

APPLICATION DEADLINE

13th September 2017

BACKGROUND

Margaret McNamara Education Grants (MMEG) was founded in 1981 in memory of Margaret Craig McNamara, who dedicated her life to improving the lives of underserved women and children at home and overseas. They were originally called the Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund (MMMMF), and rebranded in 2015. MMEG awards grants to women studying in accredited universities in the US and Canada, and selected universities in South Africa and Latin America.

Margaret McNamara Education Grants (MMEG) invites exceptional women students to apply to their annual grant program. Today, MMEG grantees are involved in a broad range of activities that benefit women and children, including improving conditions for learning-challenged children, using art therapy to heal ex-child soldiers, providing safe water delivery systems to rural communities, advocating for women's rights, caring for HIV/AIDS orphans, providing counselling to women and children traumatized by war, and training nurses in breast cancer prevention.

Some grantees already are respected leaders in grass-root organizations, and are studying to formalize their knowledge with university degrees. Other grantees are pursuing their studies in hard science (or STEM degrees), where the gender gap remains huge among leadership positions, and serve as role models for women seeking a career in "non-traditional" fields.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be at least 25 years old at time of application deadline
- Be a national of a country listed on the [MMEG Country Eligibility List](#)
- Be enrolled at an accredited academic institution when submitting application; and plan to be enrolled for a full academic term after award of the grant by the Board (i.e. January – December or September – May)
- Not be related to a World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund or Inter-American Development Bank staff member or spouse

MMEG awards grants on a competitive basis to exceptional women already enrolled part time (minimum of 2 courses per semester or term) or full time at one of the following universities:

1. University of Witwatersrand
2. University of Cape Town
- 3. University of Pretoria**
4. University of the Free State;

Applicants are screened by an all-volunteer, independent selection committee, and grants are awarded by the Board of Directors by December every year:

- Applicants applying from eligible countries other than South Africa must already hold a study permit for South Africa
- Estimated expenses should be calculated and expressed in Rand (**US \$7 000 is the maximum award**)
- Remember to read the Application Checklist & FAQs before applying and select the: "Africa program" in the first question of the application
- Queries may be addressed to: africa@mmeg.org during this period. Decisions will be announced by December.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Interested parties may visit the website: www.mmeg.org for more detailed information. Interested applicants may also view the information video on YouTube by searching for "Margaret McNamara Education Grants", or clicking on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxKotxWWH3I>

HOW TO APPLY

Before starting the MMEG application process, please scan the following documents in digital form (pdf preferred, jpeg or png):

- Identification (ID) card with photo:
 - national passport page with photo and date of birth, if studying outside your home country, or
 - government/university-issued identity card with photo and birth date;
- Most recent proof of official registration from university (not their acceptance letter);
- Most recent official university transcripts and/or reports
- Visa page or study permit page within current passport (if studying outside home country);
- Second passport page with clear photo (in case of dual citizenship).

You will be asked to upload these documents at specific areas of the on-line application form. You must also provide:

- Brief paragraphs of your **personal story**, and a description of how your studies, experiences and future plans are linked to your commitment to women and children in developing countries;
- An **estimate of your financial situation** for the coming academic year, and planned strategies to cover funding needs;
- A **summary of your thesis** (if applicable), including its objective, methodology and findings, and relationship to career goals.

Two reference letters are required. Please contact two people from whom you would like to request a reference letter.

Referee 1 must be a professor from your current university. **Referee 2** may be from a person (non-family member) who can vouch for your character. At least one of the individuals must have known you for the equivalent of at least two semesters.

After receiving their confirmation, you will be asked to provide in the application form:

- Email addresses and phone numbers of the two people providing references. They will each **receive an email link** from **Embark Online** to write their recommendation. When their recommendations are submitted, you will also be notified by Embark.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

13th September 2017