



UCLA Scholarship Resource Center STRATEGIES

FALL 2017 / VOL. 22 NO. 3

Funding 101: Introduction to Scholarship Success

By Hannah Nahm, SRC Staff

If you were to think of the scholarship application process as a one-unit course, how might your attitude toward it change? Would you *finally* get your scholarship affairs in order? If you try thinking of scholarship applications as “mandatory” coursework, with firm deadlines for each week of the quarter, you can more successfully hold yourself accountable for the work necessary to win the funding you need. Succeeding in a “course” requires discipline and organization, but setting aside just two or three hours per week could be the key to lasting success. To craft your very own “scholarship course,” consider the following tips and strategies:

Tip #1: Personalize and Set Goals. Give your scholarship course a name that is personalized and motivating, e.g., “Jane Bruin’s Path to Winning Scholarship Cash.”

Then create a formal syllabus for your course, putting your course name at the top. Write down your big-picture goals. How much scholarship money would you like to win? How many scholarships would you like to apply to? Consider assigning a specific weekday, time, and location for your “course,” and then show up each week to do the work necessary to achieve your goals.

Tip #2: Break Down Tasks into Manageable Parts. A simple way to organize your syllabus is to follow the flow of the 10-week quarter and give yourself concrete tasks to complete each week. Start out by setting a general goal for each week, such as searching for scholarships, drafting a personal statement, requesting a letter of recommendation, or revising with the help of SRC staff. Then break down these goals into

small concrete tasks that you can complete within your allotted time. Make them as specific as possible. Rather than saying “Write a personal statement,” break that task down into small parts, like: “Make a list of career goals,” “Brainstorm for twenty minutes using the essay questions on the SRC’s personal-essay handout,” or “Visit SRC for writing help.” The more specific the better!

Tip #3: Sign-up for SRC Workshops and Counseling/Writing Appointments. Each quarter, the SRC provides free workshops on various scholarship-related topics (see back of this newsletter for the complete workshop schedule for this quarter).

Setting aside just two to three hours per week could be the key to lasting success.

A great way to get informed, stay focused and stay productive in your scholarship project is to work these workshops into your weekly schedule. These workshops are especially recommended for those students who are new to the scholarship process, but they are useful for students at any level. In general, you should aim to attend the workshops earlier in the quarter (if you’re serious about trying out the scholarship-as-mandatory-class project) so that you can build on the knowledge and tips gained and apply them in your culminating activity (i.e., applying to x-number of scholarships at the quarter’s end).

For more helpful tips on finding and applying to scholarships, pay a visit to the Scholarship Resource Center!



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Have you won a scholarship with the help of the SRC?

Let us know!

Big Money for Big Questions: Research FUNds

By Jeremy Schmidt, SRC Staff

Did a class you took plant a seed in your brain? Did an experience you had spark a question? Do you have a research topic you've always wanted to dive deeper into? If so, you should check out the two centers on campus dedicated to fostering—and funding—undergraduate research projects.

Whether you're just starting out at UCLA or nearing the end of your time here, you can find fantastic mentoring for your burgeoning interest in research at both the Undergraduate Research Center for Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (URC-HASS) and the Undergraduate Research Center - Sciences (URC-Sciences).

The URC-HASS is run by Dr. Whitney Arnold and an incredibly dedicated staff. It offers a variety of research programs for students in the humanities, arts, and behavioral sciences; contract courses; scholarships; summer funding; travel grants; a journal; workshops; and an annual research week showcasing student projects. You could win \$5000 or more to support your research, so look over the materials on the center's website carefully. There are deadlines all throughout the year. Key dates include Friday of Week 2 of each quarter (for enrollment in SRP 99, the introductory Student Research Program course), November 15, March 1, May 1, and June 15.

One opportunity to keep in mind if you plan to attend graduate school in the future is the two-year Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program run by the URC-HASS. Mellon Mays is geared toward outstanding juniors and transfer students from underrepresented groups who are planning to pursue a PhD. With the goal of diversifying the professoriate, the program provides mentoring for independent research projects, generous stipends, retreats, and up to \$10,000 toward the repayment of loans. Contact the URC-HASS during or before the very beginning of your junior year if you're even the slightest bit interested—they want to hear from you!

For students oriented more toward south campus, the URC-Sciences, directed by Dr. Tama Hasson and a superbly committed staff, has a similarly expansive array of opportunities: research and summer programs for students in a variety of science fields; a poster day; conferences; and much more. To keep track of relevant deadlines and programming, visit the URC-Sciences website and sign-up for their email newsletter (<http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/contact.htm>).



One highlight of the URC-Sciences is the Clare Booth Luce Research Scholars Program, which has a November deadline and aims to support undergraduate women majoring in engineering and the physical sciences. The goal is to train high-potential women to enter graduate school and academic careers. As with the Mellon Mays, if you're considering the Luce Program you should contact the URC-Sciences office during or before the very beginning of your junior year.

More generally, with regard to all of the opportunities offered by the two Undergraduate Research Centers, please reach out to the staff at those centers, or to us at the Scholarship Resource Center, if you have any questions. All three offices are geared toward helping you find a path forward with whatever questions you hope to explore.

URC-HASS

A334 Murphy Hall, Box 951430
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1430
(310) 825-2935
urhass@college.ucla.edu
ugeducation.ucla.edu/urhass

URC-Sciences

2121 Life Science Building
621 Charles E. Young Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1606
(310) 794-4227
urcsem@lifesci.ucla.edu
ugresearchsci.ucla.edu

In 2016, students raised over **60 million dollars** through crowdfunding.

Want a piece of that action? Try Indiegogo.com or GoFundMe.com to raise some college cash.

➔ Check out the “**GoFundMe for College**” guidebook for more info:

<https://www.scribd.com/document/339324669/GoFundMe-for-College>

DID YOU KNOW...
THE SRC IS UCLA'S NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS OFFICE?

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP For sophomores and juniors planning graduate study in mathematics, engineering, and the sciences. *CAMPUS DEADLINE 12/15/17.*

TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP For juniors planning graduate study leading to careers in public service. *CAMPUS DEADLINE 1/9/18.*

BEINECKE SCHOLARSHIP For juniors planning graduate study in the arts, humanities, or social sciences. *CAMPUS DEADLINE 1/9/18.*

STRAUSS SCHOLARSHIP For sophomores or juniors working on a public service project. *CAMPUS DEADLINE 2/2/18.*

UDALL SCHOLARSHIP For sophomores and juniors interested in environmental public policy or tribal policy or Native American Health Care. *CAMPUS DEADLINE 2/2/18.*

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT ANY OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES? CONTACT THE SRC.

**RHODES, MARSHALL, MITCHELL, GATES, SCHWARZMAN,
CHURCHILL, KNIGHT-HENNESSY?**

**PLAN AHEAD!! THIS YEAR'S DEADLINES HAVE PASSED, BUT COME LEARN ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S
CAMPUS APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THESE EXCITING GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS!**



International Affairs: Funding and Careers

By Rebecca Lippman, SRC Staff

Several national organizations offer scholarships and stipends to undergraduates interested in international affairs. Such organizations encourage students to learn critical languages, study abroad, take on internships and engage in public service projects. These experiences provide preparation for a variety of careers, including work in the Foreign Service.

Of course, not everyone who learns a new language, carries out a service project, or travels to a far-off country is destined to become a Foreign Service Officer. Many of these opportunities attract students who are interested only in becoming more well-rounded as they pursue their degrees — and that's fine! Seeking out federal funds in order to try new things is a wise way to cover some of your expenses, explore career opportunities, and attend summer internships and seminars that are as applicable to careers in government as they are to most professional roles in our increasingly globalized world.

Here you will find a number of funding opportunities for students interested in public policy, government, critical languages and cultures, international development, business administration and economics.

Language Study

Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Nahuatl, Persian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Quechua, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Thai, Turkish, and Vietnamese. These languages are only *some* of the languages currently in demand on the global market. Learn one now!



- The **Critical Language Scholarship** (<http://clscholarship.org>) offers summer funding for university students to learn a number of these languages. Applications are due in November.
- The **UCLA International Institute** offers both summer and academic year funding to learn a number of these languages through the Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship Program (FLAS) (<http://www.international.ucla.edu/institute/funding/122720>). Awards are up to \$15,000 per student. Applications are due in February.
- The **Boren Foundation** (<https://www.borenawards.org>) offers awards between \$8,000 and \$30,000 for students to incorporate foreign languages and study abroad into their undergraduate or graduate degrees. Applications are due in January and February.

Diversity and Public Service Projects

The government is one of many employers interested in diversifying its workforce. There are several population-specific awards for students interested in public service, one of which is the “**Women in Defense**” **Horizons Scholarship** (<http://wid.ndia.org/horizon/pages/default.aspx>). Applications are due in July.

Students interested in developing public service projects should consider the following opportunities: the \$7,000 **Udall Scholarship** (<http://www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu/prestigious-scholarships/udall>), the \$15,000 **Strauss Foundation Scholarship** (<http://www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu/prestigious-scholarships/strauss>) and the \$5,000 **UCLA Global Citizens Fellowship** (<http://globalcitizens.studentaffairs.ucla.edu>), applications for all of which are due in February. (Campus deadlines may be earlier!)

Career Development and Graduate School

If you have a genuine interest in learning about the basic concepts and skills required for working in public or foreign service, there are a number of opportunities to enrich your education through summer training as well as funded master's programs. The **Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program** (<http://www.rangelprogram.org/>)

offers funding for Summer Enrichment seminars and career development for undergraduates, as well as fellowships for graduate study. Applications are due in February and September.

Additional funding opportunities to engage in upper division or graduate level courses of study related to government, such as Business Administration, Economics, Public Policy, International Affairs can be found through the **Truman Scholarship** (<http://www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu/prestigious-scholarships/truman>), the **Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship** (<http://www.twc.edu/thomas-r-pickering-foreign-affairs-fellowship-program>), and the **Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship** (<http://www.paynefellows.org>). Applications for all three are due in January.

Public Service, Research or Teaching During your Gap Year

If you're a junior or a graduating senior, this is a great opportunity to think about taking a gap year abroad. There are several foundations that support recent graduates who wish to conduct research, community service projects or teach abroad. Both the **Samuel Huntington Public Service Award** (<https://www9.nationalgridus.com/huntington.asp>), and the **Fulbright Fellowship Program** (<https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/financial-aid/fulbright-fellowships>) are excellent and prestigious programs that allow recent graduates to gain experience abroad and consider careers in International Affairs. Applications are due in January and August.

These are just a few international and public service opportunities to receive funding for your college studies and make steps towards your future career. Come to the SRC for additional resources and guidance. Ready, set, explore!

UCLA Resources for Scholarship Seekers

If you want...

You should go to...

| | |
|---|--|
| → Proof of enrollment to send to a scholarship organization or outside agency | → The Registrar's Office to get a free Verification Transcript. The Registrar's Office is in 1113 Murphy Hall. |
| → Assistance interpreting the E-Fan or other Financial Aid documents | → The UCLA Financial Aid Office at A-129 Murphy Hall (www.financialaid.ucla.edu) or (310) 206-0400. |
| → Help with your medical/law school personal statement | → The Career Center, to learn about their Pre-Professional advising services (www.career.ucla.edu). |
| → To find out about scholarships for student research | → The Undergraduate Research Center in your discipline (either Life/Physical Sciences or Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences) (www.ucla.edu/research/undergraduate-research). |
| → To find resources for study abroad | → The Education Abroad Program office (http://www.ieo.ucla.edu/eap/). The SRC also offers a number of study abroad resources, including books. |
| → To learn about scholarships for AB-540 students | → The IDEAS student group: ideas@ucla.edu . The SRC also has a file of resources for AB-540 students. The Bruin Resource Center is also an excellent resource (http://www.brc.ucla.edu/). |
| → Help with your scholarship essay | → The Scholarship Resource Center office in 233 Covell Commons. The SRC offers individualized counseling and writing assistance (scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu) or (310) 206-2875. |
| → To learn about departmental scholarships for students in your major | → Consult with departmental counselors and look at postings on departmental bulletin boards and email listservs. Also, visit the SRC website and find information about UCLA departmental scholarships on the homepage. |
| → To get motivated and learn tools for starting your scholarship search | → A Secrets for Winning College Cash workshop at the SRC. In a quick introductory workshop plus a follow-up counseling session, you'll jump-start your scholarship search and begin working on some applications! |
| → To know where to send your outside scholarship checks | → The Financial Aid website (financialaid.ucla.edu), and make note of the fact that the address is: Payment Solutions & Compliance Office, UCLA, Box 957089, 1125 Murphy Hall, 405 Hilgard Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90095-7089 |
| → To apply for a national/international scholarship (such as the Rhodes, Marshall, or Mitchell Scholarship) | → Come to the Scholarship Resource Center and we can help you get started on the process of applying for national and international scholarships. Be sure to visit us the spring before you want to apply. |

Essay Contests: Tips and Tricks

By Rebecca Blustein, SRC Staff

The availability of essay contests on the web is both a benefit and a challenge for students who are looking to win scholarship money. A benefit, because essay contests can be a faster, more fun alternative to traditional scholarships. And a challenge, because one must be cautious of internet scams disguised as essay contests! There are many wonderful opportunities to win money by writing inventive and thoughtful essays on a broad range of topics. But it is important to go into the process prepared to separate the many good opportunities from the few bad ones.

How can you tell the difference between an essay contest that is what it appears to be and one that may not be worth entering? Which companies and foundations are really looking to invest in and support students like you—and which ones may be looking to take advantage of you?

Here are some tips to help you read the fine print of online essay contests and determine which are worth your time and which should be left behind:

- ◆ First, consider the company or organization that is sponsoring the scholarship. Alongside competitions sponsored by major corporations you might find an award sponsored by a small business, a local law firm, or even just a company you've never heard of before. Ask yourself a few questions: what is the organization's business? Why is it sponsoring a scholarship competition? Does it look to be legitimate? One way to check is to scan for complaints on the Better Business Bureau.
- ◆ Along those same lines: look at the website. If the site is sloppy (and especially if the English is poor), it might be a sign that their essay contest is not legitimate. At the very least, it suggests that they don't care very much about writing.
- ◆ Read the essay prompt closely. Some online companies use essay contests as a way of generating free content for their own sites. The worst offenders in this area are businesses specializing in "online reviews" or "digital marketing." If the theme of the essay contest is the same topic as the writing featured in the company's blog posts, that's a red flag—they may be looking for students to write their website for free.
- ◆ Read the rules carefully. Many essay contests stipulate that the essay you submit will become the property of the website as soon as you enter – and they can do anything they like with it, including publish part or all of it without crediting you. Some students won't mind this rule. Others will mind very much. So pay attention!



- ◆ Look carefully at how the company chooses the award winner. Do they review all entries and award the scholarship based on the merits of the essay or do they choose one at random? For example, the rules might say the following: "One applicant will be randomly selected at the end of each year for a \$1,200 scholarship." If an award is given "randomly," you are effectively entering a lottery, not an essay competition. Your mileage may vary—but it is probably more worth your time to apply for awards where your brilliant essay will help you win. Leave "random" selection to the lottery.
- ◆ A final caution: we've received "scholarship" announcements from some unscrupulous companies, including essay writing services (companies dedicated to helping students cheat, and cheating students out of an education). We don't believe that the chance at a couple hundred dollars outweighs the potential negative of having your name linked with a company like that in web searches, forever. If you're ever unsure about a contest, you can ask us about it.

We regularly post interesting essay contests on our bulletin boards and our Facebook and Twitter pages.

☞ Plan a visit to the *Scholarship Resource Center* to explore the bulletin boards and binders dedicated to essay contests and creative writing prizes. Our staff would be happy to assist you with your essay!



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And find our updates on Twitter: @uclasrc



DONALD A.
STRAUSS FOUNDATION

Providing Public Service Scholarships Since 1997



\$15,000 to fund your project

Sophomores & Juniors may apply
www.straussfoundation.org

UCLA Deadline: February 2nd, 2018*



***Submit your application to the
UCLA Scholarship Resource Center,
233 Covell Commons, by 6pm.**

Take advantage of these GREAT scholarship resources:

- ⇒ Extensive Library
- ⇒ Workshops Every Quarter
- ⇒ Scholarship Website
- ⇒ One-on-one Counseling
- ⇒ Writing Assistance
- ⇒ Even a Typewriter!

Scholarship Resource Center Fall 2017 Workshop Schedule

*All workshops are held in Covell 229 and include a personalized follow-up counseling session.
Sign up for a workshop through MY.UCLA.EDU.*

It's all waiting for you at the

UCLASRC

Scholarship Resource Center

*guiding UCLA students through
the scholarship process*

233 Covell Commons
(310) 206-2875

Open Monday to Friday

11 am—6 pm

src@college.ucla.edu

www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu

Secrets to Winning College Cash

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| October 3 | Tuesday | 5:30-6:00 PM |
| October 11 | Wednesday | 4:30-5:00 PM |
| October 19 | Thursday | 4:30-5:00 PM |
| October 23 | Monday | 5:30-6:00 PM |
| November 8 | Wednesday | 5:00-5:30 PM |
| November 16 | Thursday | 4:30-5:00 PM |
| November 20 | Monday | 4:30-5:00 PM |

How to Win Scholarships

| | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|
| October 4 | Wednesday | 5:00-5:30 PM |
| October 20 | Friday | 5:00-5:30 PM |

How to Find Scholarships

| | | |
|------------|---------|--------------|
| October 6 | Friday | 5:00-5:30 PM |
| October 24 | Tuesday | 4:30-5:00 PM |

How to Write Personal Statements

| | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|
| October 10 | Tuesday | 4:30-5:30 PM |
| October 18 | Wednesday | 4:30-5:30 PM |
| November 7 | Tuesday | 5:00-6:00 PM |

How to Get Letters of Recommendation

| | | |
|------------|----------|--------------|
| November 3 | Friday | 4:30-5:00 PM |
| November 9 | Thursday | 5:00-5:30 PM |

Join our fan page
on Facebook to get
alerts about
upcoming
scholarships!