

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU?

Bellarmino has a number of resources to assist you in preparing for award competitions and completing applications:

1. The Student External Awards website contains information about various awards and the application process;
2. The Student External Awards Committee has funding available for travel and student research (students must apply for this);
3. There is a faculty or staff liaison available in each school to assist students;
4. Informational sessions are held periodically on campus; and
5. The Writing Center is available to assist with the application process.

For additional information, contact Dr. Anne Bucalos in the Faculty Development Center at 502.272.8405 or abucalos@bellarmine.edu.

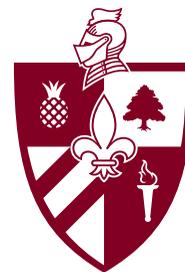


RECEIVING AWARDS

Receiving one of these awards is an incredible accomplishment – but one that requires preparation, commitment, perseverance, and focus. Faculty are in the best position to talk with and recommend students for many of these awards and fellowships. In cases where the award requires nomination or sponsorship by the university, the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, in collaboration with the Student External Awards Committee and other faculty and/or administrators, screens and recommends the final applicants for consideration. This may require a personal interview as part of the selection process.

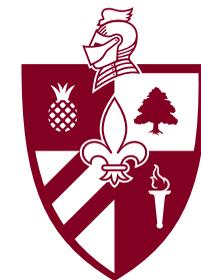
The rewards can be many, but the effort requires hard work and dedication. Whatever the outcome, the result can be an enhanced sense of confidence and achievement in yourself and your abilities.

EXTERNAL AWARD OPPORTUNITIES FOR BELLARMINE STUDENTS



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WHAT ARE EXTERNAL AWARDS?

They are scholarships and awards outside of Bellarmine that are highly competitive opportunities to receive funding for tuition for undergraduate or graduate school, as well as access research opportunities locally and abroad. These scholarships, awards, and fellowships require that you be nominated by your institution, with support from faculty and administration in the application process. Most use an electronic submission process.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF AWARDS?

- Fulbright U.S. Student Program
- Truman Scholar Program
- Cralle Foundation/Joan Cralle Day Fellowship
- Barry Goldwater Scholarship
- James Madison Fellowships
- Udall Foundation Scholarships

The Faculty Development Center, in conjunction with the Student External Awards Committee, assists Bellarmine students and alumni in their applications for these grants, fellowships, and awards. Specific information about the variety of awards can be found at www.bellarmino.edu/facultydev/studentawards.



WHY APPLY FOR THESE AWARDS?

It is true that only a small number of these awards are given each year, yet you may be the fortunate recipient! Even if you are not the recipient, the process of applying can help you improve your writing and/or interview skills, recognize your strengths and talents, build your long-term academic or career plans, or prepare for applying to graduate school. To be nominated or recognized as a finalist imparts a degree of distinction among your peers. Additionally, preparing for these award competitions affords you significant opportunities in conducting student research, participating in valuable community engagement projects, and studying abroad with expert faculty.

WHAT MAKES YOU COMPETITIVE FOR THESE AWARDS?

Most award programs expect a GPA of 3.7 or higher; however, having a specific GPA does not guarantee consideration. Distinguish yourself using the following tips:

- Start early. Begin the types of activities, research, and leadership opportunities valued by these awards as a freshman or sophomore.
- Carefully consider the awards you may be interested in and read the award information thoroughly.
- Get to know your professors. Creating relationships with professors early can create opportunities for working with them and provide a venue for letters of recommendation.
- Demonstrate your interests through your activities. Many foundations look for activities outside the usual campus venues, although on-campus activities are important, too.
- Demonstrate leadership. Just being an officer of clubs or organizations is not enough. How you demonstrate leadership is what matters.
- Take challenging courses. Opting for seminars, writing-intensive courses, honors courses, and independent studies involving research illustrates your commitment to academic work and willingness to work hard to excel.
- Take advantage of special opportunities. Many awards require that you have worked closely with a professor(s) on a research project that could be continued after graduation or abroad. Internships and study abroad experiences also are highly valued.