

Fellowships Program Information Sheet – Beinecke Scholarship

Updated: 11-18-2021

Section	Brief description	More information
1. Award	The Beinecke Scholarship is a prestigious award made to undergraduates during their junior year who demonstrate strong academic commitment and interest in pursuing graduate level education. Recipients receive \$34,000 to be used for graduate school. “The program seeks to encourage and enable highly motivated students to pursue opportunities available to them and to be courageous in the selection of a graduate course of study in the arts, humanities and social sciences.” Graduate study may be in any accredited university, in the US or abroad. Program participants are encouraged to pursue their studies immediately after graduation and are given a five-year period after completion of their baccalaureate degree to utilize the Beinecke award.	Beinecke Homepage Beinecke Conditions Applicants with professional school plans should have strong liberal arts backgrounds or well developed career plans with significant commitment to community service.
2. Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program is open to US citizens and US nationals. ‘Applications are accepted only from current juniors. Applicants need a high GPA (3.7+) to be considered for Beinecke. Students must plan to enter a master’s or doctoral program in a field in the arts, humanities, or social sciences (omitting neuroscience). Applicants must have a documented history of receiving need-based financial aid during their undergraduate years. The extent of financial need (with most emphasis on grant aid, not loans) will be a selection criterion. The foundation wants to recognize financial need, even if students have come to Smith on an external merit or need-based scholarship; in such circumstances, talk with Dr. Lamb. 	Student Eligibility
3. Timing	Interested students are encouraged to express interest and establish communication with the Fellowships Program in spring semester of sophomore year in order to apply in fall of junior year.	Nomination Deadline
4. Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The foundation seeks Beinecke Scholars with “exceptional promise” and the potential to be successful in graduate school and beyond. Awardees will have demonstrated superior standards of intellectual ability, scholastic achievement and personal promise during their undergraduate careers. Candidates should have research experience or equivalent individual creative work. Preference is given to candidates for whom the awarding of a scholarship would significantly increase the likelihood of the student’s being able to attend graduate school. 	How to Apply ~135 colleges and universities are invited to nominate one candidate each to compete for 20 awards per year.
5. Smith Role	Smith may nominate only one student for the Beinecke. Therefore, students are encouraged to express their interest in the award or faculty to nominate their students early in the spring semester of sophomore year. Even if not selected as Beinecke nominee, the planning and discussions about the possibility will benefit students by clarifying graduate school aims and forming the basis for discussion of other fellowships and ways of making those plans come about.	Contact Fellowships@smith.edu with expressions of interest or to nominate students.
6. Fun fact(s)	8 Smithies have been Beinecke Scholars, most recently Angela Acosta ’17 (Iberian Studies) and Sarah-Neel Smith ’07 (Art History).	
7. How to get started	Given the specific requirements of this award, reach out early to express your interest to and ask your questions of a fellowships adviser.	Contact Margaret Lamb

Beinecke Scholarship Application Process

Application begins in the fall with application to be a Smith College nominee for the Beinecke

Qualified juniors need to follow these steps:

- Email Dr. Margaret Lamb or Dr. Andrew Dausch that you are interested in applying.
- Familiarize yourself with the “Application for Support” requirements. General details are available on the [Apply for a Fellowship](#) page of our website in the [Endorsements section](#). Specific instructions are linked from the [Seek Endorsements in Fall](#) tab (and [linked here](#)).
- The internal selection of 1 Smith College nominee requires completion of an [Application for Support](#) with answers to certain questions tailored to your fellowship choice (the [Information Sheet – Fall Application for Nomination](#) – specifies what is required for Beinecke Scholarship applicants).
- Please make sure that you discuss your interest in applying for the Beinecke Scholarship with your potential letter writers. **We will ask one listed recommender (you specify which one) for an informal recommendation due one week after you submit your Application for Support.**
- The deadline for completion of the Application for Support is listed in the [Overview of Deadlines Requiring Smith College Endorsement](#) (in AY2022, December 13, 2021).

Selection of Smith College nominee for the Beinecke

An ad hoc committee of faculty and staff will select Smith’s nominee from the pool of eligible juniors who have completed Applications for Support by the specified deadline.

- Selection of a nominee will be completed prior to the end of the fall semester.
- Selection criteria will be the same as for the external competition. The [selection criteria are outlined here](#) and note how the [Foundation explains who they are looking for in this statement](#).

Preparation of external Beinecke Scholarship application

Once you have been confirmed as a Smith College nominee for the Beinecke Scholarship, it’s time to complete the external application for the Beinecke Scholarship.

- There will be an internal deadline for the completion of the full application (in AY2022, January 13, 2022 is this internal deadline). This date will precede the external deadline for two reasons: to permit preparation of an institutional nomination letter and to create an opportunity for you to get a final round of feedback on the final draft of your whole application.
- We ask your letter writers to complete their letters of recommendation ahead of the external deadline for similar reasons (in AY2022, January 20, 2022 is this internal deadline).
- The Beinecke Scholarship [Nomination Deadline webpage](#) specifies the external application deadline for candidates and their letter writers (in AY2022, Wednesday, February 9, 2022), as well as the timetable for what happens following the submission of your application.