

THE PETER AND CARMEN LUCIA BUCK FOUNDATION, INC.

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PCLB Scholarship Fund Program Guidelines

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Through the PCLB Scholarship Fund, The Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation, Inc. (“PCLB”) provides college scholarships to students who are unique among their peers in that they exhibit *Self-Reliance, Fairness, Honesty, Humility, Trust, Excellence, Patience, and Adaptability*. They have worked hard to achieve academic and social success, even when progress did not come readily or easily for them. PCLB scholarships are intended to fill a gap in unmet financial aid and offer students an opportunity that they might not otherwise have had to continue their personal growth in college.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Eligibility

1. Who is eligible to apply to this scholarship?

Graduating seniors nominated from one of PCLB’s current grantee charter schools in New York City are eligible to apply for the scholarship. For the 2021-22 academic year, these schools include:

- Achievement First Crown Heights Charter School
- Achievement First Brooklyn Charter School
- Achievement First East Brooklyn High School
- Brooklyn Prospect Charter School
- Capital Preparatory Harlem Charter School
- Uncommon Charter High School
- Uncommon Collegiate Charter High School
- Uncommon Leadership Charter High School
- Uncommon Preparatory Charter High School

2. Do I need a minimum GPA to apply?

No, there is no minimum GPA requirement for this scholarship. However, for informational purposes only, we will ask applicants to submit an official copy of their transcript.

3. Do I need to be interested in a particular major/subject to apply?

No, this application is open to all students regardless of their current or future academic interests.

4. Do I need to demonstrate financial need to apply?

Yes, a student must demonstrate a financial need and have filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”), as well as any applicable state aid applications, to be eligible to apply for the scholarship.

5. Do I need to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident to apply?

Yes, in order to be eligible to apply to this scholarship, students must be able to file for FAFSA and/or other state aid. Such applications typically require that students have U.S. citizenship or permanent residency status.

Use of Scholarship Funds

1. What is the scholarship amount and for how many years can a PCLB Scholar receive funding?

The scholarship award is \$17,000, renewable annually at the same amount, to support four years of full-time college enrollment, so long as the PCLB Scholar meets the expectations of the scholarship program.

On a case-by-case basis, PCLB will consider extending funding beyond four years should the PCLB Scholar require more time to complete a degree. Some acceptable circumstances where a PCLB Scholar may require more time to complete college include: dual-degree programs, part-time course load, credits lost while transferring colleges, etc.

2. What does the scholarship cover?

Scholarship funds are to be applied to the following costs of college: tuition and mandatory fees; room and board; and required books and supplies. Please note that any funds used to pay for room and board, non-mandatory books, supplies, and school fees, or other expenses unrelated to the PCLB Scholar's educational activities will likely constitute income to the PCLB Scholar and may require reporting to the IRS by the PCLB Scholar. If PCLB Scholars have any questions regarding the tax consequences of their scholarship, they should consult a tax professional.

3. Is there a restriction on what kinds of institutions PCLB Scholars can attend?

Applicants must intend to enroll full-time in an accredited four-year college beginning in the fall following high school completion. Any accredited, degree awarding, college or university in the United States and U.S. territories that is described as an educational institution under Section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code is considered an eligible institution. On a case-by-case basis, PCLB will consider international institutions.

4. What are the expectations of a PCLB Scholar?

PCLB Scholars are generally expected to:

- Be good students by 1) maintaining good academic standing, 2) demonstrating ongoing credit accumulation toward 4-year college completion, and 3) adhering to their college's academic policies
- Be good citizens by adhering to their college's code of conduct, as well as to local, state, and Federal law
- Complete and submit required reports to PCLB (e.g. mid-year reports, renewal forms, and a final report)

For more details on PCLB Scholar expectations, please refer to the Scholar Handbook.

Selection Process

1. How do I apply?

Each high school is able to nominate 3 seniors to apply for the PCLB Scholarship Fund. Graduating seniors interested in applying should speak to their guidance/college counselor to learn more and to discuss their nomination. Counselors will submit the names and contact info for nominated seniors to PCLB staff, who will provide instructions on how to submit the online application. All application materials are due by the deadline indicated below.

2. What does the application look like?

The online application consists of:

- Two short essays, no more than 750 words each
- Extracurricular/activities resume
- FAFSA Student Aid Report and other relevant financial aid/scholarship information
- Academic transcript (for informational purposes only)
- Two letters of recommendations to be completed by:
 - A school guidance counselor/college advisor
 - A teacher/community leader of the applicant's choosing

3. What does the selection process look like?

Applications are reviewed by the PCLB Scholarship Committee. The Committee selects and interviews finalists and recommends scholarships to be approved by PCLB's Board of Directors. Finalists are notified of award decisions by early April.

4. What are the key dates to keep in mind?

Event	Date
Nominations Submission Period (Counselors)	November 24, 2021 – January 6, 2022
Application Release	December 13, 2021
Nominations Deadline (Counselors)	January 6, 2022
Recommendations Deadline (Suggested for Counselors and Teachers)	February 4, 2022
Application Submission Deadline	February 8, 2022
Invitation for Interviews	March 11, 2022
Interviews with PCLB Scholarship Committee	March 21 – 25, 2022
Award Decisions	Early April, 2022

PCLB SCHOLARSHIP FUND POLICIES AND DISCLOSURES

The PCLB Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors shall be the sole decision-makers regarding the grant of any scholarship, and their decision shall be final.

Submitting a scholarship application does not create any contractual agreement or relationship between applicants, their parents or guardians, and PCLB. Neither the applicants nor the applicants' parents or guardians shall have legal or equitable recourse against PCLB concerning any scholarship application. PCLB is under no obligation to grant or renew any scholarship, and all scholarships are subject to funding availability.

PCLB developed its scholarship program in compliance with applicable Federal and state laws and in a manner to ensure applicant information is secured and managed appropriately. In order to comply with any changes to applicable laws, PCLB reserves the right to discontinue or amend the terms of the PCLB Scholarship Fund at any time, without prior notice.

Non-Discrimination

In accordance with applicable Federal and state anti-discrimination laws, the PCLB Scholarship Fund does not discriminate or request information to make award decisions based on gender, religion, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or any other protected class.

Potential Displacement of Funds

Scholarships awarded from the PCLB Scholarship Fund may reduce government financial aid by lessening a PCLB Scholar's overall financial need. We encourage students and counselors to connect with financial aid offices to understand how outside scholarships might impact a student's financial package before accepting our award.

Applicant Data Security and Retention

All personal data collected during the application process will be securely processed and stored pursuant to PCLB's Privacy Policy published on its website and its internal Personal Data Protection Policy. PCLB does not sell or license applicant data. PCLB's Privacy Policy does not apply to data submitted through our grants management website, maintained by Blackbaud. Any interaction with this site or any other websites maintained by other companies or organizations to which we may link, are governed by the third parties' applicable privacy notices, statements or policies, which we encourage applicants and PCLB Scholars to read. For convenience, Blackbaud's Privacy Policy is linked [here](#).

Pursuant to IRS regulations, PCLB will maintain information used to evaluate the qualifications of candidates, including materials reviewed by the PCLB Scholarship Committee. Application information will not be returned to applicants.

PCLB uses its best efforts to comply with all applicable data protection laws and regulations when processing personal data. If you have any questions or need further information about our privacy policies, please email us at info@pclbfoundation.org.