

Amelia Earhart Fellowships

A Zonta International Program, Funded through the Zonta Foundation for Women

The Fellowship

The Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowships were established in 1938 in honor of Amelia Earhart, famed pilot and Zonta club member. The Amelia Earhart Fellowships are awarded annually to women pursuing a Ph.D./doctoral degree conducting research applied to aerospace engineering or space sciences. The Fellowship of **US\$12,000** may be used at any university or college offering accredited post-graduate courses and degrees.

Who is eligible?

Women of any nationality pursuing a Ph.D./doctoral degree who demonstrate a superior academic record conducting research applied to aerospace engineering or space sciences are eligible. It is imperative that students be registered in a full-time Ph.D./doctoral program and have completed at least one year of that program or have received a master's degree in an aerospace-applied field at the time the application is submitted. Applicants must not graduate before April 2028. Please note that post-doctoral research programs are not eligible for the Fellowship.

Previous Amelia Earhart Fellows are **not eligible** to apply for a second year. Club members and individuals with direct membership with Zonta International and employees of Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women are **not eligible** to apply for the fellowship.

Recipients of a Zonta award who have received a complimentary one-year supporting membership from Zonta International **are eligible** to apply during their complimentary membership year, provided that they are not applying for the same fellowship or award they previously received from Zonta International.

Committee or jury members or any member involved in the selection process should follow the [Zonta International Conflict of Interest Policy](#) in the selection of awardees.

What are the requirements?

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- ❑ Be registered in a full-time Ph.D./doctoral program conducting research applied to aerospace engineering or space sciences and have completed at least one year of that program, or have received a master's degree in an aerospace-applied field at the time the application is submitted. A verification of current enrollment must be submitted with the application. Acceptance letters are not verification of enrollment and will not be accepted.
- ❑ Demonstrate a superior academic record at a recognized university or college with accredited courses in aerospace-applied studies as verified by official transcripts and recommendations. In programs where graduate transcripts are not provided as a matter of institutional policy, please provide a statement of that policy from the registrar or other school official. (**Note:** please do not upload electronic transcripts, or links to electronic copies, directly from the university as the documents may have expiration dates to review. Please scan official transcripts and/or save as a PDF format and upload the saved copy in color. Please ensure all transcripts are legible.)
- ❑ Provide evidence of a well-defined research program applied to aerospace engineering or space sciences in the application essay (in general scientific terms), the academic documents (references, transcripts, verification of enrollment) and the list of publications (Note: please do not attach publications; citing the references is sufficient).
- ❑ Clearly demonstrate that the Ph.D. research program is directly related to aerospace/space sciences and furnish verification of the research program through at least one of the reference letters required with the application. The thesis supervisor or advisor and a university professor must each be one of the referees.
- ❑ Applicants must be registered in a full-time Ph.D./doctoral program by 15 November 2026 and must not graduate before April 2028.

How do I apply?

Applicants may apply for the 2027 Amelia Earhart Fellowships at <https://zontainternational.awardspring.com/> and include:

- ❑ Biographical information.
- ❑ Plans for intended study.
- ❑ List and include detailed official transcripts of grades or equivalent records of achievement from all universities, colleges, or institutions attended, including undergraduate institutions and degrees received. In programs where graduate transcripts are not provided as a matter of institutional policy, please provide a statement of that policy from the registrar or other school official. (**Important note:** please do not upload electronic transcripts, or links to electronic copies directly from the university, as the documents may have expiration dates to review. Please scan official transcripts in color and save as a PDF and upload the saved copy. Please ensure all transcripts are legible.)
- ❑ List and include translated transcripts in English of all grades from all universities, colleges or institutions attended.
- ❑ List scholarships, fellowships and honors received, if any.
- ❑ List up to five (5) previous publications (no theses) providing title, authors, name of journal/website/conference, page # if applicable, and year published.
- ❑ Employment history, if any.
- ❑ Essay on academic program and professional goals - applicant should describe, in general scientific terms, a well-defined research program (thesis) and professional goals in 500 words or less. Preference will be given to those candidates who can demonstrate a well-defined research program applied to aerospace engineering/space sciences.
- ❑ Three (3) recommendations from university professors (or supervisors) who can assess your ability to succeed in the Ph.D./doctoral program. At least one of the referees must be able to describe the quality of the research program and the direct application of the research to aerospace engineering or space science. The thesis supervisor or advisor and a university professor must each be one of the referees. The reference letters should be limited to 500 words and to one (1) page. All letters of recommendation **must** be provided on letterhead with signature or signed electronically and submitted in PDF format.
- ❑ Zonta International Verification of Current Enrollment form or official statement from the university/college registrar. Acceptance letters are not verification of enrollment and will not be accepted.
- ❑ All non-English documents must be translated into English to be considered.
- ❑ Information other than official transcripts and recommendations must be limited to the space provided; attachments, articles, pamphlets, books, curriculum vitae or other publications are not requested and will not be considered.

How are the Fellows selected and notified?

The Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Committee reviews the applications and recommends recipients to the Zonta International Board. All applicants are evaluated on the criteria stated in the requirements section of the application. All details of the evaluations are kept confidential; evaluations are not disclosed to applicants. All applicants will be notified of their status by the end of April 2027.

How may I use the Fellowship funds?

The Fellowship may be used for tuition, books and fees, or living expenses (room, board or travel).

1. The payment of US\$12,000 is planned for September-October subject to any US sanctions regulations.
2. For domestic and foreign recipients studying in the United States, Fellowship funds used for tuition, books, fees, supplies or required equipment for the program of study are not considered taxable income. Withholding taxes may be required on funds used for living expenses or other non-qualified expenses, e.g. room, board or travel to conferences.
3. Recipients are not permitted to defer the Fellowship.
4. Fellows may accept additional grants and scholarships from other sources.

Deadline

The 2027 Amelia Earhart Fellowship application must be submitted in full **by 15 November 2026** to be considered.