

# Engineering Scholarship Application Workshop + Writing Tips

hosted by UCLA Samueli Academic and Student Affairs  
Based on collaboration with the UCLA Scholarship Resource Center

**What is the #1 reason students do not get a scholarship?**

**They do not apply.**

## 2019-2020 Scholarship cycle

**908 Applications initiated**

**Only 580 completed**

(with only 140 or so awards, this is still highly competitive, but not for those 328 that didn't complete. That was just a guaranteed no)

**To have a strong application, it will take you more than a few hours to write a draft, review a draft, finalize a draft, etc.**

**But even if you receive just a \$500 award, how many hours would you have to work to earn that? What about \$1000? \$5000?**

# *“But I’m not qualified for any scholarships”*

Apply. You never know.

Finances and Academics are only one part of the story.

Donor criteria plays a large role in making matches.

## **John DeGroff Haller Memorial Scholarship**

Electrical Engineering major; any level; preference for students admitted after turning 25 of age or who took time off due to financial hardship, and then re-entered after turning 25 years of age. Financial need required.

## **Kalpesh Vardhan Engineering Scholarship**

Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior Standing; Any major within School including Undeclared; Minimum 3.0 GPA NOT required; Strength of essay strongly considered; Extra-Curricular activities and Leadership considered; Financial Need Considered.

## **UCLA APLUS Scholarship Endowment**

Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior Standing; Computer Science/Computer Science & Engineering major; Minimum 3.5 GPA; Research and/or Educational Abroad Programs experience preferred; One award preference for student involved in Society of Women Engineering; Extra-Curricular activities and Leadership considered; Financial Need Considered.

## **AV Balakrishnan Scholarship**

Any Level: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior standing; Any major within School including Undeclared, Minimum 3.0 GPA; Extra-Curricular activities and Leadership considered; Financial Need Considered

**Every year we award to new freshman/transfers, continuing students of all levels and majors, international, domestic, and permanent resident status students**

**New Application Platform**  
**Still only 1 Application to be considered for 140-150 awards**  
**Open NOW!**  
**Deadline: Monday, November 2, 11:59pm**

**Applying is easy!**

**Step 1:**

Log into UCLA Academic Works.

- You already have an account, just log in with your Bruin Online Login

**Step 2:**

Complete the General Application

- This will unlock any opportunities you are eligible for at UCLA all year.
- Some are automatch, some require an additional application

**Step 3:**

Complete the Engineering Application

- Available until 11:59pm on Monday Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- This is what will be used to match you to the Engineering Scholarships





My Applications

Opportunities

Donors




Alina Haas

## Application Progress


 General Application Other Recommended Opportunities  Applicant RecordRecommended Opportunities 

Your scholarship application is automatically applied to all general scholarships for which you qualify. However, here are a few additional scholarship opportunities for which you may qualify. These scholarships may require you to write an additional essay or answer additional questions. If you are interested, please click on the "Apply" button next to each scholarship and follow the "Opportunity Specific" instructions located at the top of the application. Once complete click "Finish and Submit" at the bottom of the page.

Search by Keyword

Award	Name	Actions
Varies	<a href="#">Harry C. Sigman Scholarship</a> The Harry C. Sigman Scholarship is made possible by a generous endowment gift from Harry C. Sigman to encourage students to study in Israel. The...	 by 11/30/2020
\$2,000.00	<a href="#">Komar Shideler Centennial Scholars Study Abroad Scholarship</a> The Komar Shideler Study Abroad Scholarship was established in 2019 through the generosity of Ross Shideler and Kathleen Komar. Preference will be...	 by 11/30/2020
Varies	<a href="#">Mudie-Glaser Scholarship</a> The Mudie-Glaser Scholarship is designed for UCLA students from any academic background who wish to gain first-hand knowledge of Israel and its...	 by 11/30/2020

After you complete the Gen. App any opportunities you are eligible for that require action from you, can be found on this list. This will include the Engr App



## GENERAL APPLICATION

- some
- Personal information
  - Questions to help them match you to specific donor criteria for campus awards
  - Extra Curricular Activities/Community Involvement
  - Internships/Employment/Research
  - Honors/Awards
  - Personal Statement

## ENGINEERING APPLICATION

- Additional details the Gen App did not include
- Questions to help us match you to specific donor criteria for our awards
- Extra Curricular Activities/Community Involvement
- Personal Statement

The Reviewers will see what is in blue

## OVERLAP BETWEEN GENERAL APP AND ENGINEERING APP

The Engineering Application is only available until November 2nd and will only be tied to our engineering scholarships.

The General Application will stay active and match you to awards available at UCLA all year round.

**Personal Statement** The one in the General App and the Engineering App each to be able to stand on their own merit.

- For Engineering, we definitely want you to use our specific prompt that has engineering specific highlights.
- For the General Application, it is fine to use the same engineering essay. That is still a personal statement, but it can also be different. You have a chance to highlight other interests and passions.

**Extra curricular activities.** The ones listed in the General App and the Engineering App each to be able to stand on their own merit.

- For Engineering, we definitely want your top 3 Engineering clubs or community service. You are limited to a maximum of 3 here, but less is fine.
- For the General Application, If your top 3 engineering clubs are your top 3 overall clubs, then it is fine to duplicate in the General Application. But it is also a place to highlight other interests and involvement.

# **ENGINEERING WRITING TIPS!**

**Based on a UCLA Scholarship Resource Center Workshop**



## THE UCLA SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCE CENTER

310-206-2875

[src@college.ucla.edu](mailto:src@college.ucla.edu)

<http://www.scholarshipcenter.ucla.edu/>

Hosts awards available by field of study, cultural identity, personal interest, etc.

And they are all on Academic Works too!!

Check on their website to connect further.

Work with them to find your matches and successfully apply!



*However, for this application period which is pretty short, their appointments are very limited before the November 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline, and they are supporting students campus wide, not just Engineering.*

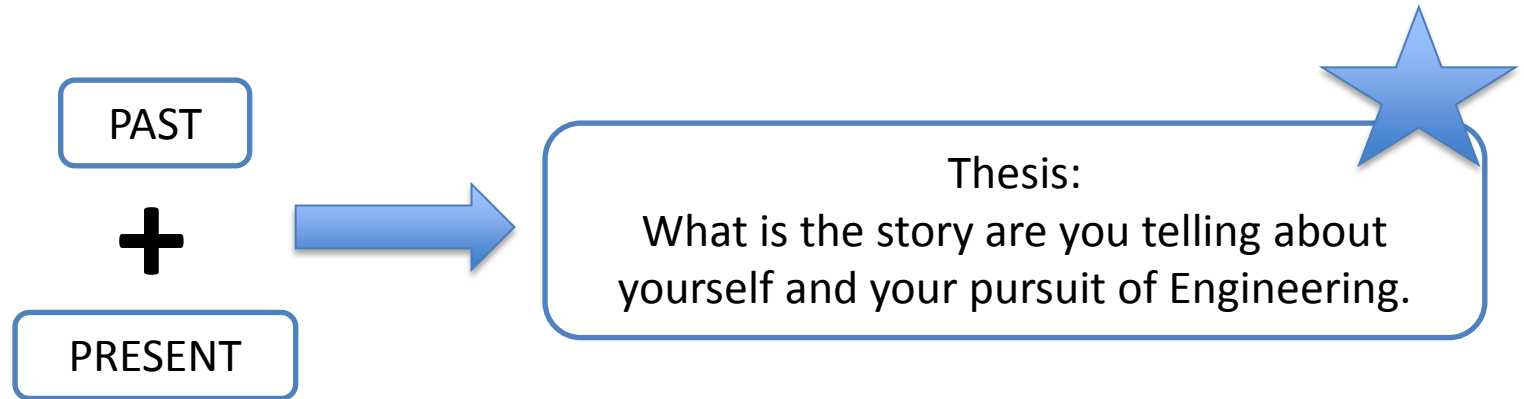
*The best way to connect with them for support is through their many Engineering Specific workshops this Fall. They may not be able to read your essay with you, but you can ask any questions you may have there!*

Log into MyUCLA → Go to Academics → Select Workshops  
search HSSEAS to find the SRC engr workshops  
Direct links are also on seasons scholarship homepage.

## **EASY TIPS AND ADVICE before you even start!**

- **Pay attention to the instructions provided in the Application Guidelines**
  - **Observe formatting rules and word limits as applicable (you want your essay to be memorable for the content, not because you didn't follow instructions)**
- **Give yourself at least a few days to write your personal statement.**
  - **You won't be able to do it effectively over night.**
- **Schedule a writing appointment with the Undergraduate Writing Center if they have openings**
  - **Their appointments may be limited as well, but they do provide writing consultations.**
  - **<https://uwc.ucla.edu/>**

**This is basically a personal statement aka how you became who you are and what that means for who you want to become...**



### **How has the past shaped you?**

Who are you?  
What qualities set you apart from others?  
How have your experiences/values/training prepared you for your studies/career in Engineering?

### **How does that tie into your future plans?**

Do you have a clear sense of direction?  
What do you want to do? Why?  
Do you have a plan for achieving these goals?  
What makes you particularly qualified to pursue this goal?

**THE PROMPT – In 700 words or less, tell us about your personal relationship with the field of engineering.**

- Do not be vague: This is your opportunity to demonstrate your passion for Engineering by referring to specifics from your life: internships, jobs or experiences, etc., that have been formative in guiding you down this path to Engineering. Be detailed. Make sure any reference to your future plans are well supported by past experiences and choices, as described in your essay.
- Please do not focus on finances. We understand that many students are in a situation of financial need. However, financial need is already taken into consideration when reviewing applications based on data provided by the Financial Aid Office.
- It is okay to use a past essay (UC application or previous scholarship application) as a starting point, but chances are, you have grown and had new experiences in the last year. Your essay should reflect these changes.
- Do not submit the same essay that you submitted in the past. The committee WILL notice and if so, you risk your application being disqualified.
- Do not submit an essay similar to your friend's essay: If there are striking similarities between two essays, the committee will notice, and both applicants risk their applications being dismissed.

There is no wrong way to do this. Try a few approaches. If you find yourself writing a lot, then that is a good match.

Don't try to write well, just get the ideas out. Words, incomplete phrase, no order

Don't judge yourself. No thought or idea is unimportant or stupid. Put it all out there.

## BRAINSTORMING EXERCISES!

### Method 1: Adjectives

Come up with 3 positive adjectives to describe yourself and think of concrete examples from your past and present that support this.

### Method 2: Freeform

Split your page in half and start writing in anything that comes to mind from your PAST (one side) and your goals for the FUTURE (other side).

**Method 3: Questions** Answer these questions to get the ideas flowing (based on SRC Personal Statement Resource Guide)

- What is my interest and motivation in this field? What have I gotten out of it so far and what do I hope to get out of it
- How did I become interested and motivated? Can I trace my interest to any concrete experiences?
- What are my strengths --- personal, academic?
- Is there any relevant aspect of myself that my resume or record does not reflect?
- Do my relevant experiences form any pattern? Broad exploration, increasing focus? Tackling greater and greater challenges?
- What kinds of experiences have taught me the most?

### Method 4: Themes

Is there a common theme that ties your experiences together and fit with your past, present, and future goals as an Engineer? E.g. The Survivor, The Activist, The Entrepreneur, etc

### Method 5: Start with an older essay

What was the main idea/statement here? Does it apply to the current prompt? How can you change it so it does. Do you have updated examples and/or new information to include? Have you changed since then?

Sometimes the hardest part of a personal statement is  
***STARTING.***

- 1. Please take out a piece of paper and pen or your laptop.**
- 2. Set a timer for 5-7 minutes to try 1 or 2 of the exercises on the previous slide.**
- 3. If you're having trouble getting the writing flowing in one method, try another.**
- 4. Keep in mind that this is the story of you and engineering**

**LET'S DO THIS!**

***REMEMBER***

There is no wrong way to do this. Try a few approaches. If you find yourself writing a lot, then that is a good match.

Don't try to write well, just get the ideas out. Words, incomplete phrase, no order

Don't judge yourself. No thought or idea is unimportant or stupid. Put it all out there.

## TAKING THOSE EXERCISES AND BUILDING A GREAT ESSAY FROM IT.

- **(Phase 1) 1-2 hours of Brainstorming.** Continue what we started today. Take breaks, walk away. Look at it with fresh eyes. Do you have anything else to add? Exhaust your ideas. Looking at what you've written, are there any themes or traits you keep coming back to? What are those? Can you organize what you've written into main idea and supporting examples? In trying to think of supporting examples, are there things you find spark lots of ideas and writing, and others that don't? No need to force it, go with your strength.

(This would be a good time to go to the SRC workshop to see how to take your brainstorming and start organizing it into a story)

- **(Phase 2) 2-3 hours to write a draft from brainstorming.** Transition the ideas you've started to organize from your brainstorming into complete sentences. Consider an anecdote that introduces you, ties in to the rest of your essay, and starts telling your story. Do not worry about length, grammar, style, DO NOT JUDGE. Don't get stuck on whether it is good yet, just do it. In fact you are doing it right if your first draft is NOT GOOD!
- **(Phase 3) 1-2 hours Revision** Take your *not good* draft from phase two and use strategies we will discuss next to transform it into a concise, compelling, personal statement.

## 1. Make it personal, specific, YOURS

- “I want to be a civil engineer so I can design safer buildings and edifices”.
  - Okay, not bad. But how many students in that major can say the same?
- “As a California native, I have witnessed my share of earthquake calamities and traffic. My primary goal as a civil engineer is to build a subway system in Los Angeles that prioritizes earthquake safety and preparedness.”
  - So much better, so much more unique, so much more memorable.

## 2. Read out loud, sentence by sentence so you can hear them.

## 3. Read out loud each sentence starting with the last sentence to the first sentence

This helps you get out of your story and assess each sentence.

Does each sentence stand on it's own, or does it need to be read together with another sentence to make sense?

Does each sentence support your main idea?

Is the information in each sentence relevant to the story of you and engineering?

## 4. Cut any sentence that is not specific or clear to you, or does not clearly support your overall essay. Keep in mind the story you are trying to tell.

Do these steps and read it through at least 3 times

## 5. Get some Feedback.

- Find a partner to exchange what you have written or ask a friend. As you (or they) are reading, ask:
- Is the question answered effectively and clearly? If not, how could it be made better?
- Is there something you'd like to hear more about? That was maybe glossed over briefly
- Do you have any other suggestions? Be honest, but also kind and respectful



**Thank you for joining us for this workshop.**

**If you have any follow up questions, contact us at**

**[scholarships@seas.ucla.edu](mailto:scholarships@seas.ucla.edu)**