



KNIGHT-HENNESSY

<https://knight-hennessy.stanford.edu>

OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

Knight-Hennessy Scholars cultivates and supports a multidisciplinary and multicultural community of graduate students from across Stanford University, and delivers engaging experiences that prepare graduates to be visionary, courageous, and collaborative leaders who address complex challenges facing the world.

All scholars are Stanford University graduate students, who join Knight-Hennessy Scholars when they begin a new graduate degree program at any of [Stanford's seven schools](#). Scholars participate in up to [three years of programming](#) that complements their graduate studies and prepares them to take on leadership roles in academia, industry, government, nonprofits, and the community at large.

A new cohort of scholars joins each year, adding to a [diverse community of scholars](#) from across disciplines, nationalities, perspectives, and backgrounds. Scholars learn together, collaborate on impactful projects, and develop lifelong friendships. Scholars receive a [fellowship for up to three years of tuition](#), depending upon their degree length. In addition, scholars receive a stipend for living and academic expenses, and a travel stipend for one annual trip to and from Stanford.

Knight-Hennessy scholars are visionary thinkers who are curious, open-minded, analytical, eager for cross-cultural perspective, and genuinely excited to boldly and creatively address our world's important challenges. Knight-Hennessy scholars are courageous leaders who are ethical, decisive, resilient, driven to achieve meaningful results, and motivated to inspire others to effect positive change at scale.

[See criteria](#)

Knight-Hennessy scholars are collaborative community members who are humble, empathetic, trustworthy, oriented to act in service of others, and deeply passionate about contributing to the greater good.

ELIGIBILITY

First, in addition to applying to Knight-Hennessy Scholars (KHS), you must apply to, be accepted by, and enroll in a full-time Stanford graduate degree program including, but not limited to, DMA, JD, MA, MBA, MD, MFA, MPP, MS, or PhD programs. You must meet at least **one** of the following four conditions:

1. You are applying separately but concurrently to KHS and a full-time Stanford graduate degree program such that you will start both in the same year.
2. You have already been offered and deferred admission to a full-time Stanford graduate degree program, and will apply to KHS such that you will start both in the same year.
3. You are a current Stanford graduate student who will apply to add a second full-time Stanford graduate degree program, such that you will start both KHS and the new program in the same year.
4. You are a current Stanford PhD student in your first year of enrollment, and will apply to KHS such that you will start KHS in your second year of PhD enrollment.

There are no quotas by discipline or program. Note that we will give priority consideration to those who will spend at least two years studying at Stanford.

Please note that a small number of Stanford graduate degree programs are not eligible for Knight-Hennessy Scholars:

- Applicants to the [Honors Cooperative Program](#)
- Applicants to the [Master of Liberal Arts](#)
- Applicants to the [Doctor of Science of Law \(JSD\)](#)
- Current Stanford students applying for coterminal graduate study
- Current Stanford PhD students adding an MA or MS degree in their current discipline

HOW TO APPLY

- No application fee.
- Online application: The online application form allows you to provide contextual details that help us evaluate the rest of your application materials
- Complete online application: academic and personal information, contact information, basic biographic and demographic details, etc.

- Resume: One page that includes highlights of your experiences, interests, and academic record in reverse-chronological order
- Transcript(s) & Test Scores: The transcript allows you to provide a record of academic performance that helps us assess your preparation for rigorous graduate-level study at Stanford. Scan and upload them.
- Recommendation Letters: Register the recommenders through the online application as early in the application process as possible. The system will send them each a link.

FOR RECOMMENDERS

- The strongest letters we receive come from individuals who have interacted with applicants closely, extensively, and recently (typically in the last two or three years).
- The strongest letters we receive come from those who have observed and can comment, with specific examples, on applicant progress towards a goal. Character references without supporting evidence, even when highly positive, do not meaningfully improve your candidacy.
- The applicants recommendations may be from academic, community, or professional contexts.
- The applicant may not write, draft, edit, translate, or submit the letter of reference. We will require you to affirm in your application that you have not done so.
- It is inappropriate to ask a family member to provide a recommendation letter.