



2026 ALINA WHEELER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF AIGA PHILADELPHIA

CALL FOR APPLICANTS

ABOUT

The AIGA Philadelphia Scholarship Fund is an annual scholarship program offering \$2,500 in financial assistance to local design students pursuing their education. The recipient is chosen based on the merits of their application and demonstration of financial need.

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Deadline: **March 29, 2026**
Award Announced: **May 5, 2026**

CAPACITY

The application will close after the first 20 completed submissions are received. Applications are reviewed on a first-submitted basis.

QUESTIONS

Email Shubham Kulkarni, Chair, Scholarship Committee of AIGA Philadelphia at skulkarni@philadelphia.aiga.org

ELIGIBILITY

The scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students who are currently enrolled in or accepted to college at the time of submission and who intend to pursue a career in the field of graphic design. Applicants must either reside in or attend an accredited college in the greater Philadelphia and Central PA regions.

REQUIREMENTS

- Students must be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program for the 2026/2027 academic year.
- Students should major in or intend to major in a Graphic Design or related program (Visual Communication, Interactive Design, etc.)
- Students are preferred to have a minimum GPA requirement of 2.5. However, students with a GPA between 2.0 and 2.49 are still encouraged to apply.

TO APPLY

Applicants must provide the following materials in an 8.5" x 11" document saved in PDF format, labeled with your last name and first name. Applications should be emailed to skulkarni@philadelphia.aiga.org by midnight on **March 29, 2026**, with the title 'AIGA Scholarship Fund' in the subject line.

Page 1: INFORMATION

Personal Information:

Applicants must provide their application date, full legal name, permanent mailing address, email address, and phone number.

School Information:

Applicants must include academic information for the 2026–27 academic year, including the name and address of the college or university they will be attending, their academic level (e.g., freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior), the degree they are pursuing, their expected graduation date, and their major or intended major.

Note: If an applicant has not yet received an acceptance letter, they should list their first-choice institution. Scholarship recipients will be required to provide proof of acceptance before funds are disbursed.

Page 2: TRANSCRIPT

Provide your unofficial transcript, including your current GPA. Please include this with the PDF application, not as a separate document. Note: If selected, we may require receipt of your *official* transcript.

Page 3: ESSAY

Write a 500-word essay incorporating the following:

1. A brief autobiography.
2. In the future, how do you see yourself as a creator contributing to the community at large?
3. A description of your financial need and how this scholarship would support your educational journey.

Note: No FAFSA or financial documentation is required. Instead, applicants should articulate their financial need within the essay.

AI Policy: The essay portion of this application must be written entirely by the applicant and reflect the applicant's own voice, experiences, and ideas. The use of generative AI tools to write or substantially edit the essay is not permitted. Basic spelling and grammar tools are allowed, but all content must be the applicant's original work. Essays determined to be primarily AI-generated may be scored lower.

Page 4-9: EXAMPLES OF YOUR WORK

Provide 5 examples of your best work with a brief description of the project. If you would like to submit movies, motion graphics, or interactive files for your portfolio, you must submit electronically by including active links (for example, YouTube and Vimeo).

Tips for presenting your work:

- Remember that your work will be viewed on a computer screen.
- Images should be an original digital file when possible. Otherwise, make sure photographs or scans of work are properly lit and in focus.
- Feature your work as simply and as clearly as possible. Single images read much better than multiple images on a page.