- No exaggerations

2. Follow the directions and pay attention to details:

- Do the requirements ask for two one-page letters of recommendations? If so, send two letters. No more, no less
- Does the scholarship require a transcript from your schools? Does it need to be certified?
- Does the essay need to be 500 words or less? There are dozens and dozens of applications and yours could be disqualified if your essay does not meet the requirements
- Send clear copies of pilot certificates, ratings, logbook pages and any other required materials
- Use the official application form and fill it out completely
- Make sure you are qualified for the scholarship you are applying for

3. Spend time on your essay and tell your unique story, what makes you YOU:

- Be passionate and show the scholarship selection committee who you are and why you are the best candidate for the scholarship
- Do not submit a generic, "canned", "one-size-fits-all" essay
- Help the scholarship selection committee get to know real YOU and help them feel your passion and enthusiasm
- Include your financial need statement in your essay
- If you have some sort of financial hardship, say so
- No whining



4. Additional essay tips:

- Make sure to abide by a word limit (in most cases it is 500 words or less)
- Get “really”, “very” and “like” out of your vocabulary
- Try not to use passive voice
- Do not use abbreviations or contractions
- Stay on target
- Proofread, proofread, proofread (have someone else read it as well)

5. Letters of recommendations:

- Ask for letters of recommendations early
- Prepare a few items including a copy of your application, a resume and a deadline for your chosen writer to aid him/her in writing your best letter of recommendation
- Make sure that one of the letters of recommendation is from a pilot who has flown with you
- No family letters

6. Complete the application process in full:

- Answer all the questions- do not leave anything blank
- Provide all the requested information and supporting documents.
- Include all the required materials and documents in one package/one email
- Do not leave anything out. Do not add extra items

7. Do not miss the deadline:

- Send your application early
- If submitting a paper application package through WAI, the submission **MUST** be postmarked on or before the deadline listed on WAI website (www.wai.org)

8. Do not send anything extra:

- The scholarship committee works hard to give each application equal weight and equal attention. They do not need additional items
- Do not include videos, photos or anything else that is not requested



9. Start EARLY:

- It takes time for people to write meaningful letters of recommendation and get them back to you. Allow your chosen writer enough time to complete the letter
- It takes time for college transcripts to be processed and sent to you. Do not wait until the last minute to make the request for your official transcripts
- It will take time to gather certificates and to make copies
- It should take time for you to write a winning essay

10. Neatness counts:

- How you prepare your application speaks loudly about how detail-oriented you are
- If you are submitting a paper application package, make sure to have the application typed. Do not handwrite anything except your signature. Use good paper and keep it tidy
- For the logbook copies, make sure it is easy to read your flight times
- Be sure that at the end of each logbook page, your total time from previous page has been included
- Make the aircraft types that you fly clear on your logbook pages
- Make sure each logbook page is signed, which verifies correctness of those entries

11. Currency:

- Be sure your medical is current and appropriate for that next rating you desire
- Make sure a legible copy of your most current pilot certificate is included
- Include the copies of appropriate written exams with a passing grade

12. Proofread your submission and keep a full copy for yourself:

- Ask someone to review the requirements and be sure your application is complete
- Ask someone to read your essay
- Check for typos, errors and proper grammar



13. If you do not get a scholarship the first time:

- KEEP TRYING!
- Keep tweaking your application/essay and improve your chances of winning an aviation scholarship by making yourself stand out (volunteer, make a difference in your community, brush up your essay skills, improve your leadership skills, maintain professional online appearance)

We look forward to your scholarship applications and wish you best of luck!

ISA+21 Scholarship Committee

www.isa21.org/scholarships