



Sunflower Mission Engineering & Technology Scholarship for Excellence 2018 Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Why did Sunflower Mission establish the Engineering and Technology Scholarship for Excellence?

The Sunflower Mission is a U.S.-based, nonprofit, non-political, non-governmental organization and has been operating for over 20 years. The organization is committed to improving the lives of people in Vietnam, mainly through educational assistance programs.

The scholarship aims to increase the quantity and quality of human resources in the high-technology sector, particularly in the areas of integrated circuit (IC) design, which are developing and have strong potential in Vietnam. The scholarship's purposes are to support top students financially and also to encourage and motivate them to study and pursue careers in engineering and technology areas related to IC design or software development. An important focus is on the student having the motivation and desire to lead and try and help society and the community.

Q2: Why does the scholarship focus on specific universities and faculties/departments?

The scholarship currently focuses on Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho and Da Nang as major engineering and technology locations and also where eSilicon Vietnam has its offices. The target universities have technical departments/faculties for helping train students in relevant areas for the IC industry and software development. We hope in future years, the scholarship program will be able to extend to more universities and technical departments.

Please note, however, that if students from other universities in HCMC, Can Tho or Da Nang believe they meet all the required selection criteria, then eSilicon Vietnam and Sunflower Mission reserve the right to consider such applications. However, this action is at their sole discretion and there is no obligation to do so. If you have questions please contact our E & T Scholarship Coordinator – **Ms. Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy** at <mailto:ntthuy@esilicon.com>

Q3: What are the benefits of the scholarship?

Awarded students will be provided with financial support of VND 7,000,000 per scholarship. At the same time, top-level award winners will be conditionally offered an internship or graduate employment with eSilicon Vietnam. In 2018, up to 60 scholarships will be granted.

Additional prize awards will be offered for special categories including Top Female Engineers and Top Essays. Award winners are also eligible to join the Sunflower Mission E& T Scholarship Award Winners Alumni Group.

Q4: Who can apply for the Scholarship?

The scholarship program is open to Vietnamese students who are completing a bachelor degree in engineering or technology university majors, from **second year to final year** in 2018 -2019. The following qualities will be evaluated in determining the scholarship winners:

1. Passion, drive and career ambition in their study of engineering or another technology field, particularly study related to circuit design or software development
2. Academic excellence with a GPA score of 7.0 or above for the most recent full academic year
3. Determination to set and achieve goals
4. Respect for self and family; helping others in the community
5. Future ability and passion to lead and assist others in Vietnam and globally
6. English language skills

Q5: What is the process followed for assessing applicants?

The assessment of applications will be done on a consistent and fair basis as outlined below:

Step 1 – Students submit a completed online application and upload their transcript and essay in English

- Submit a fully completed application form and transcript online – GPA of 7.0 and above
- Upload a maximum 500-word English essay on one IC design topic. Topics are available on the [scholarship web page](#).
There are separate essay topics for:
 1. students who expect to graduate in 2020 or later, or
 2. students who expect to graduate in 2019

Step 2 – Short-listing for interview

Based on application information, academic results and essay score, qualified students will be invited to an interview.

Step 3 – Interviews conducted in HCMC and Da Nang

Short-listed candidates will have technical and non-technical interviews at eSilicon offices in either HCMC or Da Nang, candidates in Can Tho will join the ONLINE interview. The technical interview will be conducted in Vietnamese language and it is preferred that the non-technical interview be conducted in English.

Step 4 – Final decision on scholarship award winners

Based on overall assessments in the areas of application, academic record, essay score and interview results, the award winners will be selected by the E & T Scholarship Assessment Committee.

Q6: Will awarded students be invited to work at eSilicon in Vietnam?

Selected top scholarship winners will receive a conditional letter of offer for internship or graduate employment with eSilicon Vietnam at the award ceremony in December.

Q7: Why do we need to write a 500-word essay as part of the application process?

The scholarship targets students who have a passion and interest in making their future career in the IC design areas. Knowledge of the English language is also required and this links to future employment potential.

The 500-word essay enables the assessment committee to understand more about your motivation, interest and current knowledge in the technology area as well as English proficiency. When scoring an essay, we particularly focus on the applicant's ability to demonstrate passion for and knowledge of the essay topic area as well as career choice.

Q8: Are there any special sub-prizes offered?

We want to encourage excellence from the applicants and therefore will offer mobile phones as attractive prizes for Top Essay writers and Top Female Engineers.

Q9: What tips can you give for preparing the scholarship application and essay?

TIMING

You should start your application as far in advance of the deadline as possible. Good preparation takes time and effort.

Previous scholarship applicants have shared that the time spent thinking and writing about their future career was worth the effort regardless of scholarship award. This type of preparation will also be useful if you proceed to do higher graduate study at university or when interviewing for employment. Most importantly, when you write an essay for your scholarship application, it helps you think about your future plans and your goals for studies and career.

ESSAYS

Make sure that you answer **only one essay question** and that the question topic **matches your current academic year and the major**.

When you write your essay, consider the approach you will take. No two scholarship awards are the same, and you should not submit the same (copy) essays for two different scholarships.

Your essay should be used to show a full picture of you as an individual, a student, a potential technologist, and a potential scholarship winner. You must read the topic carefully and make sure your answer covers all requirements.

You must submit a two-page essay (maximum of 500 words) and we advise you to focus on the question topic, your studies and plans and your personal goals and beliefs. You will want to show the assessment panel that you are not simply at university to get academic requirements for a degree; you also have strong interests and beliefs about your future career, the industry and the world.

Tips:

- Read the essay question very carefully.
- Determine a way to identify the key topics of the question and describe something significant about you that relates well to the question.
- Present your ideas in a way that is logical and clear and describes how your studies/qualifications fit the scholarship as well as your future plans and goals.
- Some students focus on an issue or interests they feel passionate about, or challenges or contribution they have made in the topic area.
- Give relevant examples to support your statements and ideas.

What to avoid:

- The essay is not a longer version of your CV/resume.
- Random, disorganized thinking (it is obvious there was no research or preparation regarding the question).
- Too long or too short – the essay is about quality and demonstrating your knowledge and passions for career, not quantity, not style.
- Don't worry too much about English skills. Yes, it is required, but communicating clear thoughts and connecting the dots when answering the question is more important.
- Avoid wasting words on very general statements such as saying how great it is to have the opportunity to apply for the scholarship.

Q10: What tips can you provide for preparing to attend the scholarship interviews?

If you are selected for the next step in the scholarship application process, you will be invited to attend both a technical and a non-technical interview. These interviews are about 20 minutes each and, typically, two to three panel members will interview you. Preparing ahead will help you give clear and concise answers and allow you to show your communication style and professionalism.

Determine the abilities and skills you have that would be relevant. Be ready to describe your strongest skills with examples in the following areas.

- Passion, drive and career ambition in your field of study (engineering or other technology field, particularly study related to circuit design or software development)
- Academic excellence
- Determination to set and achieve goals
- Respect for self and family; helping others in the community
- Future ability and passion to lead and assist others in Vietnam and globally

Research the field/industry of the scholarship sponsors (the essay question gives good hints about what is being evaluated). Think about why your studies and the scholarship will help you achieve your goals and how they relate to the field/industry.

Answering Interview Questions

Answer questions using specific examples as needed to support your response. Where relevant, focus on providing details for:

1. **Situation/task** — describe a task or project you participated in or for which you had responsibility
2. **Action** — talk about your role and the approach you took to deal with a particular situation
3. **Result** — discuss the results of your actions and include accomplishments or improvements that were a result of your efforts

Think about the most relevant and impressive aspects of your background and qualifications, including university/course projects, internships and volunteer work. Be ready to highlight the skills that you have developed and that you believe are relevant in this field/industry.

Communication Skills

The interviewers must be able to hear you as well as understand and follow your thought process. Speak clearly, stay calm and provide examples as needed when answering questions.

Professional Application or Appearance

You never have an opportunity to make another first impression. If you are selected for a scholarship interview, your scholarship application documents and essay were part of your first impression and now you will complete the picture. You have made sure your application is clear and organized and your essay was thorough and connected the dots; now be sure you are well prepared for your interview.

Helpful Hints for Interview Day

- Arrive early — ten to fifteen minutes to allow time to find the location, etc.
- Bring an extra copy of your application for your review and reference.
- During the interview, maintaining eye contact helps to show confidence.
- Ask for clarification. If you're confused by a question, ask the interviewer to restate it.
- Be yourself — show your personality. It is always more comfortable to be genuine and sincere, for yourself and the interviewers.