FOUNDATION FOR SCALIA LAW

Notice to Recipients of Scholarships and Fellowships
(*This information applies to **U.S. Citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents and Resident Aliens** Only*)

Note: All Foreign Nationals should contact the International Tax Manager in Fiscal Services before accepting any scholarship or fellowship grant. If your tax status is Non-Resident Alien, the scholarship/fellowship will be potentially subject to tax and required to be reported to the IRS. If tax withholding is required, the university will make payments to you directly. The Foundation for Scalia Law (Foundation) cannot make direct payments to Non-resident Aliens for scholarships or fellowships.

This award is based on the fact that you will not be performing services for George Mason University (GMU) or the Foundation (or anyone else) as a condition to receive this award. If services were a requirement to receive funds, The Foundation would be required by law to consider you an employee and process all payments through GMU's payroll department. Because there are no service requirements, the funds may or may not be taxable based on your personal situation. A clear understanding of the commonly used terms will help you to understand the tax implications in order to avoid a tax liability surprise at year-end.

Definition of Scholarship: (as stated in IRS Publication 970)
A scholarship is generally an amount paid or allowed to, or for the benefit of, a student at an educational institution in the pursuit of studies. The student may be either an undergraduate or a graduate.

Definition of Fellowship: (as stated in IRS Publication 970)
A fellowship is generally an amount paid for the benefit of an individual to aid in the pursuit of study or research.
- Graduate Fellow: a graduate student who is performing independent research as part of his/her educational pursuits or, probably, in pursuit of his/her thesis. This student is not required to perform any specific research on any specific research project or under the direct supervision of any individual. It is common for possibilities or alternatives concerning the research with his/her thesis and faculty advisors to receive assistance. The important issue here is that the student is performing independently and not under direct supervision.

Definition of Qualified Scholarship or Fellowship (as stated in IRS Publication 970)
A qualified scholarship or fellowship is any amount you receive as a scholarship or fellowship grant that is used under the terms of the grant for:
1. Tuition and fees required to enroll in, or to attend, an educational institution, or
2. Fees, books, supplies, and equipment that are required for the courses at the educational institution. These items must be required by *all* students in your course of instruction.

Your scholarship or fellowship grant can still qualify as tax-free even if the terms do not provide that it be used only for tuition and course-related expenses. It will qualify if you actually use the grant proceeds for tuition and course-related expenses. However, if the terms of the grant require it be used for other purposes, such as room and board, or specify that the grant cannot be used for tuition or course-related expenses, the amounts received under the scholarship or fellowship grant are not tax-free.

The Internal Revenue Service does not require the Foundation to report taxable scholarship and fellowship income to either the individual or the IRS. It is entirely the responsibility of the U.S. citizen or resident alien to report any taxable income on his/her tax return. If you have any questions, we recommend that you engage a tax professional.

Please sign this letter and return it, with a completed W-9 or W-8BEN along with a copy of your green card if you are a Lawful Permanent Resident, to the address below.

I hereby certify that I have read the above information and understand that I am responsible for reporting income to the IRS.

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Print Name of Recipient   Recipient Taxpayer No.

_____

Address of Recipient (street, city, state, zip)

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Recipient's Signature   Date

March 2026