



# American Bus Association™ Foundation

## 2026-27 American Bus Association Foundation Survivor Scholarship Program

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## Program Overview

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### Who is eligible to apply?

The Survivor Scholarship is open to ABA and non-ABA members. It was established to provide financial assistance to survivors of human trafficking. One scholarship of \$5,000 is awarded.

- You must be a citizen or permanent United States resident.
- You must submit a statement, no more than 1,000 words, as to how this scholarship will benefit you.
- You must provide contact information on two references from an agency, counselor, service provider, social worker, and/or employer who can vouch for your determination, strength, and potential.
- The scholarship can be used to support your livelihood, including but not limited to education, housing, food assistance, daycare services, treatment recovery, or rehabilitation needs.
- As a condition of accepting this scholarship, the selected recipient must agree to participate in brief check-ins with American Bus Association (ABA) staff on a quarterly basis for one (1) year following the award. These check-ins are intended to provide supportive touchpoints, allow the program to understand the recipient's progress, and help ensure the scholarship continues to meet the recipient's needs.
- The ABA Foundation reserves the right to post the scholarship winner's name, in whole or in part, on its website, social media accounts, annual events, or in a press release. Permission to share the names of scholarship winners will be requested from all applicants. Denial of the request will not affect the application decision.

### When is the application deadline?

May 1, 2026 at 11:59 PST

### What is the Program timeline?

- Application Open: March 2, 2026
- Application Deadline: May 1, 2026
- Notification of Selection Results: June 2026
- Funds Disbursed: August 2026

### Is this award renewable?

No. The scholarships are not renewable.

### Who administers this Program?

To ensure complete impartiality in the selection of recipients and to maintain a high level of professionalism and security, the program is administered by International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS), an independent company that specializes in managing sponsored educational assistance programs.

## Award Details

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### What are the selection criteria?

An independent selection committee will evaluate the **Complete** applications and select recipients. When applicable, applicants affiliated with ABA member companies will receive additional consideration to those who are not affiliated with ABA members. *Decisions of the selection committee are final and are not subject to appeal. No application feedback will be given.*

### What are the details of the award?

- One scholarship will be awarded annually and is not renewable.
- Students may reapply each year as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.
- The award amount for the ABA Survivor Scholarship is \$5,000.
- The scholarship can be used to support your livelihood, including but not limited to education, housing, food assistance, daycare services, treatment recovery, or rehabilitation needs.

### How and when are funds issued?

Your funds will be issued via check in early August. Your check will be made payable to you the check will be mailed to your home address. You will receive an email notification once your funds have been issued.

## Application Details

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**What supporting documentation is required for this application?**  
There is no required supporting documentation for this application.

## Notifications

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### How will I be notified about the status of my application?

Notifications are sent primarily via email to the email you used to create your account. Some programs offer text and voice notifications. **Ultimately, it is your responsibility as the applicant to verify your application status on your Home page is Complete.**

### What notifications will be sent to me?

- **Deadline Reminders:** Typically, deadline reminder emails begin 30-45 days prior to the application deadline.
- **Selection Results:** Selection results notifications are sent to all **Complete** applicants.
- **Funds Disbursed:** Once your funds have been issued, you will be notified.
- **Other Scholarships:** Occasionally, if you meet the requirements for another scholarship administered by ISTS, you will be notified. These notifications are not guaranteed.

*Your information is never sold to any third party for marketing purposes.*

### Who will notifications be sent from?

You will receive notifications from two possible ISTS email addresses: [donotreply@applyISTS.com](mailto:donotreply@applyISTS.com) and [ContactUs@applyISTS.com](mailto:ContactUs@applyISTS.com). You should add both of these email addresses to your “safe senders list” to ensure important emails are not sent to your spam or junk folder.

### When will I receive notifications?

Notifications vary by program based on the Program timeline. Refer to the Program timeline listed above for more specific information. Typically, deadline reminder emails begin 30-45 days prior to the application deadline.

### Can I opt out of notifications?

While you can opt out of notifications, this is not advised. It is your responsibility as the applicant to ensure your application is **Complete**. If you opt out of notifications, you will not receive deadline reminders or selection results. **Your information is never sold to any third party.** The only emails you will receive from ISTS are directly related to your application and, *possibly*, other scholarship opportunities.

## Document Upload

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### What should be visible on my documents?

All uploaded documents **must** show your name. If you are using an online portal to access your required documentation and all that is visible is the salutation and your first name (Example: Welcome Joe!), this will meet the name requirement.

### What are the acceptable file types?

The only acceptable file types are **.pdf, .tif, .png, .jpeg, .jpg, .bmp and .xps**. Any other formats will not be reviewed, and your application will remain incomplete. You may upload multiple files within a .zip file. All files within a .zip file must be in one of the acceptable file types listed above.

### Why can't I upload a Word document?

ISTS does not accept any editable file format.

### One of the documents I uploaded has a status of Rejected. What do I do now?

Review the reason your document was rejected. Once you have corrected that issue, upload a new copy of your document.

### How do I upload more than one file at a time?

You may create a .zip file containing more than one file as long as everything included is in an acceptable file type of **.pdf, .tif, .png, .jpeg, .jpg, .bmp and .xps**. Do not upload additional documentation that is not requested. It will not be reviewed.

### How do I create a .zip file?

To use this format, follow the steps outlined below:

1. Create a new folder on your Desktop, name it the document type you will be uploading. For example, Test Scores, Transcript, or Financial Documentation.
2. Move all the files you wish to upload into the new folder.
3. Right-click on the folder from your Desktop:
  - a. PC Users: select "Send to," followed by "Compressed (zipped) folder."
  - b. Mac Users: select "Compress [folder name]."
4. Your new **.zip** file will be located on your Desktop, ready to upload.

### How long does it take to process my uploaded documents?

Documents are processed daily. Your document will be processed within 1 business day. If your document was uploaded prior to the deadline, it will be considered. However, it is your responsibility to monitor your **Home page** to ensure your document is **Accepted**.

### The deadline has passed and my documents are still Processing- what does that mean?

All documents must be reviewed for the required information and for accuracy. All documents uploaded prior to the application deadline will be reviewed and considered. It is your responsibility to monitor your **Home page** to ensure your document is **Accepted** and that your application status reads **Complete**.

## What are the DOs and DON'Ts of uploading documents to my application?

### DO:

- Upload one of the accepted file types.
- Only upload the requested and required documents.
- Black out any Social Security Numbers. *This is not required, but highly advised.*
- Return to your **Home page** to verify your documents have been **Accepted**.

### DON'T:

- Upload a Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Word document (.doc, .docx) or any other format we don't accept.
- Upload more than the requested documentation.
- Assume your documents are correct and accepted once you have uploaded them.
- Upload a document stating you are mailing your documents.
- Assume the required document does not pertain to you. If the application states the document is required, your application **will** remain incomplete if you do not provide that document. Contact us if you are having trouble providing a required document.
- Password protect your uploaded documents. Password-protected documents will be rejected.
- Upload any file that has a viewing expiration date.

## Other Important Information

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### Are scholarships taxable?

Tax laws vary by country. In the United States, scholarship funds used exclusively for the payment of tuition and textbooks are normally not taxable. The scholarship recipient is responsible for taxes, if any, that may be assessed against his or her scholarship award. We recommend consulting your tax adviser for more guidance. You may also consult IRS Publication 970 for additional information.

### ISTS Student Support Hub

For more helpful information about scholarships plus answers to common inquiries related to ISTS' technology and processes, visit our Student Support Hub at [ISTSprogramsupport.com](https://istsprogramsupport.com).

### Contact Information

ISTS office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Central Time, and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Central Time. Program Support Representatives are available via live chat and email during these hours. Use the green **Help** button (as shown below) at the bottom right corner of your screen to contact us.



When contacting ISTS for assistance, please have your Application ID ready. You can find this in the top left corner of the program you applied to on your homepage.