



Study at the University of South Carolina Aiken in the United States



OAS

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Deadlines:

Fall 2019: June 30, 2019

Spring 2020: October 15, 2019



oas.org/scholarships



▼ THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN

The [University of South Carolina](#), the state's flagship university which was founded in Columbia in 1801, began offering courses in Aiken for students interested in completing their degrees in Columbia.

- USC Aiken became the fourth campus founded of the eight that would eventually comprise the USC System.
- Three full-time faculty members, a secretary, and 139 students joined for the university's first academic semester in September 1961. Classes took place in "Banksia," a former winter-colony mansion in downtown Aiken.
- Today, USC Aiken has ranked in the top three public baccalaureate colleges in the South by U.S. News & World Report's guide "America's Best Colleges" for nineteen consecutive years.
- More than 3,500 students attend the university, and approximately 500 students graduate each year.
- USC Aiken is "The University of Choice", providing bachelor's and master's degrees in 48 programs of study while delivering many of the offerings of a large university on a small, friendly campus with intimate class sizes and personal attention.
- The commitment to continuing partnerships is woven into the fabric of the campus' culture

▼ TESTIMONIALS FROM CURRENT STUDENTS

1. "Choosing USC Aiken to attain my bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance has proven the best choice thus far. The campus is beautiful, I am getting a great education, and I love all the people I have met on campus. I found a great new home at USC Aiken and I recommend it to all the OAS students." ~ Keezee F, St. Lucia
2. "Being a recipient of the OAS Scholarship has allowed me to receive an education at an amazing institution. I am grateful for the grant that has opened all of the doors USCA has to offer. Being a Pacer has propelled me educationally, mentally and socially, and I speak highly of my university whenever I visit home." ~ Alaine S., The Bahamas.

▼ ABOUT THE OAS

The OAS General Secretariat (GS/OAS) is the central and permanent organ of the [Organization of American States](#) (OAS).

- Through its Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE), GS/OAS supports [OAS member States](#) in creating policies and executing programs that promote human capacity development at all educational levels.
- By enabling formative opportunities to citizens, DHDEE strengthens democratic values and security under the framework of regional integration.
- DHDEE does this: (i) by supporting the efforts of OAS member states to improve the quality of and equity in education; and (ii) by assisting the citizens of the Americas in realizing their full potential by giving them access to knowledge and skills through training that improves the standard of living for individuals, families and communities in the region.

▼ SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

PROGRAM:	<u>Undergraduate Degree</u> Programs as indicated in Annex 1
MODALITY:	Onsite in South Carolina, United States
LANGUAGE:	English
DURATION:	Varies per program of study
DEADLINES:	<p>The university's admission: To begin Fall 2019: June 15, 2019 To begin Spring 2020: September 30, 2019</p> <p>Scholarship application: To begin Fall 2019: June 30, 2019 To begin Spring 2020: October 15, 2019</p>
START DATE:	Fall: August 2019 Spring: January 2020
END DATE:	Varies per program of study.
BENEFITS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ USD \$250 per semester applicable to the Fall and Spring semesters each year; ✓ In-state tuition cost; ✓ USD \$4,000 one-time subsistence allowance to the top ranked candidates to help defray the cost of tuition at USC Aiken.

- ✓ Scholarship benefits are subject to the academic performance of the scholarship recipient. In order to receive these benefits, the scholarship recipient should not be reported with an unsatisfactory academic performance due to absences or failing courses.

▼ APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants are encouraged to contact the USC Aiken Office of Admissions for more information, please go to the USC Aiken's website: <http://www.usca.edu/admissions/>

Student/Applicant's profile and Admission Process

Before applying for admission, students are encouraged to read the program description, and ensure that the study area fulfills their expectations and interests. Please visit <http://www.usca.edu/admissions/> to understand admission requirements to the program of study.

University Contact Information

Applicants can contact Elizabeth Dille at [Liz Dille <LizD@usca.edu>](mailto:LizD@usca.edu) for more information about the university's admission process and program details.

▼ SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

- To apply for an OAS – USCA scholarship, applicants must have **ALL** required supporting documentation, which includes:
 1. **ID** – scan or photo of passport page that contains the applicant's full name, date of birth, and country of citizenship.

2. **Admission letter** – unconditional admission letter from the University of South Carolina Aiken
3. Transcript or record of grades – copy of High School Transcript or Associate’s degree transcript. Transcripts must be translated by a sworn translator if English is not the original language of the transcript.
4. **Certificate or Diploma** – copy of High School certificate or Associate’s degree diploma or letter of enrollment from current institution.
5. **Two (2) Recommendation Letters** – one of the recommendation letters should be provided by a university professor and the other should be provided by current or most recent employer that includes: the letterhead of the University/Institution, the Professor’s/Employer’s position within the University/Institution, date and signature.
 - a. Applicants with no work experience may substitute the recommendation letter from the employer with a recommendation letter from a second professor. The recommendation letters provided for admission consideration to the University can be used for scholarship consideration.
 - b. However, if you choose to provide new recommendation letters directly to the OAS, the letters should be addressed to the OAS Scholarship and Training Programs, Department of Human Development, Education and Employment.
6. **Essays** – applicants are required to write and include two (2) essays in the OAS-USCA online scholarship application form. The essays must be written in English. Both essays should have a minimum of 800 characters (not words) and a maximum of 2900 characters, including spaces.
 - a. Essay 1: Describe how acquiring this academic degree will directly impact and enhance your professional skills in your current job position or future career.
 - b. Essay 2: Explain how you intend to apply the acquired knowledge and experience in the specific field of study that you will pursue to the development of your country or region.
7. **Curriculum vitae** – in English and no specific format is required. Do not include copies of diplomas, certificates or awards; only include text.
8. **Proof of English Proficiency**, if applicable – students whose native language is not English will be required to submit one of the following as proof of English proficiency:
 - a. A copy of an official transcript verifying completion of studies in an English speaking university in the last five years;
 - b. A test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a score of 570 or higher for the paper based test, 230 for computer-based test, or an internet-based TOEFL (IBT) score of at least 89;
 - c. IELTS 6.5, or the equivalent
9. **Proof of Additional Funds** – proof that you have sufficient funds to cover remaining tuition and fees and other costs not covered by the scholarship by including one, or a combination, of the following documents with your scholarship application:
 - a. a copy of a rental agreement on property showing you as the property owner;
 - b. a copy of a bank statement or bank letter;
 - c. a letter from an employer showing a monthly or yearly salary to be received based on study leave with pay;
 - d. a letter showing a student loan or additional scholarship(s), grants, financial aid.

➤ **ALL** the required documents must be combined into **one (1) single PDF file (no larger than 5MB)**. If the file is larger than 5MB, you will not be able to submit the online form. The application system

does not allow for more than one document to be uploaded. Do not include any additional documents besides those indicated.

STEP 2: Apply online:

- To apply for an OAS – USCA scholarship, applicants must complete the OAS online scholarship application form and attach **ALL** required supporting documentation listed above.
- After receiving the admission letter from the USCA, please email a copy of the admission letter and request access to the OAS online scholarship application form via email address scholarships@oas.org
- **Only applicants with proof of admission to a USCA program will be allowed to apply for scholarship consideration.**
- **The scholarship application must be completed by June 30 or October 15, 2019.**

EXPENSES NOT COVERED BY THIS SCHOLARSHIP

Expenses not covered by the scholarship, and which are the sole responsibility of the scholarship recipients, are:

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- ✓ In-state tuition (\$10,000 per year for 2017-18)
- ✓ on-campus housing (\$4,880 per year for 2017-18)
- ✓ meal plan (\$2,586 per year for 2017-18)
- ✓ textbooks (varies, averages approximately \$1,100 per year)
- ✓ international application fee (\$100 one-time only)
- ✓ international student service fee (\$300 one-time only)
- ✓ medical insurance (varies)
- ✓ personal living expenses (varies)
- ✓ OAS-USC Aiken Scholarship recipients are required to live in on-campus housing
- ✓ Any additional fees not included in the OAS-USC Aiken Scholarship offer.

- ✓ Applicants could also apply for the [Rowe Fund](#) which is an educational loan program of the OAS that helps citizens from Latin America and the Caribbean to finance their studies in accredited universities across the US by awarding **interest-free loans** of up to US\$15,000 dollars.
- ✓ These above expenses listed as financial responsibility shall be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the scholarship recipients and the scholarship recipients will be responsible for payment of the remaining tuition fees and any other costs, which are subject to change based on the USC Board of Trustees decisions each academic year, as needed to USC Aiken.
- ✓ Scholarship benefits are subject to the academic performance of the scholarship recipient and based on the availability of funds. In order to receive these benefits, the scholarship recipient should not be reported with an unsatisfactory academic performance due to absences or failing courses.
- ✓ Scholarship Recipients of Bahamian citizenship may qualify to receive additional funding from the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, through the OAS-Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas Scholarship Program
 - Scholarship Recipients of Bahamian citizenship who apply to the OAS/Government of The Bahamas Scholarship Program may only pursue the programs listed as priority areas for the OAS/Government of The Bahamas Scholarship Program.
 - Scholarship Recipients of Bahamian citizenship who do not apply to the OAS/Government of The Bahamas Scholarship Program may pursue any of the programs of study included in the OAS-USC Aiken Scholarship announcement.
 - Scholarship Recipients of Bahamian citizenship who receive scholarship funds through the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, through the OAS-Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas Scholarship Program must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

▼ ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for this scholarship opportunity, an applicant must:

- ✓ Provide an unconditional admission letter from USC Aiken;
 - *This scholarship opportunity is open to new applicants as well as current students at USC-Aiken who are from an OAS member state, except the United States, and are not an OAS-USC Aiken scholarship recipient.*
- ✓ Submit a complete scholarship application with all required supporting documents; and
- ✓ Be a citizen and/or permanent legal resident of any [OAS member state](#), except *The United States*.
 - Applicants from **Argentina** must fill out a required form through the following link; <http://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/PAEC/2018/NOTA-SOLICITUD-DGCIN-2017.doc> and send it to the [National Liaison Office \(ONE\)](#) in Argentina.

The following applicants are ineligible:

- ⊗ Current OAS scholarship recipients;
- ⊗ GS/OAS staff and their immediate relatives or GS/OAS consultants; and
- ⊗ OAS Permanent officials and their immediate relatives.

▼ SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA

- ✓ The merits and overall credentials of the candidate, including his/her academic and professional background;
- ✓ Geographical distribution of the applicants, taking into account the greater needs of the smaller and relatively less developed economies;
- ✓ Applicants whose essays portray the highest potential for impact upon return to their countries of origin; and
- ✓ Gender diversity.

▼ SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCESS:

Selection Committee USC Aiken and the OAS will select the scholarship awardees, based on the [criteria](#) listed above. The names of the scholarship awardees will be published in July and October 2019 at www.oas.org/scholarships.

Notification of selected candidates The OAS will contact selected candidates by email with the scholarship offer and instructions for the scholarship acceptance form. **Applicants who are not selected will not be contacted.**

▼ DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT:

- ✓ The scholarship will be formally awarded only after the selected awardees have signed an OAS/USC Aiken Acceptance Form, in which the awardees formally accept the scholarship and agree to its terms and conditions.
- ✓ Refrain from activities that are inconsistent with the status of an OAS Scholarship recipient, abiding by the regulations referred to in this Acceptance Form.
- ✓ Comply with all the academic guidelines and admission requirements requested by USC Aiken and submit to the updates of these guidelines and requirements made by the academic authorities at USC Aiken.

- ✓ Comply with the provisions indicated in the "Financial responsibilities of awardees."
- ✓ To retain the scholarship, Scholarship recipients should not have low academic performance due to absence from the program and/or course failure.
- ✓ The scholarship can be declined by the scholarship recipient before the start date of the program without financial penalties. However, if s/he declines the scholarship after that date without proof of force majeure, the OAS and USC Aiken may require the Scholarship recipient to reimburse all funding granted to her/him with the scholarship at the time in which the declination is processed.
- ✓ Commitment to return to work in their sponsoring country or legal residence in one of the OAS member states, or at an international organization, for at least the length of the duration of the scholarship. Failure to comply with this commitment, the GS/OAS and/or the USC Aiken could seek reimbursement for the total value of the scholarship awarded.

▼ SCHOLARSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION:

Questions about this scholarship opportunity should be sent to scholarships@oas.org with the subject "OAS-USC Aiken. Scholarship Program"

▼ FOR MORE INFORMATION:



www.oas.org/scholarships



<https://twitter.com/OASscholarships>



<https://www.facebook.com/becasoea>

ANNEX 1: List of Programs

Major	Bachelor's	Concentration	College / School
Biology	BA/BS		Sciences and Engineering
Biology	BS	Env. Remediation and Restoration	Sciences and Engineering
Biology	BS	Molecular Biology	Sciences and Engineering
Business Administration	BS	Accounting	Business Administration
Business Administration	BS	Finance	Business Administration
Business Administration	BS	Management	Business Administration
Business Administration	BS	Marketing	Business Administration
Chemistry	BS		Sciences and Engineering
Clinical Laboratory Science	BS		Sciences and Engineering
Communication	BA		Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Early Childhood Education	BA		Education
Elementary Education	BA		Education
English	BA		Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Exercise and Sports Science	BS	Allied Health	Sciences and Engineering
Exercise and Sports Science	BS	Basic Sciences	Sciences and Engineering
Exercise and Sports Science	BS	Fitness Management	Sciences and Engineering
Fine Arts	BA		Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
History	BA		Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Industrial Process Engineering	BS		Sciences and Engineering
Industrial Mathematics	BS		Sciences and Engineering
Interdisciplinary Studies	BA		Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Interdisciplinary Studies	BS		Sciences and Engineering
Mathematics/Computer Science	BS		Sciences and Engineering
Middle Level Education	BA	Social Studies / English	Education
Middle Level Education	BA	Mathematics / English	Education
Middle Level Education	BA	Mathematics / Science	Education
Middle Level Education	BA	Mathematics / Social Studies	Education
Middle Level Education	BA	Science / English	Education
Middle Level Education	BA	Science / Social Studies	Education
Music Education	BA		Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Political Science	BA		Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Psychology	BA/BS		Sciences and Engineering
Psychology	BA/BS	Neuroscience	Sciences and Engineering
Sociology	BA	General	Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Sociology	BA	Criminology and Criminal Justice	Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Sociology	BA	Human Social Services	Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Secondary Education	BA	Biology	Education
Secondary Education	BA	Chemistry	Education
Secondary Education	BA	Mathematics	Education
Secondary Education	BA	Comprehensive Social Studies	Education
Secondary Education	BA	English	Education
Special Education	BA		Education