Stephen P. Holmes Scholarship FAQ

Am I eligible?
Applicants must be enrolled full-time in an accredited university, pursuing a degree in hospitality. Applicants must also be legal residents of the state of Florida.

How do I submit my supporting documents?
Application and supporting documents should be combined and provided in one electronic document in PDF format.

Who do I contact with questions regarding the scholarship application process?
All questions about the Stephen P. Holmes Scholarship should be directed to the ARDA International Foundation via email to dzanini@arda.org or 202-207-1078.

Are there any costs or fees associated with applying for the Stephen P. Holmes Scholarship?
There are no costs or fees associated with applying for the Stephen P. Holmes Scholarship.

Must I provide an official transcript?
Yes. Freshman and sophomore level (or equivalent) are required to remit both official high school and college transcript(s). Junior, Senior and Graduate level students are required to remit only their college transcript(s).

What are the selection criteria?
The ARDA International Foundation reviews each application individually with assistance from a panel of education and industry experts. Among the criteria used in the selection process are:

- Academic achievement. Applicants will have maintained the unweighted cumulative 3.5 (B+) or equivalent GPA
- Applicant is a legal Florida resident
- Studying a hospitality curriculum
- Financial need
- Leadership
- Awards and Recognition
- Service to others

How many Stephen P. Holmes Scholarship recipients will be selected?
Up to three scholarships may be awarded on an annual basis.

How is permanent legal residency established?
Permanent legal residency is established by providing copies of two of the following:

- Communication from school where currently a full-time student, issued within the last 60 days reflecting name and address
• Utility bill (water, gas, electric, oil or cable, issued within the last 60 days reflecting name and address
• Telephone bill (cell, wireless, land line, pager), issued within the last 60 days reflecting name and address
• Deed, mortgage, or settlement agreement reflecting applicant’s name and property address issued within the last 60 days
• Unexpired lease or rental agreement with the name of the applicant listed as the lessee, permitted resident, or renter. The unexpired lease or rental agreement must be signed by all parties
• Bank account statement issued within the last 60 days reflecting name and address

How will I receive my scholarship?
Scholarship amounts are sent directly to your school.

Is the scholarship renewable?
No. To recognize and support the most talented students as possible, a student may only be awarded the scholarship once during their academic career.

Will the scholarship pay for bachelor’s/master’s studies?
The scholarship may be applied to either bachelor’s or master’s studies. Each award may be applied toward tuition, room and board, books and other required fees for the period covered by the award.

Will I be liable for taxes on the scholarship?
Scholarship recipients are responsible for determining tax liability for the scholarship, and for reporting the taxable portions of their scholarship as income.

Who is Stephen P. Holmes?
Stephen P. Holmes was the first Chief Executive Officer of Wyndham Worldwide. Under his tenure, he grew Wyndham Vacation Resorts (now Wyndham Destinations), into the world’s largest network of vacation timeshare resorts. Wyndham Destinations established a trust of $250,000 to underwrite the Stephen P. Holmes scholarship program in perpetuity.

The scholarship application period for the 2019–2020 scholarship is now closed.