



Vienna  
Private University

## **Borealis Excellence Award Application Frequently Asked Questions 2021**

---

Please read through this list of FAQ thoroughly. If you do not see your question on this list, please contact the Scholarship Coordinator Nora Györfi with your questions. She may be reached at [borealis.excellence@webster.ac.at](mailto:borealis.excellence@webster.ac.at)

### **How does an applicant apply for the Borealis Social scholarship?**

Please use our **online application form** (find the link on our website) to apply for the Borealis Excellence Award. Submit all documentation before the **final deadline of May 31, 2021 1:00 PM CET**.

Filling out the form will take approximately **5 minutes** and you will be asked to upload an essay focusing on:

- why you chose Webster Vienna Private University and the particular major(s)
- what makes you an excellent student and therefore eligible for the BOREALIS SOCIAL SCHOLARSHIP
- your career aspirations, leadership skills or other distinctions
- Extra-curricular activities in relation to their studies (contests, events, meet-ups etc.)

Note that the accepted file format is **PDF**.

## **What are the eligibility criteria for the Borealis Social scholarship?**

Eligible **freshmen** students will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee based on:

### Main Criteria:

GPA between 3.8 and 4.0

Criteria will be applied to eligible students after their first-time freshman year at Webster Vienna Private University after the Spring II-term 2020.

### Additional Excellence Criteria:

#### I. Measurable criteria

- Workload of the scholarship candidate (credit hours)
- Admission/Enrolment in Webster's Scholars Program
- Involvement in the LEADS Leadership Certificate Program
- Evidence of outstanding term paper(s) or other assignments, participation in research projects

#### II. Other relevant criteria

- Voluntary work (at previous educational institutions and in any on-campus clubs, organizations, i.e. Student Government Association).
- Active participation in on-campus activities,
- Work experience (internships etc.)
- Evidence of leadership/Evidence of being a pro-active initiator of projects
- Interest/involvement in research activities of (supervisor's evaluation on student performance)
- Positive learning attitude based on instructor's feedback
- Intellectual development. i.e. the student's capability to develop a comprehensive understanding of the topics studied, and the ability to apply/transfer learned knowledge, formulate focused questions develop problem solving strategies (based on instructor's feedback)
- Creative and independent thought ('Outside the box'-thinking)
- Ethical sensitivities
- Good character qualities (integrity, responsibility, respect)
- Is the student a Team player? Does the student help classmates and work collaboratively?

### **What are the English requirements for scholarship applicants?**

Scholarship applicants must either be native English speakers or have exceptional written and spoken English as evidenced by their performance on one of Webster Vienna's accepted English proficiency exams (TOEFL, IELTS, and Cambridge Advanced Exam). The English proficiency was tested at the time of your admission.

### **What is the difference between "undergraduate," "graduate," and "transfer" applicants?**

Undergraduate programs at Webster Vienna lead to a bachelor degree. Graduate programs follow a bachelor's degree and at Webster Vienna lead to a master's degree. All of our degree programs are accredited in Austria and in the U.S.

Transfer students include any applicant who has finished high school and who has completed any amount of university-level coursework. Even if you have only completed one semester at another university, you are considered a transfer applicant and you must submit your complete transcripts from any university attended. Some scholarships, for example the Borealis Excellence Award and City of Vienna Division of Cultural Affairs Award, are not open to transfer applicants.

### **What is a Grade Point Average (GPA)?**

A GPA is a calculated average of the grades you earn in school following the American 0 to 4.0 scale. Webster uses this calculation to measure your overall performance in school. In the United States, grades are usually assigned in letters and are based on a 4.0 GPA scale:

A 4.0 (excellent)

B 3.0 (good)

C 2.0 (satisfactory)

D 1.0 (needs improvement)

F 0.0 (fail)

At U.S. universities, students receive a GPA each semester based on the grades earned in all classes that semester. In addition to a semester GPA, students also maintain a cumulative GPA, which is an ongoing average of all semester grades from the beginning of a student's studies.

Webster Vienna has over 70 different nationalities, and we are familiar with many different grading systems. We will determine your GPA using the American 4-point scale during the admissions process

**Do Borealis Excellence Award require the student to maintain a certain grade point average (GPA)?**

Yes. The scholarship is renewable each year and will be reviewed at the end of each semester to determine whether the scholarship recipient has fulfilled the scholarship conditions and achieved the required grade point average (GPA).

If the scholarship recipient's cumulative GPA falls below a 3.8 the student will receive a one-time warning and go on probation. While on probation the student must complete at least 12 hours of coursework per semester, may not withdraw from any class, and must achieve a session GPA of at least 3.8.

If the student's session GPA is 3.8. or higher again after the probation semester, he or she will be removed from probation. If, however, in any further semester after the probationary semester the student's session GPA falls below 3.8, he/she must leave the scholarship program.

**What can an applicant do to improve their chances for receiving a scholarship?**

It would be helpful for an applicant to establish a high level of motivation and will to succeed (based on academic records, the essay and extra-curricular activities). Students who also demonstrate a commitment to positively contribute to society through their own past activities and their career plans will of course be strongly considered.

**If a student loses his or her scholarship because of poor academic performance, can he or she get it back at a later point in their studies?**

Once a scholarship is lost, the scholarship is awarded to another student. The scholarship cannot be recovered by the student.

**If a student does not receive the Borealis Excellence Award after his/her first year, may he or she apply at a later stage of their studies?**

No, the Borealis Excellence Award is available only for students **right after their Freshman year**. However, Webster Vienna offers other scholarship possibilities for current students please check our website for more information.

**May scholarship recipients study abroad?**

Yes, we even encourage this, as Webster Vienna is part of an international Webster campus network with campuses in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Africa. The student may study abroad at another Webster University location for a maximum of two terms (1 semester), but the student must first meet with the

academic advisor to ensure that he/she meets the minimum credit requirements and completes the last 36 credits at the Webster Vienna campus to be eligible to receive the Austrian-accredited WVPU diploma.