

## 2020-2021 General Policies Governing UAB International Scholarships for First Year Students

### ACCEPTING YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

- ▶ Indicate your scholarship decision in **BSMART**, UAB's Blazer Scholarship Management and Resource Tool, at [uab.edu/bsmart](http://uab.edu/bsmart) by **May 1** for the June and August intakes (**January 1** for the January intake). If you do not accept your scholarship offer by the appropriate deadline, then it will be rescinded.
- ▶ Meet all contingencies for admission to the university and enroll as a full-time student during the semester for which your scholarship was awarded.

### RECEIVING YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

- ▶ International scholarships may be received for up to a total of 4 academic years (8 academic semesters).
- ▶ You must enroll at UAB as a full-time undergraduate student during the fall and spring semesters of each academic year (12 or more credit hours each term). Exceptions can be made during the final award year, allowing students to receive scholarship funds if they are enrolled at least half-time each semester (6 or more credit hours).
- ▶ Scholarship funds will be equally divided between the fall and spring semesters. The funds will disburse to your UAB student account on your first day of classes each semester.
- ▶ The amount specified in your scholarship offer letter is the amount you will receive each academic year and is dependent upon your international residency classification and F-1 visa category. Please note: Your scholarship may be canceled if either your residency classification or visa category change while enrolled at UAB.
- ▶ Students who are receiving governmental scholarships or other external support are not eligible to receive this award.

### RENEWING YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

- ▶ Earn a minimum of 24 total credit hours at UAB during the fall and spring semesters of each academic year. (Grades/notations of F, I, N, or W cannot be applied toward your 24-hour requirement.)
- ▶ Maintain a cumulative UAB grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher.
- ▶ Alternative credit, such as AP, IB, CLEP, or transfer coursework, cannot be applied toward your renewal requirements.
- ▶ UAB developmental courses (course numbers 000-099) are not categorized as earned hours or included in the UAB GPA calculation. If you earn 24 UAB credit hours with the help of developmental coursework and receive a cancellation notification, then you must contact the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships at [scholarships@uab.edu](mailto:scholarships@uab.edu) and request an individual grade review.
- ▶ Renewal decisions are made once per year, after the spring semester. If you have fulfilled the renewal requirements by that time, then your scholarship will be automatically renewed for the next academic year. If not, then your scholarship will be canceled, and future disbursements will not be made. Cancellation notifications will be sent via email. Therefore, be sure to check your UAB email account on a regular basis. (If you receive your first scholarship allotment in the spring semester, then you must earn 12 UAB credit hours during that semester to fulfill the renewal requirements for the current academic year.)

If you have questions or need to request a scholarship appeal form, please contact us at [scholarships@uab.edu](mailto:scholarships@uab.edu) or (205) 934-8134.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What will happen to my scholarship if I completely withdraw from all courses during a semester?**

Your scholarship will be canceled at that time. If you receive a tuition refund for the semester, then your scholarship amount may be reduced, paying only the remaining tuition charges. If tuition charges are completely removed, then the semester's allotment will be recovered.

### **What do I do if my scholarship is canceled?**

If extenuating circumstances occurred, then you may appeal the cancellation of your scholarship by submitting an appeal form. The appeal process allows you to explain your extenuating circumstances, submit an academic plan for the next year, and provide supporting documentation (i.e., a copy of your military orders or letter from your physician for medical circumstances), if applicable. If you choose not to appeal the cancellation of a scholarship, then the award will not be reinstated at a later date, even if you return to good standing.

### **Can I move one of my scholarship allotments to the summer semester?**

If you will be enrolled full-time in the summer semester and would like to move one of your allotments to that term, then you may submit a scholarship appeal form. The request must be made prior to the first day of classes for the semester in which you want to receive the award. Please note: Only one allotment may be received each semester.

### **Do I need to notify the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships if I will not be enrolled in a fall or spring semester?**

Yes. If you are not able to enroll at UAB due to an Education Abroad program, internship, co-op, military service, or other extenuating circumstance(s), then you must submit a scholarship appeal form, requesting an exception to the renewal requirements (and possibly the disbursement timeline) for your award. The form must be submitted prior to the first day of classes for the semester you will be away. Please note: Students attending Education Abroad programs also will need to complete additional requirements through the Office of Education Abroad. Contact [educationabroad@uab.edu](mailto:educationabroad@uab.edu) for additional information.

### **What happens to my scholarship if I graduate from UAB early?**

If you receive your baccalaureate degree before using all 8 of your scholarship allotments, then you may apply remaining allotments to graduate or professional school charges at UAB. Students must be continuously enrolled to take advantage of this benefit (maximum of one semester off).