



**ZONTA**  
INTERNATIONAL

**AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP**  
**2026 APPLICATION**

# AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP

A Zonta International Program  
Funded through the Zonta Foundation for Women

## For Information Only

Note that this document is for preparation purposes only. All applications must be completed in English and submitted using the online application form at <https://zontainternational.awardspring.com/>.

Hard copy and email applications will not be accepted.

### 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\$10,000** 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 from their Ph.D. or doctoral program before April 2027. Please note that post-doctoral research programs are not eligible for the Fellowship.

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 Awards. 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.

Note that previous Amelia Earhart Fellows are not eligible to apply to renew the Fellowship for a second year.

### 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 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.
- Applicant must be registered in a full-time Ph.D./doctoral program by 15 November 2025 and must not graduate before April 2027.

### How do I apply?

Applicants may apply for the 2026 Amelia Earhart Fellowships at <https://zontainternational.awardspring.com/> and include:

- Biographical information.
- Plans for intended study.
- List and include official detailed 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. Acceptance letters are not verification of enrollment and will not be accepted.
- 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 2026.

### 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\$10,000 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 2026 Amelia Earhart Fellowship application must be submitted in full **by 15 November 2025** to be considered.

# AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP

## 2026 APPLICATION

### For Information Only

Note that this document is for preparation purposes only. All applications must be completed in English and submitted using the online application form at <https://zontainternational.awardspring.com/>.  
Hard copy and email applications will not be accepted.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last (Family) First Middle

Current Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day/Month/Year City/State/Country

Country of Citizenship (include all countries of citizenship): \_\_\_\_\_

Other information, if desired (marital status, children, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

University/College/Institution currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Major/Field: \_\_\_\_\_

### Plans for graduate study under the Amelia Earhart Fellowship:

Degree Sought: \_\_\_\_\_ Department/Major Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Title/Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of University/College/Institution at which studies will be undertaken:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Academic Background

Your application must include official detailed transcripts of grades or equivalent records of achievement from all universities, colleges, or institutions attended, including undergraduate institutions. 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 and upload the saved copy in color. Please ensure all transcripts are legible.)

In the tables below, please list the following information on education:

**A. Past** (Please list the institutions you have attended for post-secondary education prior to Ph.D./doctoral program.):

University/College	(Year) to (Year)	Major Field	Department	Degree	Date Degree Received/ Anticipated

**B. Current Ph.D./doctoral program** (Please supply transcripts or a program progress report if grades are not available. If your program does not provide graduate transcripts, a statement of that policy from the registrar or other school official is required. All non-English materials **must** be translated into English to be considered:

University/College	Department	Degree	Date Enrolled	Date Degree Anticipated

**Scholarships, Fellowships, Honors Received** (Please give dates.):

	(Year) to (Year)

**Publications (up to 5)** (Please list titles, authors and bibliographic references of articles, pamphlets or books, either in manuscript or published form that you have authored or co-authored. Reference publications by title, authors, name of journal/website/conference, page # if applicable, and year published. Please **do not** include theses materials or curriculum vitae.):

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

## Employment

From (Month/Year)	To (Month/Year)	Employer	Address	Type of Work or Position Held

## Essay: PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION AND GOALS

Please describe in general scientific terms your **academic research program (thesis) and your 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.

**Outreach and Extracurricular Community Service.** Please give a description of your outreach activities, volunteer work and extracurricular community service:


## Recommendations

Please use the following fields to name and send a recommendation letter request to three university professors (or supervisors) who can assess your ability to succeed in the Ph.D./doctoral research program. These recommendations are confidential, and you will not be able to view the completed responses, although you will be able to see the status of the request at any point in time. 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 and space sciences. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure these recommendations have been turned in by the deadline. All letters of recommendation **must** be provided on letterhead with signature or signed electronically and submitted in PDF format.

Please list below those referees who will submit recommendations:

Name	Relationship to Applicant (e.g. thesis supervisor)	Title	University/College
1.			
2.			
3.			

## Declaration by Applicant

- ☐ I certify that all of the information contained in my application form is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I waive any right to review the letters of reference and attest these letters have been written in confidence.
- ☐ I am interested in being contacted by a corporation for recruitment purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

## Data Protection

Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women take the security of your data seriously. We will never sell, trade or rent your personal information provided in this application to third parties. By submitting this application, you agree to the use of your data in accordance with the *Privacy Policy and Publicity Authorization Form* contained in the application documents.

(Please check the appropriate items.)

How did you learn of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship?		Checklist to be completed by applicant	
Social media	<input type="checkbox"/>	Official Detailed Transcripts (from all universities/colleges/institutions attended)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Department/teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	Translated Transcripts in English (from all universities/colleges/institutions attended)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Directory of grants at university financial aid office	<input type="checkbox"/>	Letters of recommendation (3)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Directory of grants not at university (e.g., public libraries)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommendation Waiver Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
Website (name):		Essay (not exceeding 500 words)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Previous Amelia Earhart Fellow (name):		Verification of Current Enrollment Form (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zonta Club of:		Signature	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:			

## Recommendation for Applicant for Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship

The applicant above has applied for a Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship for women in a Ph.D./doctoral program conducting research applied to aerospace engineering or space sciences. The Review Committee greatly values and appreciates your opinion. Please describe the applicant's accomplishments, level of progress, current research program, intellectual independence, capacity for analytical thinking, ability to organize and express ideas clearly, creativity, motivation, and potential for learning. If you are the applicant's thesis supervisor, please provide an estimate of the date of completion for the applicant's Ph.D. program, i.e. date of expected graduation. Recommendation letter (limit to 500 words and to one page) **must** be provided on letterhead with signature or signed electronically and submitted in PDF format.

How well do you know the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_ Insufficient opportunity to observe: ☐

Please rate the applicant with respect to your experience with other doctoral candidates in this field:

Very Good  
Next 10%

☐

Good  
Next 15%

☐

Average  
Next 30%

☐

Below Average  
Last 40%

☐





**Verification of Current Enrollment Form  
Amelia Earhart Fellowship**

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is currently in  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
(department) (university/college)

and is enrolled in a \_\_\_\_\_ Degree.  
(Ph.D./Doctoral)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of registrar) (Date) (Expected graduation date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Official University/College Stamp)

## **Zonta International Amelia Earhart (AE) Fellowship**

### **Privacy Policy and Publicity Authorization**

Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women are committed to honoring the privacy and wishes of all of our Amelia Earhart Fellows at all times. In order to do this, please read the following information carefully and indicate your agreement as appropriate.

1. Most data collected by Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women is used only to help Zonta better serve its fellowship recipients. It is our general policy to collect and store only personal information that our recipients knowingly provide. Zonta does not sell, trade, or rent your personally identifying information provided in this application to third parties. Except as described in paragraph two, we take reasonable measures not to disclose personally identifying information about you.

☐ I have read the above paragraph and agree to the Terms and Conditions therein.

2. From time to time, Zonta International/Zonta Foundation for Women conducts various marketing activities to promote the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program. In addition, to ensure Zonta's ability to fund the Fellowships, the Zonta Foundation for Women may from time to time provide information to donors to the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund about recipients of their donations. Zonta retains the right to use your name, photograph and biographical information to promote the Amelia Earhart Fellowship in various promotional materials, including the Zonta International website.

☐ I have read the above paragraph and agree to the Terms and Conditions therein.

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Signature

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Today's Date