

# APPLICANT GUIDE

**2026-2027**



## INTRODUCTION

The ACI Foundation is one of the 501(c)3 subsidiary organizations in the American Concrete Institute (ACI) family of companies.

**OUR MISSION:** To make strategic investments in ideas, research, and people to create the future of the concrete industry.

**OUR VISION:** ACI Foundation envisions a future where everyone has the knowledge needed to use concrete effectively to meet the demands of a changing world.

**HOW WE MAKE AN IMPACT:** ACI Foundation supports a wide range of research and educational initiatives that contribute to keeping the concrete industry at the forefront of technological advances in material composition, design, and construction. We engage with industry partners, invest in students and research, share knowledge, and provide programs to encourage innovation and new technology.

## AWARDS

The ACI Foundation offers **48 varied awards** to support the concrete industry's future leaders and get students engaged with ACI. The awards are offered to high potential students in concrete-related graduate and undergraduate degree programs.

### Fellowship Benefits

- \$10,000 USD monetary award paid in two installments, to be used for tuition, books, and materials, residence.
- Appropriate recognition in [Concrete International](#) magazine and on the Foundation [website](#).
- Paid expenses for airfare, hotel, and convention registration (plus a limited travel stipend) to participate in two ACI conventions during the award year. Fellowship finalists must attend the Spring ACI Convention prior to their award year to be interviewed as a fellowship finalist.
- Matched with an industry mentor, if desired.

### Scholarship Benefits

- \$5,000 USD (two scholarships are paid in CAD) monetary award. The award is paid in two installments to the university and applied to the student's account to be used for tuition, residence, books, and materials; and
- Appropriate recognition in [Concrete International](#) magazine and on the Foundation [website](#).

### Student Excellence Award Benefits

**MENA (Middle East North Africa) Award** - \$7,000 USD monetary award paid in two installments to be used for tuition, residence, books, and materials.

**Saudi Arabia Award** - \$5,000 USD monetary award paid in two installments to be used for tuition, residence, books, and materials.

- Awardees for both awards also receive: Paid expenses for airfare, hotel, and registration (plus a limited travel stipend) to attend one North American ACI Concrete Convention as an award finalist for an in-person interview, travel to one ACI Middle East Conference, and travel within the Middle East region to obtain ACI certification. All travel is subject to and contingent on current state, country and international laws and regulations.
- Matched with an industry mentor, if desired.
- Appropriate recognition in [Concrete International](#) magazine and on the Foundation [website](#).

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, continued

### Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants MUST BE a full-time student in a concrete-related degree program (civil engineering, structuring engineering, concrete science & technology, concrete industry management, etc.) during the entire award term (fall 2026- spring 2027). Awardees must provide documentation to that effect before the monetary awards are issued. Certain awards have regional, area of study, or other requirements. Please review the specific awards on the application platform for other eligibility requirements.

### All applicants must submit the following five items:

#### 1. Applicants contact and educational information

Applicants are asked to provide their full, legal name, primary address, phone, name of institution(s), and institution(s) address.

#### 2. Resume

Resumes must be in the English language and submitted in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or Acrobat Adobe (.pdf) format.

#### 3. 500-Word Essay

Discuss your interest in a long-term career in the concrete industry. Cite past, present, and future planned activities that demonstrate the level of your interest in the general field of concrete. As appropriate, comment on your course work, employment, professional development, academic or personal projects, competitions, professional or personal service, research, publications, involvement in ACI or other organizations, and other related activities. If the fellowship or scholarship for which you are applying has specific requirements, be sure to address those requirements as well.

#### 4. Official Transcripts

- Transcripts shall be submitted for all undergraduate and graduate programs attended.
- All transcripts must be original and official documents. Unofficial transcripts or copies of transcripts will not be accepted. E-Transcripts sent directly from the institution will be accepted. Please have the institution email those to [acif@acifoundation.org](mailto:acif@acifoundation.org). ACI Foundation will not accept E-Transcripts sent directly from an applicant's email address. Review and acceptance of E-Transcripts will be at the discretion of the Scholarship Manager.
- Transcripts must be in English or accompanied by a version translated in English. Translations must be literal and complete versions of the original transcripts.
  - Translations shall be performed by the institution, government official, or official translation service. The translation shall be attested or signed by the translator. Applicants may not submit self-translation. Courses must be described in detail. The general subject's name (e.g., "mathematics") is not sufficient; the particular subject (e.g., "differential equations," "algebraic topology") must be identified.
- Transcripts shall include an explanation of the grading scale if different from the 4.0 scale used in the United States. Translations shall include grades based on an A, B, C, and D scale where A is 90-100, B is 80-89, C is 70-79, D is 60-69, and F is 59 or less.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, continued

- Transcripts shall be mailed or emailed directly from the institution. Transcripts mailed by the applicant must be sealed in an envelope with the institution's stamp over the seal.
- Transcripts shall reach the Scholarship Coordinator no later than the closing date of the application. **No exceptions.**
  - If mailed, transcripts shall be sent to:  
*ACI Foundation*  
*Attn: Scholarship Coordinator*  
*38800 Country Club Drive*  
*Farmington Hills, MI 48331*
- You will receive an email once your transcripts have been received by the ACI Foundation. Any document, including transcripts, received by ACI Foundation becomes the property of ACI Foundation and will not be returned.

### 5. Two Endorsements

Endorsements are statements of evaluation of the applicant, in terms of potential for growth, character, leadership capacity and career interest.

- Endorsements must be in the English language.
- Be prepared with the names and email addresses of your endorsers.
- **One endorser must be an ACI member** (non-student) and the other should be an employer (if possible) or professor. Often, it is easier to locate and contact an ACI member at your school. To search for an ACI member or faculty in your area, please visit the [Member Directory](#). Only ACI members can search the member directory. **Not a member? Sign up!** It is free for students. If your professor is not an ACI member, joining the Faculty Network brings with it a free one-year of ACI membership and you can suggest the professor joins the Faculty Network.
- The best practice protocol is to contact these individuals and get their commitment to write an endorsement before submitting their names and emails on the application. The online platform will automatically and directly contact these individuals directly for their endorsement. You can check on receipt of endorsement forms by logging on to the application platform.
- Endorsers must not be family members of the applicant, nor students.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Timeline for Submission:

Applications generally open July 1 and close November 1 of each year. Be sure to check the ACI Foundation [website](#) for exact open and close dates.

### Verification:

The ACI Foundation reserves the right to audit any information supplied. Applicants that are not able to provide sufficient and relevant information during this verification process will not be considered further.

### Results:

Applications will be reviewed by the ACI Foundation Scholarship Council that will assess and rate the applications, determine the shortlisted applications, and designate the award winners. Awardees will be determined at the Spring ACI Concrete Convention and are notified the week following the spring convention. [View future ACI convention dates.](#)

### Feedback:

Students can request feedback on their application by sending a request by email to [chandice.moore@acifoundation.org](mailto:chandice.moore@acifoundation.org). In view of the confidential nature of the grading details, it is the judges' discretion to provide an answer or reject the request.

## FELLOWSHIP and EXCELLENCE FINALISTS

### Invitation to ACI Concrete Convention:

Fellowship finalists will be notified via email in February and invited to attend the spring ACI Concrete Convention to interview in-person for a fellowship award.

### Hotel, Flight, and Registration:

The ACI Foundation funds and coordinates hotel, flight, and covers the students' convention registration fee.

### Convention Registration:

The ACI Foundation funds students' convention registration. The Foundation will provide instruction on how to register and issue a coupon code to use. *Students are responsible for registering for the convention.*

### Travel Reimbursements:

If a student submits a travel reimbursement (flight or hotel only), the Foundation will reimburse them in two to three weeks following their travel. Prior to booking, they MUST submit flight or hotel itinerary for approval by ACI Foundation staff.

### ACI Student Membership:

In order to be considered for an award, and to attend the ACI Concrete Convention, finalists must be an ACI student member. Not a member? [Sign up here](#). It is free for students.

### Travel VISA:

If the student requires a VISA to travel to North America, the student is responsible for obtaining a travel VISA. The ACI Foundation will provide a VISA letter at the student's request. All travel is subject to, and contingent on, current state, country and international laws and regulations.

### Notification of Award:

Recipients are notified the week following the spring ACI Concrete Convention.

### Publicity:

You grant ACI and ACI Foundation and the award donor (if applicable) the right to use your name, photograph and biographical information for news, communication or promotional material whether in print, electronic, or other media – including the ACI or ACI Foundation websites, and various social media platforms. Applicants who are awarded a fellowship, scholarship or excellence award are responsible for appropriate arrangements to protect any intellectual property associated with their applications, as this information could be subject to publicity.