



# SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

Schweizerische Wohltätigkeitsgesellschaft

## APPLICATION SBS UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SCHOOL YEAR 2025-26

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the *SBS Undergraduate Scholarship*. Please read directions carefully.

### Eligibility

In order to apply for an SBS Scholarship, you **must**

- reside permanently in the state of Illinois or Southern Wisconsin (the following Wisconsin counties are eligible: Dane, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha);
- be either a Swiss National with permanent US residency permit or a US citizen of Swiss origin or of Swiss descent. We require official documents that prove your Swiss origin or descent, going back to the *first* ancestor with Swiss citizenship. A complete chain of official papers linking you to the Swiss ancestor is required. This is particularly important if the Swiss connection runs through the maternal line or the family name has changed several times. Family genealogies are not sufficient proof of ancestry since they usually indicate only place of birth, not place of origin (*Heimatort*) or place of citizenship. Swiss students studying in the US on a student or visitor visa are not eligible;
- Plan to attend college on a full-time basis for the entire 2025-26 school year;
- Meet or exceed the following standards of scholastic performance:
  - **High School Seniors** must have a minimum exam score of 26 on the ACT or 1230 on the SAT.
  - **College Freshmen** must have a 3.3 grade point average (on a scale of 4 = A) or better in their first semester or quarter at college.
  - **College Sophomores and Juniors** must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 (on a scale of 4 = A) or better, as of the end of the fall semester or fall quarter 2024.

### To apply, please submit the following:

- The completed *Application Form*, available at <http://www.sbschicago.org/education>
- A Personal Essay on the required theme outlined in the application
- The *Swiss Descent ("Swissness") Form* with complete documentation
- You must ask your High School or your College Registrar for *transcripts and ACT/SAT test scores*. Please give the enclosed form to the school administration. Transcripts must include all grade information through **December 31, 2024**, as well as your class rank if available.

If you applied the previous year, the Swiss descent information does not need to be resubmitted.

Make sure you satisfy all eligibility criteria before you apply. Fill out the forms completely. Type or print neatly. Incomplete applications cannot be accepted.

**Applications must be submitted by May 15, 2025.**

All complete applications submitted by the deadline will be evaluated and ranked. Because financial need is not a factor, all applications will be judged based on academic merit and on the quality of the essay. Incomplete documentation establishing Swiss descent, academic standing, or eligibility will disqualify your application. The decisions of the SBS Education Committee are final.

Thank you for applying. We wish you all the best.

John Paluch  
Chair, Education Committee, November, 2024



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## APPLICATION FOR THE SBS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2025-26

### GENERAL INFORMATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number/Street/Apt. County

City State Zip University ID# \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please write legibly; we will communicate with you through e-mail)

### SCHOLASTIC INFORMATION

#### HIGH SCHOOLS ATTENDED FROM GRADE 9-12

School(s)	Dates of Attendance	Cumulative GPA
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Scores: ACT \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ SAT \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Schools (s)	Dates of Attendance	Cumulative GPA
_____	_____	_____

Degree and Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Major/Field: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Degree and Date expected: \_\_\_\_\_ Major/Field: \_\_\_\_\_



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## APPLICATION FOR THE SBS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (continued)

### COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY APPLICANT PLANS TO ATTEND IN 2025-26:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS SBS AWARD(S) RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: The SBS Scholarship requires you to enroll full-time for the entire 2025-26 school year.  
AWARDS ARE FOR TUITION ONLY.*

All communication, inquiries, and completed applications should be emailed to:

[education@sbschicago.org](mailto:education@sbschicago.org)

In unusual circumstances, you may need to use the USPS to mail applications or documents to the SBS. Please contact our administrator, Ursula Furrer, if you are not able to email information and need to submit it using the USPS.

**Swiss Benevolent Society, Education Committee  
P.O. BOX 2137,  
Chicago, IL 60690-2137**

Applications must be submitted and received no later than **May 15, 2025**.  
Winners will be notified after **June 15, 2025**. The decisions of the SBS Education Committee are final.

*I have read the award regulations and agree to abide by them.*

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE SBS BY THE SCHOOL(S): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CHECKLIST

FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2025-26

TO: **SBS Education Committee, P.O. BOX 2137, Chicago, IL 60690-2137**

FROM:

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

**CHECK PROPER BOX:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Group I	High School Senior
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group II	College Freshman
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group III	College Sophomore or Junior

On the following list, check only the items (✓) which are applicable to you.

1.  I have enclosed my *Application Form*, **signed and dated**. Due date: **May 15, 2025**.
2.  I have enclosed my *Swiss Descent Form* with all necessary, pertinent and numbered documents (photocopies are acceptable). Check here  if the Swiss descent information was submitted in the previous year. It is not necessary to do so again.
3.  I have enclosed the completed *Personal Essay*.
4.  I have requested that all my high school credentials (transcripts, GPA, Class Rank) be sent directly by the school administration to the SBS. The school must include records through **December 31, 2024** (**Group I** applicants only.)
5.  I have requested that my ACT test scores be sent directly by the school administration to the SBS. (**Group I** applicants only.)
6.  I have requested that *official college transcripts (including Fall 2024)* be sent directly by the college/university I am currently attending or have attended in the past. (**Group II** and **Group III** applicants only.)

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Important: Please submit a valid and legible e-mail address. We will let you know via e-mail whether anything is missing from your application or your application is complete.



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## ESSAY FOR 2025-26

As part of our application, we would like you to write an essay on the topic below. Your essay should be carefully researched. The essay must be your own work. Please remember, if you consult other sources for information (especially the Internet), you **must** cite these sources. Write the text yourself; do not use AI or lift text from the Internet.

TOPIC: Switzerland consists of 26 cantons. Each canton has its own history, culture, and traditions. In your view, what aspects of your family's canton make it unique or stand out?

The essay should be about 2 pages long (600-700 words), double-spaced, font size 12.  
The committee will evaluate your essay with a focus on:

- Argumentation: Does the writer offer a thesis statement and provide evidence to support their argument?
- Content: Does the writer provide an easily understandable presentation of the uniqueness of the chosen canton?
- Personal Perspective: Does the writer convey their personal connection to their family's canton and their own views on its unique characteristics and traditions?
- Clarity and Structure: Is the text well structured, and does it follow the conventions of good writing? **Does the writer properly cite sources?**

Please write your name and the title of your essay below and use this as a cover sheet for your essay. Do not write your name on the essay itself. We hope you have fun with this assignment and wish you good luck.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_



# SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

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## High School and College Credentials

The student \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) is applying for a merit scholarship to be awarded by the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago. Since all candidates will be judged on academic achievement, we kindly request that you complete this form and send it to the address below with an original grade report (transcript). The form is due by **May 15, 2025**.

**SBS Administrator: Ursula Furrer** (ursula.furrer@gmail.com)  
If you have questions, contact us. Thank you for your assistance.

.....  
**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:**  Group I    **High School Senior**

Group II    **College Freshman**

Group III    **College Sophomore or Junior**

1.     **For Group I:**  
High School credentials (Transcripts, GPA, ACT or SAT test scores); Records through December 31, 2024
2.     **For Group II:**  
Official college transcripts including Fall 2024
3.     **For Group III:**  
Official college transcripts including Fall 2024

**High School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GPA:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Scale from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_)

**ACT Score** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SAT Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**College:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GPA:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Scale from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_)

Please list a person we can contact should we have questions about the student's credentials.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_