University Awards

California State University, Fullerton offers a number of university-wide awards to students each year. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the appropriate office. If you are a student, you are encouraged to apply for a nomination through your school dean’s office. If you are a faculty member, we welcome your nomination of deserving students for whichever award you feel would be appropriate. All materials are due in the specified office by the application or nomination deadline. 

Note: For all scholarships, the notification process does not include a notification to all applicants but only to the selected recipient of the scholarship. The expected date of notification is by the end of May.

Alumni Association Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Amount: $1,000

Established by: This award was established by the Cal State Fullerton Alumni Association. Funds for this award are raised through the generous support of CSUF alumni and proceeds raised at alumni programs and events.

Open to: Nomination for this award is open to students who will receive their Master’s degree in January, June or August of 2020. Nominations for this award must be submitted by a CSUF faculty or staff member.

Criteria: Academically outstanding ♦ Demonstrates service to the department, university and/or community ♦ Active in extracurricular, academic or professional activities.

Application Procedure: Nominations can be submitted to https://alumni.fullerton.edu/scholarship/awards.php - The application will ask biographical/contact information for the student as well as questions relating to the criteria listed above. Student finalist for the award will be asked to participate in an interview with the Alumni Association scholarship committee on April 25, 2020.

Application Deadline: March 20

Alumni Association Outstanding Senior Award

Amount: $1,000

Established by: This award was established by the Cal State Fullerton Alumni Association. Funds for this award are raised through the generous support of CSUF alumni and proceeds raised at alumni programs and events.

Open to: Nomination for this award is open to students who will receive their Baccalaureate degree in January, June or August of 2019. Nominations for this award must be submitted by a CSUF faculty or staff member.
Criteria: Academically outstanding ♦ Demonstrates service to the department, university and/or community ♦ Active in extracurricular, academic or professional activities.

Application Procedure: Nominations can be submitted to https://alumni.fullerton.edu/scholarship/awards.php - The application will ask biographical/contact information for the student as well as questions relating to the criteria listed above. Student finalist for the award will be asked to participate in an interview with the Alumni Association scholarship committee on April 25, 2020.

Application Deadline: March 20

CSUF Lavender and Beyond Award

Amount: $1,000

Established by: This annual award was established by emeriti staff member Bob Ericksen in support of students who have advocated on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community.

Open to: Graduating (graduate or undergraduate) student who is an active participant with the CSUF LGBT Queer Resource Center.

Criteria: Demonstrated academic performance in respective major ♦ Demonstrated sustained and significant contributions to Cal State Fullerton in the following ways: Service to and advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community on-campus and/or in the community at-large; Created opportunities for increased understanding through initiated educational/outreach programs or development of coalitions with student groups with identities outside the LGBTQ+ community.

Application Procedure: Students are encouraged to self-apply or may be nominated by a fellow student, faculty, or staff member. Applications/nominations should include: 1) One-page statement addressing qualification criteria in each area as well as a statement of how they will bridge their experience to their next planned education/work/life experience 2) Two letters of reference 3) Completed SA application for self-applications, available at http://www.fullerton.edu/financialaid/_resources/pdf/scholarships/Application.pdf ; 2 Submit application materials to Diversity Initiatives & Resource Centers, Pollak Library 180

Application Deadline: April 1, 2020

Giles T. Brown Outstanding Thesis Award

Amount: $1,000

Established by: This award is by faculty nomination only. It was established by Dr. Giles T. Brown, Associate Vice President of Academic Programs, Emeritus, and the Graduate Studies Office to honor a graduate student for their outstanding thesis. Any faculty may submit a nomination to their respective department chair who will send eligible entries to the college deans. College deans submit nominations to the Graduate Studies Office with a copy of the thesis (unbound if possible). Entries must include a
copy of the title page, signed by the student’s thesis committee. Finalists may be recommended for Honorable Mention by the thesis judges. Awardees will receive a certificate and a $1000 cash award. For further information, contact the Graduate Studies Office, located in McCarthy Hall 112, (657) 278-2618.

Open to: Nomination for this award is open to graduate students who have completed a thesis in the summer or fall, or who will complete a thesis in the spring. Students must have graduated or be candidates for spring graduation.

Nomination Guidelines: ♦ 4 unbound color copies of the thesis with signed signature page ♦ 4 copies of non-technical summary prepared by Student (1,000-1,500 words) describing the research and its significance for a general academic audience of non-specialist ♦ 1 original and 3 copies of nomination letters (4 sets from member of thesis committee, department chair, and the college dean) letters should include information regarding the significance of the thesis, the contribution to the department program and the impact of the thesis on knowledge base of the discipline ♦ A short bio (125-150 words) of the nominee, written by the student

Criteria: Quality of thesis ♦ Faculty committee nomination letters ♦ One nomination per College

Application Procedure: Faculty nomination

Application Deadline: March 8, 2019

Kelley McArthur Memorial Scholarship

Amount: $500

Established by: This scholarship is named for Kelley McArthur, in her memory, to support the efforts of students who have overcome obstacles. The Kelley McArthur Memorial Scholarship honors Kelley, who battled rheumatoid arthritis from the time she was three years old until the age of 34. Kelley’s physical challenges did not stop her from getting good grades and focusing on higher education. This scholarship will benefit extraordinary people like her who have a spirit to succeed against all obstacles.

Open to: This scholarship is open to new and continuing students who are pursuing an undergraduate or a graduate degree.

Criteria: 2.75 GPA ♦ Full-time ♦ Financial need ♦ Good academic standing ♦ Personal statement (300 words) in which student describes how their disability has affected them and how they have succeeded with their disability.

Application Procedure: 1) Log into your CSUF portal (be sure to use the new portal) and click on the “Scholarships” button. Follow the onscreen instructions and complete the scholarship application; 2) Complete a one page essay, typed and double-spaced, describing student leadership positions held to date and intentions for future student leadership roles at CSUF (see application for content suggestions); 3) Provide resume; and 4) Provide one letter of recommendation from CSUF staff or faculty.

Application Deadline: March 31

Dr. Donald S. Castro Memorial Study Abroad Scholarship
Amount: $1,000

Established by: Memorial: Established by family, friends, business associates, and CSUF faculty and staff, this scholarship is named in memory of Dr. Donald S. Castro. Dr. Castro, Special Assistant to California State University, Fullerton President Milton A. Gordon, died unexpectedly on June 11, 2007. Don was a passionate and compassionate man who championed human rights and equal opportunities for the disadvantaged. He served as a leading advocate of underrepresented students and assisted them in obtaining their college degree and fulfilling their educational dreams. This scholarship honors Dr. Castro’s passion for helping those who may not otherwise be able to attend college as well as his love of travel, exploration and history.

Open to: This scholarship is open to continuing students who are pursuing an undergraduate or a graduate degree, who are in financial need, and who meet eligibility requirements for and have been accepted into a Study Abroad Program approved by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Criteria: Full-Time Enrollment in a degree program ♦ Financial Need ♦ Must meet eligibility requirements for and be accepted into a Study Abroad Program approved by the IEE Office ♦ Be in Good Academic Standing ♦ Community Service/Involvement ♦ Two CSUF Faculty/Staff Recommendation Letters ♦ Written essay on how you champion human rights and equal opportunities for the disadvantaged.

Application Procedure: 1) Complete the SA application at answering all 7 questions, and sign the Certification; 2) Complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application (or have one on-file) for establishing financial need. If you are ineligible to apply for Federal Financial Aid please state it on your application. 3) Provide two letters of recommendation from CSUF faculty/staff 4) Written essay on how you champion human rights and equal opportunities for the disadvantaged 5) Submit completed application and materials to Mr. Victor M. Rojas Jr., LH-630.

Application Deadline: March 15