

Undergraduate Scholarship Application Checklist

For African students applying to bachelor's programs abroad. Plan 12–18 months ahead.

Step-by-Step Timeline

18–14 months out

- Shortlist 8–12 universities + scholarships (mix of reach, match, safety).
- Sit (or register for) SAT/ACT, IELTS/TOEFL or Duolingo English Test.
- Open a Common App / UCAS / direct portal account where applicable.
- Identify 2–3 teachers + 1 counselor for recommendations.

13–10 months out

- Draft personal statement / Common App essay (3+ revisions).
- Request official transcripts and predicted grades from school.
- Take English & standardized tests; budget for one retake.
- Confirm passport validity (≥ 18 months past intended entry).

9–6 months out

- Submit early action / early decision applications (Nov 1 / Nov 15).
- Apply for need-based aid: CSS Profile, ISFAA, school-specific forms.
- Submit scholarship essays (MasterCard Foundation, MEXT, Chevening U-grad routes, etc.).
- Order final transcripts + WES/IB evaluations if required.

5–2 months out

- Submit regular decision applications (Jan 1–15 deadlines).
- Compare financial aid award letters; appeal if gap exists.
- Confirm enrollment + pay deposit at chosen school.

1 month – departure

- Receive I-20 / CAS / CoE; book visa interview.
- Arrange housing, health insurance, flights.
- Attend pre-departure briefings; join student WhatsApp groups.

Document Checklist

- Passport (valid 18+ months)
- High school transcripts (official + sealed)
- Predicted grades letter
- English proficiency score report
- SAT/ACT score report (if required)
- 2–3 teacher recommendations + 1 counselor letter

Personal statement / Common App essay

CV / activities list

Proof of funds / sponsor letter

Bank statements (3–6 months)

scholarshipsforafricans.com — print, tick off, win the scholarship.