

2026 Next Gen Scholars Program Frequently Asked Questions

Criteria and Selection

1. What does this program provide?
 - a. The Next Gen Scholars Program provides holistic support for scholars in two distinct ways: 1) direct support via \$50,000 in scholarship funds; and 2) leadership development through curated experiences with a cohort, including leadership and wellness trainings, career support, and mentorship. [A full description of the program can be found here.](#)
2. Who can apply for this program?
 - a. The Next Gen Scholars Program is open to all who:
 - Applied to a full time JD program at an accredited California law school for Fall 2026 admission;
 - Plan to practice law in California; and
 - Demonstrate financial need.
3. Can I apply if I am a part time student?
 - a. At this time, the Next Gen Scholars Program is only open to full time students given the cohort-based model of the program. However, some of our webinars, events, and trainings will be open to the full ChangeLawyers community. Please [sign up for our newsletters](#) to receive more information.
4. Can I apply if I am already attending a law school?
 - a. No. This scholarship is only open to incoming 1Ls (Fall 2026 start).
5. Can I apply if I do not reside in or am not currently located in California?
 - a. You can apply if you are located out of state as long as you plan to attend a California accredited law school. You must also take the California Bar Exam and practice within the state upon passing.
6. What does the selection process involve?
 - a. The selection process consists of two rounds. The first round is the submission of your application via Submittable. Next, our team will review internally and determine which applicants will move on to the second round. Round two will include a panel Zoom interview for finalists. We will make our final decision following the round two interviews and awardees will be notified by June 2026 (subject to change).
7. Who will be reviewing my application?
 - a. ChangeLawyers staff, board, and ambassadors will review applications.

Application

8. I need accommodations in order to submit my application. Who should I contact?
 - a. If you need accommodations, please email scholarships@changelawyers.org for assistance.
9. When does the application close?
 - a. The application will close at 11:59 pm (PST) on March 26, 2026.
10. Do I need a letter of recommendation?
 - a. Yes. A letter of recommendation is required. The recommender (professor, supervisor, mentor, etc) should state why you are a good fit for the Next Gen Scholars Program. You will not be able to submit your application without a letter of recommendation.
11. What other materials do I need to submit with my application?
 - a. Applicants need to submit the following:
 - Undergraduate transcript(s) (unofficial copies accepted)
 - List of academic awards, honors, or distinctions
 - Updated resume or CV in PDF format
 - Total amount of outstanding debt from undergraduate and/or other degrees
 - Law school financial aid package (if applicable)
12. Can I submit anything other than what is in the application?
 - a. No. We will not be accepting any supplemental information.
13. Can I use generative AI on any part of my application?
 - a. No. Using generative AI to complete any part of this application will result in disqualification.

Submittable

14. How do I start the application process on Submittable?
 - a. [Please watch this video](#) to learn how to create an account and submit your application. If you need more information, you can visit [Submittable's applicant hub](#).
15. I'm having technical issues with Submittable. Where can I get help?
 - a. [You can find Submittable's applicant help hub here](#). If you have questions or issues regarding the platform that are not answered through the hub, please log into your account and click the question mark on the top right corner of the screen to submit a ticket.

Miscellaneous

16. If I am selected, will I get all the funds at once?
 - a. No. Scholarship recipients will receive their scholarship funds in increments upon proof of enrollment.

17. Is the scholarship taxable?
 - a. There are situations when scholarships are tax-free and when they are taxable. You can find more information on this IRS topic [here](#). Consult a tax professional for advice on your individual situation.

18. I have more questions about the program that haven't been answered here. Who can I reach out to?
 - a. Please email scholarships@changelawyers.org with any program related questions not answered above.

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