
OSHER REENTRY SCHOLARSHIP

ELIGIBILITY

The scholarship is intended to provide assistance to individuals with financial need whose collegiate studies were interrupted for five or more years by circumstances beyond their control and who now wish to resume their studies and complete a four-year baccalaureate degree (bachelor's degree). These students are defined as "reentry" students who did not have the opportunity, usually because of financial need, to complete their higher education at an earlier stage in their lives.

Reentry students often have special needs including matriculation and career counseling, familiarization with new information technology used in higher education, and balancing the requirements of their families and employment. They impress advisors as individuals who bring a strong sense of commitment to their studies and often perform at a higher level than more traditionally aged students.

This scholarship is intended to benefit students who have considerable years of employability ahead of them—typically aged 25 to 50.

APPLICATION & AWARD PROCESS

- The Osher Reentry Scholarship will be awarded for each academic year to students selected by the SOIS Scholarship Selection Committee.
- Only matriculated undergraduate students (in any RIT major) will be given consideration for scholarship awards. Applicants who have not fully completed the matriculation process are eligible to apply for this award. However, recipients will need to be matriculated before awards are made.
- We will continue to accept applications until all scholarships have been awarded.
- Each scholarship recipient will receive \$5,000 for the year (\$2500 per semester). Scholarship awards will be applied directly to student tuition fees exclusively.
- Funds are awarded based on students' qualifications and availability of funds each term.
- Scholarship recipients must re-apply for the scholarship each year to receive aid.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 15, 2025

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered, applicants must submit:

- The scholarship application (page 3).
- 500-word personal essay explaining why you feel you are qualified to receive this award.
 - Give specific examples of how you meet the definition of a “reentry” student.
 - Explain reasons why you did not complete your education initially.
 - Share how and why you have come back to school and why you chose RIT to complete your degree.
 - Include an explanation of your financial need and how this award will help you.
- A current resume.
- Submitted your FAFSA for the 2025-2026 school year.
- A current photograph.

IMPORTANT: All materials submitted for the application process may be used for reporting or marketing purposes related to the Osher Reentry Scholarship Fund.

AWARD RECIPIENT OBLIGATIONS

If awarded a scholarship, recipients must:

- Successfully complete at least 12 semester credit hours of RIT coursework during the school year in which the Osher Reentry Scholarship is received.
- Write a thank you note at the end of the academic year sharing the benefits of receiving their awards.

Questions? Please contact us at mlfcms@rit.edu or 585-475-6901

STUDENT INFORMATION

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

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RIT UID

Email Address

Advisor Name

Anticipated Graduation Date

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, all the information provided on this application and supporting materials is correct. I also authorize the RIT Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to release copies of any other awards to the School of Individualized Study Scholarship Committee for determination of my eligibility for this award.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

You can submit your application a number of different ways.

Print your completed PDF application/supporting materials and mail or bring it to:

RIT- School of Individualized Study
Eastman Hall, Suite 2210
31 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623-5603

Save and attach your completed PDF/supporting materials to an email and send to:

Michelle Firnstein mifcms@rit.edu
Subject: Osher Reentry Scholarship Application

Fax your completed PDF application/supporting materials to:

585-475-6292
RE: Osher Reentry Scholarship Application

STATEMENT