



Educating Vertical Flight Leaders of Tomorrow

VERTICAL FLIGHT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Vertical Flight Foundation (VFF), the philanthropic arm of the Vertical Flight Society, was established in 1967 and began awarding scholarships in 1977. It is an independent charitable trust dedicated to supporting education in vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) technology. All VFF scholarships are funded entirely through tax-deductible donations, which contribute to the Foundation's endowment. The Vertical Flight Society covers all administrative and operational expenses, ensuring that 100% of donated funds directly support students.

Each year, the VFF awards merit-based scholarships to college-level students who are pursuing engineering careers related to vertical flight technology. To date, the Foundation has awarded nearly 700 scholarships.

Scholarship awards are **solely merit-based** and range from \$1,000 to \$6,000 (USD) and are available to full-time students attending accredited universities or colleges anywhere in the world, regardless of nationality.

The top-ranked applicant each year receives the prestigious **\$6,000 Bell Scholarship**, funded through an endowment by Bell. Additionally, the **Jing Yen Cost Awareness Scholarship**, also valued at up to \$6,000, is awarded to a student who demonstrates exceptional interest in improving the affordability of vertical flight. This award is generously funded by Dr. Jing Yen.

Eligibility

- High school students are **not** eligible to apply.
- **All applicants must be full-time students as of the application deadline (February 1)**. Additionally, students must be enrolled in a relevant engineering degree program for at least one academic term following the scholarship awards, which are presented at the Society's Annual Forum in May.
- Students pursuing technical disciplines related to complex aeronautics or aviation systems—including those not specifically focused on vertical flight—will receive equal consideration.
- Students are eligible to receive a VFF scholarship once at each academic level: once as an undergraduate, once as a master's student, and once as a doctoral (Ph.D.) student.
- To be considered for the **\$6,000 Jing Yen Cost Awareness Scholarship**, applicants must clearly demonstrate a strong interest in improving the affordability of vertical flight. This should be reflected in both the applicant's narrative and resume, emphasizing specific ideas or experiences related to cost reduction and affordability in the field.

Degree Eligibility by Category

Undergraduate / Bachelor's (BS) Degree Category

- The applicant must be pursuing an eligible undergraduate engineering degree.
- The applicant must have at least one term of university coursework toward their Bachelor's program **after** the awarding of scholarships at the Annual Forum (May 5–7, 2026).
- Students graduating with a BS degree in May 2026 are **not** eligible to apply in the BS category.
- However, a senior graduating in May 2026 may apply under the **Graduate (MS)** category **if** they have been accepted into a relevant graduate program (MS, PhD, or combined MS/PhD) and will begin immediately following graduation.

Master of Science (MS) Degree Category

- The Master applicant must be pursuing an eligible MS engineering degree.
- The applicant must have at least one term of university coursework toward their MS program **after** the awarding of scholarships at the Annual Forum (May 5-7, 2026).
- Students enrolled in a combined Master's/PhD program are eligible under the **MS category** if they have **not yet passed their qualifying exams** as of the application deadline in **February 2026** and **do not already hold a Master's (MS) degree**.

Doctoral (PhD) Degree Category

- Applicants must either hold a Master's (MS) degree or be enrolled in a combined MS/PhD program and have formally met a key doctoral milestone, such as passing qualifying exams.
- Applicants must have **at least one term remaining** in their current PhD program **after** the awarding of scholarships at the Annual Forum (May 5–7, 2026).

A complete application package must include the following to be eligible for review:

- Completed Scholarship Application Form
- Resume
- Narrative
- Official University/School Transcript*
- Professor Letter of Recommendation*

****Documents must be sent directly by the school registrar or the recommending professor. Transcripts or letters of recommendation submitted by the student will not be accepted or reviewed.***

Other information

- Applications will be reviewed by the VV Scholarship Review Committee.
- The VFF Foundation will award several scholarships annually unless there are no qualified applicants.
- Scholarship recipients will be notified by the VFF Coordinator of the decision in April and all decisions are final.
- VFF documents and online application can be found at www.vtol.org/vff.

Selection Criteria

- Experience (work history, research, paper publications from resume) 35%
- Narrative – 25%
- Letter(s) of Recommendation – 20%
- Academics – 10%
- Extra Curricula Activities – 10%

VFF Coordinator Contact Information:

Vertical Flight Society

Attn: VFF Coordinator, Julie M. Gibbs

2700 Prosperity Ave., Suite 275

Fairfax, VA 22031-4340 USA

Email jmgibbs@vtol.org

Phone 1-703-684-6777 x103

DUE DATE

ALL VFF documents must be received by the VFF Coordinator by **February 1, 2026, at the email or address above to be eligible for review.**

There are no extensions or exceptions to the above deadline date – so you must plan to have your application, transcripts and recommendation letters arrive **ON OR BEFORE THAT DATE.**

VFF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SECTION I

Please complete all sections.

Full Name: _____

Present University Name: _____

University City, State, Country: _____

Permanent Residence Street Address: _____

Permanent City, State, Postal Code, Country: _____

Preferred Phone Number to be contacted: _____

Preferred Email to be contacted: _____

I hereby certify that the information contained in this Application for Scholarship is true and correct and that I have planned for submission of my official grade transcript and a letter or recommendation by a dean or professor affiliated with my university.

Professor's Name: _____

Professor's Email _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

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SECTION II – EDUCATION

Please list all schools attended, starting with the most recent first, i.e., the school you currently attend should appear on line 1.

| School Name/City, State, Country | Enrollment Date | Expected Graduation Date | Full or Part-Time | Cum. GPA | Academic Concentration |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|------------------------|
| 1. | | | | | |
| 2. | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | |

What is your current academic level?

- B.S.**
 M.S.
 Ph.D.

In what academic category are you applying? [Refer to eligibility criteria for each category.]

- B.S.**
 M.S.
 Ph.D.

If you are continuing to another degree program, what will be your academic level *after May 2026*? [Refer to eligibility criteria.]

- Not Applicable**
 B.S.
 M.S.
 Ph.D.

Do you want to be considered for the Jing Yen Cost Awareness scholarship worth \$6,000?

- Yes**
 No

If you answered Yes to the above, you MUST include a detailed interest and recognition on the importance of affordability and how it might be improved within the vertical flight community in your narrative and resume information.

What is your school's grading system? A= _____

If the cumulative GPA you list for the school you currently attend covers one year or less of academic work, you must submit two transcripts, one for the school you currently attend and one for the school you previously attended.

What is your current GPA (present semester/quarter)? From _____ to _____
 GPA _____

If the scholarship is to be used at a school other than the one you currently attend (line 1 above), or if the scholarship is to be used for an advanced degree program at the same school, please complete the table below.

| School Name/City, State, Country | Enrollment Date | Expected Graduation Date | Full or Part-Time | Cum. GPA | Academic Concentration |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|------------------------|
| | | | | | |

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SECTION III – NARRATIVE

Please provide a printed, legible narrative below OR as a separate document (PDF or Word) and include page numbers.

Your narrative should be a personal statement that clearly communicates:

- Your passion for **aeronautics, aeronautical engineering, complex aviation systems,** and specifically, **vertical flight technology**.
- How your academic and career goals will help you pursue and grow this passion.
- Your **unique perspective, specific interests, and relevant experiences** related to key issues in the vertical flight community — such as affordability, innovation, or emerging technologies.

Important guidelines:

- **Do not simply restate your résumé** or provide a research abstract.
- If you wish to be considered for the **\$6,000 Jing Yen Cost Awareness Scholarship**, your narrative **must explicitly demonstrate** a strong understanding of the importance

Name: _____

Preferred Email: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

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SECTION IV – RÉSUMÉ

Resume Guidelines and Template: Applicants must submit a résumé and can choose **any format they prefer** or use the **basic structure provided below**. Be **accurate, concise**, include page numbers, and submit as a **PDF or Word document**.

Name & Address

Email / Phone Contact Information

Career Objective: A brief statement outlining your academic and professional goals.

Experience / Employment / Research: List your most relevant experience. If the work did not result in a paper, publication, or presentation, include it here.

Organize by relevance:

- Vertical Flight Technology
- Other Aerospace
- Other (e.g., unrelated jobs, internships, etc.)
- If applying for the **\$6,000 Jing Yen Cost Awareness Scholarship**, you **must include any research or work related to cost awareness** in vertical flight.

Papers/Publications/Presentations: list any papers, articles, or presentations (including posters or conference talks), organized by relevance

- Vertical Flight Technology
- Other Aerospace
- Other

Professional Societies/Association Memberships/Extra-Curricular Activities (if held an office or worked on a special project briefly describe what you did)

- Vertical Flight Technology
- Other Aerospace
- Other (include community service)

Awards/Grants/Fellowships/Scholarships: List any recognitions you have received, including academic honors.

Skills: list relevant skills such as

- Technical skills (e.g., CAD, MATLAB, Python)
- Languages
- Other professional competencies