

What type of scholarships are available?

Script:

Welcome to CIRCLE's video series on Understanding Financial Resources
In Episode 2, we'll talk about What type of scholarship are available?

Typically, there are two types of scholarships available: merit and need based scholarships.

A merit-based scholarship is a scholarship that takes into consideration your future potential, not just as a student but also into your future career, based on your current or past achievements. The word "**merit**" specifies that the scholarship selection committee will be looking for things like engagement in your academic areas of interest, having active community involvement, volunteering or other leadership experience. When considering merit scholarships, having a strong GPA may make you eligible for more opportunities, but experience as a student leader, engaging in research, being an active member of your community, and being willing to share your ideas about future goals will increase your chances of receiving these types of scholarships as they are competitive.

Merit-based scholarships are typically offered by the University upon admission, by your major departments and by community organizations, foundations, companies and governments outside the University. If you are already a UW student, a good first step to find merit-based scholarships is to talk to your **academic adviser** and see if your department offers any scholarships for students based on academic merit in the major. The adviser can tell you about the scholarships offered, requirements, and deadlines to apply.

A need-based scholarship typically requires that applicants have financial need in order to be eligible to apply. However, in the selection process, financial need is often considered along with the same merit-based criteria we just discussed. Usually, the application process will ask students to disclose their financial circumstances through an essay, an interview, or by completing a need-assessment form that asks for student expenses such as tuition, books or housing expenses. Most applications will also include essays, resumes, and letters of recommendation that allow you to demonstrate those merit-based elements as well.

Just like merit-based scholarships, need-based scholarships can be offered by the University, academic departments, and community organizations, foundations, companies and governments. The important thing to remember is that need-based scholarships want to **support students** who otherwise would not be able to cover their educational expenses. Attending college is expensive and sometimes paying tuition is outside the reach of many families. Or even when a family plans for college expenses, there are sometimes changes in family income that may make it difficult for students to continue their education as demonstrated by the recent pandemic. If you are concerned about the impact receiving a need based scholarship may have on your visa status, we encourage you to view the video where we address it.

The Office of Merit Scholarships at the UW is a great resource to find both merit and need based scholarships that are open to international students. The office has a great online database where you can find scholarships by scholarship type and filter by visa status

Check out our next video on eligibility and requirements

Thank you for your time,

This video is narrated by Erik Solhaug on behalf of the Student Advisory Board

Remember to subscribe and share our videos, see you next time!