Frequently Asked Questions

Applying for a Cobell Scholarship Opportunity

Q: **How can prospective applicants access the application system?**

A: IEI's **Online Application Scholarship and Information System (OASIS)** is accessible online via cobellscholar.org. Simply select "Access All Cobell Scholarship Applications" to be directed to the application system.

Q: **What is the application process?**

A: This is a multi-step process. Begin by visiting the Cobell Scholarship website listed above.

1. Navigate to our OASIS Portal: https://webportalapp.com/sp/access_oasis
2. Create a profile by submitting the Applicant Profile. The Profile can be edited/updated at any time, please always keep contact information and institution information up to date.
3. Once the profile is complete, applicants must complete the Eligibility Form with which OASIS will match applicants to open scholarship opportunities based on the self-reported responses provided in the Eligibility Form. If there is no available application, review all responses entered on Eligibility Form, then contact scholarships@cobellscholar.org to request changes to be made.
4. Scroll to the bottom of the page and select the blue tab: Scholarships & Applications. Select 'View' in the Scholarships & Applications section on the following page to view all available opportunities. If matched, the applicant will be directed to complete and submit the application for the available scholarship opportunities. The opportunity application(s) responses entered in the OASIS portal can be edited until the posted closing date. All fully completed opportunity applications will be considered and reviewed during the selection process.
5. If selected, an email offer to become a Finalist is generated beginning no earlier than May 1 each year. This, and status updates, can be viewed in OASIS at any time.
6. FINALISTS must ACCEPT the OFFER and will then be directed to complete a Post-Acceptance to begin the verification process; a link to complete this step will be available in an email sent, once the offer is ACCEPTED. If the FINALIST DECLINES the OFFER, there will be no further communication from the system.
7. When the entire Post-Acceptance portion of the FINALIST file is complete, FINALISTS will receive an official Award Notification to be deemed a Cobell Scholar.

Q: **Is there a paper application?**

A: IEI does not produce paper applications because the applicant's email address is required for verification. Applicants must have access to the internet to apply, to keep track of the application status via the OASIS portal, upload required documents and access their email communications. For individuals with limited broadband access, we advise starting the application process early and using a

word document to respond to prompts outside the system. Then, when ready, copy and paste all responses into the opportunity. This limits the amount of Internet time needed to complete the application.

Note: Once an application is started, the applicant can continue to access the specific opportunity until the deadline. Deadlines may vary.

Q: What type of information is required to apply?

A: The Applicant Profile, the Eligibility Form and a fully completed Scholarship Opportunity. Applications require self-reported responses; therefore, no documentation is required unless an applicant is selected to be a Finalist beginning in early May of each year. Accepting the offer and completing the Post-Acceptance is a separate process. If selected as a Finalist, an email notification will be sent with additional instructions.

Q: Does IEI require an official academic transcript when applying?

A: No, however, IEI may request an **unofficial** transcript for some scholarship opportunities, or if selected as a Finalist. IEI will never require or request an official transcript for Cobell Scholarship opportunities.

Q: Are Cobell Scholarship opportunities available to attend summer classes?

A: Yes, the Cobell Summer opportunity is a separate application process and open to Graduate, Undergraduate and individuals pursuing Vocational degrees. Priority is given to applicants who meet all eligibility requirements including the criteria listed:
   - Individuals who need courses to graduate by the end of the Summer term; or,
   - Individuals who need courses to graduate by the end of the Fall term; or,
   - Individuals in a cohort who are required by their program to attend summer classes; or,
   - Individuals, who because of family or career obligations, can only attend full-time courses in the summer (for example, teachers or members of certain academic cohorts); or,
   - Individuals enrolled in unpaid internship academic credit hours that are required for graduation; or,
   - Individuals needing required courses that are only offered during the Summer term.
   - All others are considered only if funds remain available.
   - *Note: All individuals attending summer should consider applying and tell us in the application why you are enrolling in courses for the summer.*

Q: When should I apply?

A: It depends; the Applicant Profile via OASIS may be submitted at any time throughout the year, except between Dec. 1 and Dec 14 when the program may be closed for maintenance. However, specific

scholarship opportunities have application opening dates and deadlines. The 2026-2027 opportunity dates are as follows:

- ***2026-2027 Undergraduate and Graduate Cobell Scholarship Academic Year opportunity***
  - *Opens December 15, 2025*
  - *Closes March 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM MDT*
  - *Reference due April 7, 2026*
- ***2026 Cobell Scholarship Summer opportunity***
  - *Opens February 15, 2026*
  - *Closes May 4, 2026, at 11:59 PM MST*
  - *No reference required.*
- ***2026 Cobell Graduate Summer Research Fellowship opportunity***
  - *Opens September 1, 2025*
  - *Closes January 10, 2026, 11:59 PM MST.*
- ***2025 The Elouise Cobell Dissertation Writing-Year Fellowship opportunity***
  - *Opens September 1, 2025*
  - *Closes January 10, 2026, 11:59 PM MST.*
- ***Cobell Scholarship Vocational opportunity – Open year-round until funds run out.*** *No reference is required. (Visit the OASIS portal for specific information)*

It is advised to begin the process when an opportunity opens to create a competitive, complete application and to allow time for IEI to communicate regarding incomplete or missing information.

Q: To which scholarship opportunity should I apply if I graduate as an undergraduate in the fall, then transition to graduate school in the spring?

A: Only applicants who have been fully admitted to graduate school for the Spring Semester or Winter Quarter can submit both an undergraduate and graduate application by the stated deadlines to be considered for both. First, complete the Undergraduate application and utilize the Additional Comments to inform us of the situation. Then, email the graduate school acceptance letter to scholarships@cobellscholar.org to receive access to the graduate application where you will supply Additional Comments to assure consideration for both opportunities. Applicants considering graduate school but who have not been admitted will need to wait until the next funding cycle to apply.

Please note that an offer from one of the opportunities does not transfer to the other opportunity. The opportunity applications are separate from one another.

Q: **Why won't my OASIS application(s) submit?**

A: There are a few reasons why OASIS will not accept an application. Please be sure to check the following:

- All required questions <u>must be answered</u>. If the question is not applicable to you, please write **N/A**.
- In unusual circumstances, some older browsers and mobile devices may not be compatible with OASIS. Use a desktop computer or try a different browser and please inform the IEI staff if this occurs so we can further assist you and inform the system's vender of the issue.
  Please note: Indigenous Education, Inc. (IEI) recommends using Word to write and edit written responses, then copy/paste your response(s) into the OASIS scholarship opportunity application to avoid "timing out" or losing any work in the event of technological difficulties.
  Application tip: Many scholarships use variations of the same questions; so, saving the responses in a Word document allows applicants to edit a response without completely rewriting it.

Q: **How do I check the status of my application?**

A: Current application statuses can be viewed in the OASIS portal. Questions regarding the status on an application may be submitted to scholarships@cobellscholar.org. In most cases, staff will respond the same day but no later than 48 hours (about 2 days).

Q: **How do I update my email address in my application?**

A: The email address is used as applicant login credentials and for all communications. Should you wish to change the login credentials, call the IEI office or submit a request to scholarships@cobellscholar.org. In some cases, communications have been sent to an old email account or the spam folder. Without communicating an email change to IEI, scholarship opportunities can be missed. A change in login credentials does not change a password but an applicant can reset their password within the OASIS portal.

Q: **Do I need a Reference for my application?**

A: Cobell Scholarship Graduate and Undergraduate opportunities and the Fellowships require separate references to be considered while others do not. If no question exists for a reference, it does not pertain to the specific Cobell Scholarship opportunity. Each opportunity has instructions clearly stated where necessary.

Q: ***If I am a returning applicant, can I use my previous application responses and my same reference?***

A: *We ask that you update your written reflections each year, and you will need to re-enter the email address for the referring individual each year, when applying. Previous written reflections and reference emails do not carry forward to a different opportunity or a new application cycle.*

Q   **I am a parent. Am I able to access my child's application information?**

A: Concerining Federal (FERPA) policy, IEI cannot share information regarding any file with anyone other than the applicant. IEI does not utilize a parent permission form. **Additionally,** all email addresses must be that of the individual applicant. If an email address is found to be that of a parent, IEI may deem an applicant ineligible and/or may rescind any scholarship offer(s).

Q: **Are applicants allowed to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools in their application responses?**

A: You will tell your own story better than AI can.

We know there are many AI tools available to students (like ChatGPT). While we believe that artificial intelligence (AI) tools help brainstorm ideas, outline, or edit, the final responses must be the applicant's own work. While the Cobell Scholarship does not prohibit the use of AI technologies for the purpose of revision and proofreading, applicants should use their own thoughts for idea generation and response writing.

We expect that an applicant will personally write all responses submitted for review in the application. The responses that reviewers love to read, and that are most helpful in making a decision tell them something new and unique about the applicant and (most importantly) are in the applicant's authentic voice. The reviewers should hear the applicant's voice and perspective when reading all the application materials. The quality of the writing is not as important as the personalized message or story that is being shared. We read applications to get a better understanding of an applicant and to hear an authentic voice.