Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York Scholarships

Timeline

Date/period	Action
End October 2024	Particulars and application forms are sent to university contacts.
October 2024-14 March 2025	Universities advertise the program and select their preferred candidates (up to 2 per institution). Applications may be submitted during this period.
14th March 2024	Deadline for applications and reference letters to be submitted to the Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York. Candidates are then shortlisted for interviews and asked to confirm they have been offered a place in the USA.
Mid-April 2025	In-person or Zoom interviews with the Society's Scholarship Committee.
End of April-early May 2025	Following final decisions by the Society's Scholarship Committee, applicants and universities are notified of the outcome.
August 2025	The two successful applicants leave for the USA.

General information about the Scholarship Program

Response rate/selection process

The Trust received on average about 6-7 applications each year in the past 7 years. Applicants sometimes withdraw when they cannot secure a space on a postgraduate programme. Following shortlisting and withdrawals, at the most 5 candidates are interviewed each year.

Universities have expressed their frustration about the scheme in general and in particular about the eligibility criteria and the amount awarded. For example, they think the eligibility criteria were self-limiting as students born outside Scotland or who do not have a Scottish parent are not eligible although they may have lived in Scotland since childhood.

The value of the award is seen as another limitation by the selecting universities as it does not cover the full costs of studying at a US university. Candidates must secure funding from other sources or receive financial support from family or relatives. There is also the added cost of having to take out travel and health insurance while in the USA.

In most cases, the students put forward as candidates are the only ones who applied.

Universities have indicated that they would prefer not to have to pre-select candidates as this is an additional burden for their administration at a time when the priority for them is to attract international post-graduates to come to Scotland. The process generates additional work for a very limited return as only two awards are made each year and these awards go to students who will be studying abroad. The preferred option for universities would be to let the students apply directly the organisation administering the scheme.

Publicity

Contacts have mentioned that their current student population is, ironically, more difficult to reach as the students look outside their home institution for information about US postgraduate programmes.

It is clear that the programme might benefit from more publicity but the universities may not be the right channel for this (even if they seem like the obvious choice). The scheme does not appear to be listed under the Funding US study website. However, since a listing on this website is subject to a fee, the St Andrew's Society would need to decide whether they wish to spend more on publicity.