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 (resident of 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 string 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 only indicate place of birth, not place of origin (Heimatort) or place of citizenship.) Swiss students studying in the US on a student or visitor’s visa are not eligible;
- Plan to attend college on a full-time basis for the entire 2023/24 school-year;
- Meet or exceed the following standards of scholastic performance:
  - High School Seniors must have a minimum exam score of 26 ACT or 1230 on SAT or higher.
  - College Freshmen must have a 3.3 grade point average (GPA on a scale of 4 = A) or better in their first semester/quarter at college.
  - College Sophomores and Juniors must have a grade point average of 3.3 (GPA on a scale of 4 = A) or better, as of the end of the fall semester or fall quarter 2022.

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 and/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, 2022, as well as your rank in class 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, 2023.

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, and we wish you all the best.

John Paluch
Chair, Education Committee, March, 2023
**SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF CHICAGO**
Schweizerische Wohltätigkeitsgesellschaft

**APPLICATION FOR THE SBS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**
FOR THE SCHOOL-YEAR 2023/24

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

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**SCHOLASTIC INFORMATION**

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

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<tr>
<th>Schools (s)</th>
<th>Dates of Attendance</th>
<th>Cumulative GPA</th>
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<tr>
<th>Graduation Date:</th>
<th>Class Rank:</th>
<th>of students</th>
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Scores: ACT | Date: |
Scores: SAT | Date: |

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**

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<tr>
<th>Schools (s)</th>
<th>Dates of Attendance</th>
<th>Cumulative GPA</th>
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Degree and Date received: | Major/Field: |
Or Degree and Date expected: | Major/Field: |
APPLICATION (continued)

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY APPLICANT PLANS TO ATTEND IN 2023/24:

NAME: ____________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: ______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

EDUCATIONAL PLANS: ____________________________________________

Field of Study (Major)

EXPECTED DATE OF GRADUATION: ___________ DEGREE: ______________

PREVIOUS SBS AWARD(S) RECEIVED: __________________________________

Note: The SBS Scholarship requires you to enroll full-time for the entire 2023/24 school year.

AWARDS ARE FOR TUITION ONLY.

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

Ursula Furrer (ursula.furrer@gmail.com)

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 provide 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, 2023.

Winners will be notified after July 15, 2023. The decisions of the SBS Education Committee are final.

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

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: ______________________  PLACE AND DATE: __________________________

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS: ________________________________________________________________

DOCUMENTS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE SBS BY THE SCHOOL(S): ________________________________
TO: SBS Education Committee, P.O. BOX 2137, Chicago, IL 60690-2137

FROM: [ ] Group I  High School Senior  
[ ] Group II  College Freshman  
[ ] Group III  College Sophomore or Junior

CHECK PROPER BOX:  

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, 2023.
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 Composition.
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, 2022 (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 2022) 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 if anything is missing in your application or if your application is complete.
ESSEY COMPETITION

As part of our application, we would like you to write a composition. Your essay must be on the topic below and 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. Do not lift whole sections from the Internet but compose and write the text yourself.

2023/2024
What is Swiss Culture?

With four national languages, 26% of the total population foreign born and EU citizens having substantial rights to live and work in Switzerland, one wonders if it is possible to talk anymore about a common Swiss culture. With all of the differences in languages, cultures, and family traditions, is there a common “Swiss Culture” that binds the people who live in Switzerland together?

We would like you to investigate the question of Swiss Culture and write an essay in which you define your understanding of Swiss Culture. What is Swiss Culture? Can you look at Swiss history to find values that remain important to contemporary Switzerland? Are there values in your family that relate to what you understand to be typically “Swiss”? Are there local, national or international organizations that represent “Swiss values”? What do the Swiss all share?

The composition should be about 2 pages long (600-700 words), double-spaced, font size 12.

The committee will evaluate the following essays with a focus on:

- Argumentation: Does the writer offer a thesis statement and provide evidence to support her/his argument?
- Content: Does the writer provide a variety of examples of Swiss culture and values?
- Clarity & Structure: Is the text well-structured and follow the conventions of good writing? Did the writer properly cite sources?

Please write your name and the title of your composition 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: __________________________________________

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<th>Rubric for Evaluation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weak = 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis: What are the values reflected in the goals and activities of the societies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Content: Information about mutual aid societies and their importance in a community.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence &amp; Argumentation: What are the examples that show the goals and values of the society.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Structure &amp; organization: Respect for conventions of good writing, use of paragraphs, word choice, transitions, and citations.</td>
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*Readers should note examples from the text that support their ratings.

Total Points: __________

The Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago is a non-profit, private foundation, organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
Incorporated in Illinois on August 14, 1872.
High School and College Credentials

The student ____________________________ (Name) is applying for a merit scholarship given out 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. The form is due by May 15, 2023.

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

Student Name: ____________________________________________

CHECK PROPER 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, Class Rank, ACT or SAT test scores); Records through December 31, 2022
2. **For Group II:**
   Official college transcripts including Fall 2022
3. **For Group III:**
   Official college transcripts including Fall 2022

High School: ________________________________________________
GPA: ________ (Scale from ___ to ___)
Class Rank: ________________________________________ of ______ students
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:_____________________________________
To be eligible for a Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS) Scholarship, the applicant must be able to prove that he is indeed either a Swiss National himself/herself or of Swiss descent. Because people born in Switzerland are not automatically Swiss citizens, the applicant must know the family's place of origin (Heimatort) in order to prove Swiss descent. The place of origin is the place where a family originated, often centuries ago. This is why we can not accept family genealogies; they only state places of birth.

Acceptable documents (originals or copies) for proof of Swiss citizenship are:

- Certificate of Citizenship (Heimatschein, Act d’Origine)
- Swiss Passport (current or old)
- Registration at any Swiss Consulate (get letter of confirmation)
- Swiss Military Service Book (Dienstbüchlein)
- Birth, Death, Marriage Certificates from Switzerland. They usually not only list a place of residence and/or birth, but also a place of origin. (Baptism certificates do not).
- US Naturalization/Citizenship papers that indicate Switzerland as the previous country of citizenship.
- Any other document, e.g. settlement permit (Niederlassungsbewilligung) from Switzerland which lists place of origin.

These documents, numbered and easily identifiable should accompany this form. The number assigned to each of them (i.e., 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b ....4a, 4b.....etc.) must appear in the appropriate column (A, B, C, D, E, F; see reverse side) so that they can be matched together without any difficulty.

The form and the documentation must provide the Education Committee with a convincing picture which shows a clear and unbroken lineage from one generation to the next, starting with the applicant, down to each one of the preceding generations.
**DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF SWISS DECENT**

*Follow instructions on the back.*

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<td>B. MOTHER:</td>
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**DOCUMENTATION FORWARDED**

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<tr>
<th>A. Certificate of Citizenship</th>
<th>B. Birth Certificate</th>
<th>C. Swiss Passport</th>
<th>D. Registration at the Swiss Consulate in Chicago</th>
<th>E. Naturalization Papers</th>
<th>F. Other(s) specify</th>
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