

Friends of Guatemala

Category 1 Scholarship Guidelines

July, 2021

Definitions

Category 1 refers to scholarships that are awarded from the general fund consisting of donations from Friends of Guatemala (FOG) members and others. These scholarships are competitive and funding decisions are made annually by the FOG Board. This guidance pertains to Category 1 applicants.

For reference, Category 2 refers to scholarships for students of any age, studying at any level. Category 2 scholarships are not from the general fund; they are from donations made specifically for the nominated student. The nominating PCV or sponsor solicits funds (usually from family and friends) to be donated in the name of the nominated Category 2 student. Category 2 applications are also review by the FOG Board.

Application procedure

- All FOG members, including Board members, and currently serving Peace Corps volunteers (PCVs) are eligible to submit applications to sponsor Guatemalan students for FOG scholarships
- Sponsors should try to limit **new** applications to one per year per sponsor; no limits on the number of applications for renewing students (those who have received FOG assistance previously).¹
- Multiple new applications from one sponsor will be considered only if funds are available. Sponsors may submit up to three new applications per year, and must designate the order of priority for FOG's consideration. As funds permit, once first priority applications from each sponsor are considered, second priority will be considered, then third priority.
- In the (unlikely) event that funds remain after third priority applications are considered, the Board may, at its discretion, call for more applications or rollover the remaining funds to the next scholarship funding cycle.
- Applications are available from Ana Isabel de Mendez, from any FOG Board member, and on the FOG website: www.fogrpcv.org
- New applications must be complete, including a bank account number where funds can be deposited if the application is funded, a recommendation from the sponsor, a budget, and other information as noted on the form.
- Applicants should submit pictures of the students, their teachers and schools, and stories related to their education and scholarships, if possible. These

¹ This is because PCVs frequently "inherit" students from previous volunteers. New volunteers are encouraged to continue to support students of former volunteers, as well as submit new applications.

pictures and recommendations are extremely useful for FOG's fund-raising purposes. A signed release from each student's family is required in order for FOG to use these materials for fund-raising purposes. A release form is available on the FOG website under "forms."

- Applications must be submitted each year funding is requested.
- Applications should be submitted to the Category 1 Scholarship Coordinators Hannah Gdalman hgdalman@gmail.com and Ana Isabel Mendez aidem54@gmail.com
- Applications should be submitted by Oct 15 for the school year beginning the following January. This deadline allows time for the Board to consider all requests and for distribution of funds to the scholarship recipients with sufficient time to plan for the new school year.

Candidates for scholarships

- FOG scholarships are intended for students at the Básico (roughly equivalent to junior high school) or Diversificado (roughly equivalent to high school) levels. Occasionally we fund students slightly younger in Primaria if there is need and funds are available.
- Applicants outside of Básico/Diversificado and their sponsors should be encouraged to pursue additional sources of funding, e.g., Category 2.
- FOG does not accept applications for Category 1 scholarships at the University level for new students. FOG may consider applications/matching grant requests from renewing students who have reached University level, only if the sponsor can identify additional sources of funding, e.g., Category 2 donations.²
- Applications for Category 1 scholarships for former Category 2 scholarship students are not recommended, are subject to funding, and will be treated as new (not renewals).
- FOG does not sponsor scholarships for study outside of Guatemala.

Sponsor's Responsibilities

- Identify students with leadership potential and commitment to bettering their communities.
- Work with student and her/his family to develop a workable budget.
- Submit applications on time.
- Ensure that funds are delivered in a timely way and are used for intended purposes.

² This is because university and professional school costs are generally expensive, the equivalent of \$2,000 or more per year. FOG stipends typically only cover a small portion of a student's expenses at these schools. Other sources of funding are available for higher levels of education. For example, a Quaker group, Guatemala Friends, supports students in professional schools. See their web site www.guatemalafriends.org

- If the sponsor is on site, consider having students or their parents sign a receipt if funds are delivered in cash or if multiple students are being mentored by one sponsor.
- Monitor student's progress and provide any documentation, e.g., inscription receipts, grade reports, etc., requested by FOG.
- If it would be useful to help families manage their budget, sponsors may provide funds in two instalments, one for initial expenses and one later in the school year for ongoing expenses.
- Identify another volunteer, teacher or responsible adult (other than the student's parents) in the community who can mentor/monitor the student after the original sponsor finishes her/his Peace Corps service.

Considerations for funding

- FOG gives priority to renewing students, regardless of the sponsor, as long as applications are received on time (i.e., October 15 for the school year that starts the following January) and the student remains in good standing academically.
- FOG will consider late applications, and additional new applications from the same sponsor, if funds are available after all renewals and applications that were received on time, have been considered.
- Late applications will be funded at levels similar to the amounts granted to students whose requests were received on time whenever possible.
- Because continuity is important for students, the FOG Board must be reasonably certain that FOG will be able to fund any new students through their current level of education if they maintain acceptable grades.
- Scholarship amounts are determined by the amount of funds raised from FOG members and the number of applications received in any given year. For example, stipends for students at the Basico and Diversificado level, over the last few years (2014-2017) have ranged from \$250-500.
- Stipends awarded in any given year should be approximately equal for students at the same level of education, unless justification is provided in the application for a higher amount, e.g., transportation expense from a very remote location.
- FOG generally tries to grant as many scholarships as possible. This usually results in partial funding for several students, rather than completely funding one large request. FOG encourages sponsors to leverage the grants that they receive from FOG by soliciting donations from friends and family through the Category 2 program.
- FOG may consider grants for educational projects only after all scholarship applications have been considered. Projects should have some relationship to education, e.g., improvement of school infrastructure, school kitchens, latrines, hand washing stations, farmer and adult education, such as women's

leadership training. Requests for funding projects generally should be handled through Category 2.

Timing

September 15	Call for applications. Scholarship Coordinator typically contacts sponsors of previous year's scholarship students to remind them to renew applications
October 15	Deadline for submission of applications
November 15	Target deadline for funding decisions by FOG Board of Directors
November 30	Target deadline for transfer of scholarship funds to Guatemala
December 15	Target deadline for completion of distribution of funds to scholarship recipients

For more information contact: info@fogrpcv.org