Vertical Flight Society

Educating Vertical Flight Leaders of Tomorrow

VERTICAL FLIGHT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Vertical Flight Foundation (VFF) scholarships are awarded solely based on merit to exceptional college students who demonstrate a strong interest in pursuing engineering careers in vertical flight technology. These scholarship award amounts range from $4,000 to $6,000 (USD).

The top-ranked applicant each year is awarded the prestigious **$6,000 Bell Scholarship**, funded through a dedicated VFF endowment established by Bell. Additionally, the **Jing Yen Cost Awareness Scholarship**—also valued at up to $6,000—is awarded to the applicant who best demonstrates a deep understanding of and commitment to improving the affordability of vertical flight. This award is generously funded by Dr. Jing Yen.

The program is open to full-time students enrolled at accredited colleges or universities anywhere in the world, regardless of nationality.

It is preferred that students apply online at VFF Scholarship Information – the online application usually opens in December. **Please read the application eligibility and requirements carefully and thoroughly BEFORE SUBMITTING, review or download this information at** VFF Scholarship Information.

To be considered for review, a complete application package must include the following:

- Scholarship Application Form
- Personal Narrative
- Resume
- Official University/School Transcript*
- Letter of Recommendation from a Professor*

***Important:**

- Transcripts and letters of recommendation must be sent directly from the issuing institution or the recommending professor.
- Transcripts or letters provided by the applicant will not be accepted or reviewed.

Contact Information:
Vertical Flight Society
Attn: VFF Coordinator, Julie M. Gibbs
2700 Prosperity Ave., Suite 275 Fairfax, VA 22031-4340 USA
Email jmgibbs@vtol.org
Phone 1-703-684-6777 x103

ALL VFF documents must be received by the VFF Coordinator by February 1, 2027.

There are no extensions or exceptions – plan to have all documents submitted on or before February 1st.

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SECTION I

Please complete <u>all</u> sections.

Full Name: _____

Present University Name: _____

University City, State, Country: _____

Permanent Residence Street Address: _____

Permanent City, State, Postal Code, Country: _____

Preferred Phone Number to be contacted: _____

Preferred Email to be contacted: _____

I hereby certify that the information contained in this Application for Scholarship is true and correct and that I have planned for submission of my official grade transcript and a letter or recommendation by a dean or professor affiliated with my university.

Professor's Name: _____

Professor's Email_____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

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SECTION II – EDUCATION

Please list all schools attended, starting with the most recent first, i.e., the school you currently attend should appear on line 1.

School Name/City, State, Country	Enrollment Date	Expected Graduation Date	Full or Part-Time	Cum. GPA	Academic Concentration
1.					
2.					
3.					

What is your current academic level?

□ **B.S** □ **M.S.** □ **Ph.D.**

In what academic category are you applying? [Refer to eligibility criteria for each category.]

□ **B.S** □ **M.S.** □ **Ph.D.**

If you are continuing to another degree program, what will be your academic level *after May 2027*? [Refer to eligibility criteria.]

□ **Not Applicable** □ **B.S** □ **M.S.** □ **Ph.D.**

Do you want to be considered for the Jing Yen Cost Awareness scholarship worth $6,000?

□ **Yes** □ **No**

If you answered Yes to the above, you MUST include a detailed interest and recognition on the importance of affordability and how it might be improved within the vertical flight community in your narrative and resume information.

What is your school's grading system? A= _____

If the cumulative GPA you list for the school you currently attend covers one year or less of academic work, you must submit two transcripts, one for the school you currently attend and one for the school you previously attended.

What is your current GPA (present semester/quarter)? From_____ to _____
GPA _____

If the scholarship is to be used at a school other than the one you currently attend (line 1 above), or if the scholarship is to be used for an advanced degree program at the same school, please complete the table below.

School Name/City, State, Country	Enrollment Date	Expected Graduation Date	Full or Part-Time	Cum. GPA	Academic Concentration

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SECTION III – NARRATIVE

Narrative: Your narrative is a vital part of your application and should provide insight into your passion, goals, and perspective. This is your opportunity to go beyond your résumé and tell your story in your own voice and clearly address the following:

- Do not simply restate your résumé or submit a research abstract.
- Your passion for **aeronautics**, **aeronautical engineering**, **complex aviation systems**, and especially **vertical flight technology**.
- How your academic pursuits and career goals align with and support this passion.
- Your **unique perspective**, specific interests, and relevant experiences related to key challenges and opportunities within the vertical flight community—such as **affordability**, **innovation**, or **emerging technologies**.
- If you wish to be considered for the **$6,000 Jing Yen Cost Awareness Scholarship**, your narrative must **explicitly demonstrate** a strong understanding of the importance of **affordability in vertical flight** and provide thoughtful insights into how it can be improved.

Name:_____

Email: _____

Phone:_____

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SECTION IV – RÈSUMÈ

Résumé: Applicants must submit a résumé and can use **any format they prefer**.

- Include **Name, Address, Email, and Phone** contact information
- Be **accurate, concise**, include page numbers
- Submit as a PDF or Word document
- See some sample information to include on your résumé below.

Career Objective: A brief statement outlining your academic and professional goals.

Experience / Employment / Research: List your most relevant experience. If the work did not result in a paper, publication, or presentation, include it here.

Organize by relevance:

- Vertical Flight Technology
- Other Aerospace
- Other (e.g., unrelated jobs, internships, etc.)
- If applying for the **$6,000 Jing Yen Cost Awareness Scholarship**, you should **include any research or work related to cost awareness** in vertical flight.

Papers/Publications/Presentations: list any papers, articles, or presentations (including posters or conference talks), organized by relevance

- Vertical Flight Technology
- Other Aerospace
- Other

Professional Societies/Association Memberships/Extra-Curricular Activities (if held an office or worked on a special project briefly describe what you did)

- Vertical Flight Technology
- Other Aerospace
- Other (include community service)

Awards/Grants/Fellowships/Scholarships: List any recognitions you have received, including academic honors.

Skills: list relevant skills such as

- Technical skills (e.g., CAD, MATLAB, Python)
- Languages
- Other professional competencies

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TRANSCRIPTS & RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

Transcripts and letters of recommendation must be sent directly from the issuing institution or the recommending professor. **Transcripts or letters provided by the applicant will not be accepted or reviewed.**

Transcript Guidelines: An official transcript reflecting your most recent academic term is required for your application to be considered. Please follow the instructions below carefully:

- The transcript must include grades from your **most recent academic term**.
- You may **optionally** include transcripts from previous academic years, but they are **not required**.
- The transcript must be sent **directly from your university's Office of the Registrar** to the VFF Coordinator at **jmgibbs@vtol.org**.
- Transcripts may be submitted via **mail** or through a **secure electronic delivery link** (preferred).
- Transcripts submitted by the applicant will not be accepted or reviewed.
- If your transcript is not in English, you must submit:
    - An **official English translation**, and
    - A **signed letter from a professor** confirming the accuracy of the translation.
- Received by **February 1, 2027**.

Letter of Recommendation: At least **one letter of recommendation** is required from a professor who is familiar with your coursework and academic performance. The letter must:

- Be written on **official university letterhead**
- Be **signed by the professor**
- Be sent **directly** to the VFF Coordinator at **jmgibbs@vtol.org**
- Be received **no later than February 1, 2027**
- Letters **submitted by the student** will **not** be accepted under any circumstances.
- The professor should include a brief evaluation of how you compare to other students they have taught throughout their career. R*efer to the "Faculty/Professor" information below*

Optional Additional Letters:

- You may submit **additional letters of recommendation** from other professors or individuals outside of academia (e.g., an industry mentor, research advisor, or internship supervisor).
- However, these **do not replace** the required letter from a professor.

Guidance for Professors: The letter of recommendation is a critical component of the VFF Scholarship selection process and can significantly influence the committee's decision. To ensure your letter provides meaningful insight into the applicant's qualifications, please follow the guidelines below:

Professor Content Guidelines:

- You should have **direct knowledge** of the student's **coursework and academic performance**.
- Include a **comparative evaluation** of the student's performance relative to all students you have taught over the course of your **entire academic career** (not just those in a single class or year).
- Clearly indicate where the student ranks—for example, **top 5%, 10%, or 25%** of students you've instructed.
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- Highlight any **notable qualities, accomplishments, or circumstances** that distinguish the student from their peers (e.g., research, leadership, innovation, resilience, or technical skills).
- Be written on official university letterhead.
- Must be signed and sent directly to the VFF Coordinator at **jmgibbs@vtol.org** by **February 1, 2027**.

Other information

- Applications will be reviewed by the VFF Scholarship Review Committee.
- Scholarship recipients will be notified by the VFF Coordinator in April and all decisions are final.
- VFF documents, including the online application or application (PDF) can be found at VFF Scholarship Information.

Selection Criteria

- Experience (work history, research, paper publications from resume) 35%
- Narrative – 25%
- Letter(s) of Recommendation – 20%
- Academics – 10%
- Extra Curricula Activities – 10%