



## **The Tam Tran Scholarship**

A scholarship program for undocumented students

### **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

**2025-2026 Academic Year**

**Deadline:**

**February 21, 2025**

Hard copies of completed applications and supporting materials may be submitted to:

**Tam Tran Scholarship Fund  
P.O. Box 25118  
Providence, RI 02905**

**E-Mail:  
[application@tamtrancholarship.org](mailto:application@tamtrancholarship.org)**

**You may also submit an online application at this website:  
[www.tamtranscholarship.org](http://www.tamtranscholarship.org)**



The Tam Tran Scholarship has been set up to support undocumented students who are Rhode Island residents to continue on their academic path. It is our hope that this scholarship can respond to the lack of financial assistance provided to students who do not have the legal documentation but wish to attend college in the United States. In particular, we seek to support undocumented students that have met the rigorous academic requirements asked of them and hold the academic promise to continue to a college or university.

#### Eligibility Criteria. Applicant:

- Must be a **Rhode Island resident**.
- Must be an undocumented student, or someone who was born outside of the U.S. but lives here without the legal permission of the federal government.
- Must be or will be a high school/GED graduate who will enroll for the first time in an accredited college or university in the U.S. or Puerto Rico for the 2025-2026 academic year. We will accept applications from undocumented students who graduated from a high school in Rhode Island. Students who are currently taking coursework in an accredited college or university in Rhode Island may be awarded a \$500 book grant.
- Our scholarship must *not* be used to pay outstanding tuition debt for previous semesters or for past fees.
- Must demonstrate academic potential and promise.
- Must demonstrate financial need. Explain this in your essay.
- Recipients must agree to volunteer to attend meetings and/or speak with other undocumented students seeking advice during the first year after receiving the award.
- As time allows, recipients will be expected to participate in our events and commit to community service or professional development activities throughout the year. **Re-applicants** must show that you have fulfilled the requirements as listed above, specifically your willingness to volunteer, attend community meetings and you will be asked to write in your essay or share with us what kind of community service and leadership activities you've accomplished.

#### Application Materials:

Please ensure that you provide all the items below and only those items. Failure to do so can result in disqualification of your application.

- Tam Tran Scholarship Application** – Please complete the application *in full*.
  - Two Letters of Recommendation** – We will only accept a maximum of two letters. **Re-applicants** can send one (1) letter from a college professor/administrator or mentor.
  - Copy of High School transcript** – Submit your most current high school transcript. You may submit an official or unofficial (photocopy) transcript. **Re-applicants** must send a copy of your most-recent semester grades, or entire freshman semester if you have them. If you don't have a high school diploma, you may submit a *certified* copy of your **GED certificate or diploma**, along with proof after you have been accepted into an accredited college or university.
  - Personal Statement** (1000 words maximum) – Your personal statement must fulfill the following two things to be considered complete. Please read carefully. **Use a separate sheet to write your essay.**
- ❖ *You must indicate in your personal statement that you are an undocumented student. We define an undocumented student as someone who was born outside of the U.S. but lives here without the legal permission of the federal government.*
  - ❖ *Please write a response to **ANY** of the topics below – **you may combine one or two in one essay.** We are looking for some *thoughtful responses*, a creative capacity to find pragmatic strategies and tactics to resolve problems and situations that often seem insurmountable to others. **The underlying theme of your essay is how your undocumented status has affected you as an individual.** Please type your essay, double-spaced.*
    - a. Tell us your story, about your family – how you ended up in R.I. Tell us about yourself: your dreams, hopes, and aspirations.
    - b. How would you describe your high school or college experience as an undocumented student, and what are your personal and academic goals when you enroll in college?
    - c. Is there something or someone who gave you the greatest motivation to attend or to stay in college?



- d. **If you are a DACA student**, how has DACA changed your life? What are your goals and what motivates you now to reach your personal *and* academic goals?
- e. **Re- applicants:** What would you say to undocumented students in high school with regard to setting personal and academic goals? How is school different now for you, as an undocumented student, than when you were in high school?
  - Should you be awarded a scholarship, we will ask for proof of college enrollment once you are accepted.
  - You must agree to stay in touch with us during the first semester after receiving the award.
  - **YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE YOUR SCHOLARSHIP CHECK** until you have a one-on-one interview with someone from the committee.
  - **IMPORTANT:** Recipients must agree in writing to volunteer to speak with other undocumented students seeking advice during the first year after receiving the award.

## Instructions

1. Send only the application materials listed in the previous page. Do not include these instructions.
2. For your **Personal Statement** you may type on a separate piece of paper. Please follow these instructions: clearly label your Personal Statement as “Personal Statement” on the top right-hand corner. It must have a one-inch margin, and be typed **double-spaced**, with font no smaller than Times New Roman size 11. Please number each page. No handwritten statements, please! **It's important that you write your name at the top of each page and also number each page.**
3. If you choose to mail, provide all application materials into one large envelope in the following order. If you E-Mail them, write corresponding letters at the top of each document:
  - ✓ Scholarship Application (on top of all documents)
  - ✓ Letter(s) of Recommendation (behind Scholarship Application)
  - ✓ Personal Statement (behind Letter(s) of Recommendation)
  - ✓ Copy of High School or GED Transcript; for second-year applicant, a copy of your first-semester grades (behind Personal Statement)
  - ✓ Financial Need Form (last page)
4. Everything must be mailed or E-Mailed together. Recommenders may provide sealed letters but they must still be mailed together with the other application materials. The same goes for high school or GED transcripts. Your GED diploma can be a copy, but it must have an *original* seal or signature from the program director – *contact us if this is an issue*. Please plan accordingly and give yourself sufficient time to gather all application materials. If you choose to E-Mail your application, *you must submit all letters and necessary documentation at once*. Letters must be signed, scanned in PDF format and attached with your E-Mail application.
5. Only complete applications will be accepted.
  - Make sure your application is postmarked **by February 24, 2025** and E-Mailed or mailed to the address below. If you E-Mail your application, be sure to include a cover note, along with the date submitted.
  - You can also visit this website to fill out an online application: [www.tamtranscholarship.org](http://www.tamtranscholarship.org).

You may E-Mail your application or use regular mail when submitting your application. Just be mindful of the deadline. All unpaid/insufficient postage will be returned.

**\* Definition of “Extracurricular Activities”**- activities performed by students that fall outside the realm of the normal curriculum of school or college education. Such activities are generally voluntary as opposed to mandatory, non-paying, social, philanthropic as opposed to scholastic, and often involve others of the same age.



# Tam Tran Scholarship Application

Your Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:

Male

Female

Ethnicity: (write what country you were born) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #1: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #2 (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School or current College \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State: RI Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Year of high school graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did you find out about this scholarship? (If person referred you, please state name and contact information): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. List all colleges you have applied to below (use additional sheets, if needed): **NOTE: Second-year applicants** can skip this section. **1<sup>st</sup> time applicants must fill this out.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. List all extra-curricular activities, including work (use additional sheets, if needed): **NOTE: Second-year applicants** must fill out this section.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:** By signing below, I hereby proclaim that all information in this entire application is factual and true to the best of my knowledge. The *Tam Tran Scholarship Review Committee* may disqualify this application should any information be incomplete or inaccurate. I give permission to (1) cite sections of my application, without using my full name, to help publicize the Tam Tran Scholarship; and (2) use information in this application, without using my full name, for research purposes. *If I do not claim my scholarship at least six months after receiving it, I must write a brief letter or E-Mail of explanation and resubmit a short application to the Tam Tran Scholarship Fund.* I agree to participate in a student support group for at least one (1) year after receiving this award.

Type your full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature & Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you send this application electronically, you can type your name and date the form to certify that the information in this document is correct. If you choose to mail the form, send original signature along with typed information.



## **Personal Statement (1000 words maximum)**

Use this sheet to write your personal statement. Refer to page 2 in this application for list of topics. **Please type your essay!** *You may write on a separate piece of paper if you prefer, but be mindful of the word limit.*