



City of Berlin Scholarship

funded by the **Checkpoint Charlie Foundation**
Berlin, Germany
(Effective January 2015)

General Information

In response to the events of September 11, 2001, the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation (CCF), Berlin (Germany) initiated a charitable campaign entitled "Berlin helps the USA" for children with parents who were either killed or whose health was permanently impaired due to the terrorist attacks. Since September 12, 2001, private donors in Berlin and all over Germany have contributed money to this campaign.

Until 2028, this scholarship, in combination with already existing support programs (i.e. FAFSA, Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grants, etc.) will cover the costs of **tuition for one academic year or two consecutive semesters** (if starting in spring) at accredited private and/or public colleges and universities in the United States (2-year and 4-year colleges / universities) on a pro rata basis with the option of renewal for the following academic year (see Re-application). The fund can be used only to pay tuition associated with an academic program leading to an Associate Degree, a Bachelor of Arts, or a Master of Arts. Doctoral candidates will not receive funding.

Conditions of Eligibility

Candidates must have been born between January 1, 1986 and June 30, 2002, and must have lost one or both parents during the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, DC. This includes those whose parents lost their lives as passengers and crew of American Airlines 11 (WTC 1), United Airlines 175 (WTC 2), American Airlines 77 (Pentagon), and United Airlines 93 (crash in Shanksville, PA), as well as those whose parents lost their lives as rescue workers, whether employed by the fire department, police department, or another recovery and rescue organization.

Additionally, children of parents involved in the clean-up of September 11 at the World Trade Center site and as a result are suffering from long term health problems (specifically, bronchial problems of any degree), have died due to their work, are unable to work, and/or have been forced into early retirement, are also eligible for the scholarship.

Persons who are convicted of or indicted for a felony cannot attain grantee status; scholarship grantees who are convicted of or indicted for a felony during the grant period will be subject to revocation of the scholarship (see: Scholarship Termination).

Grantees are responsible for observing satisfactory academic and professional standards and for maintaining a standard of conduct and integrity that is in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation and that will contribute positively to the promotion of mutual understanding between the people of the United States and Germany.

Though the acceptance of the scholarship is not intended to limit the rights of the grantees to express their views as individuals on political, religious or other subjects, the grantee must realize that improper use of the name of the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, the scholarship or either the American or the German government in this regard must be avoided.

Scholarship Amounts

The funding amount provided by the City of Berlin Scholarship to the student depends on the tuition and fees of the college / university and the student's existing level of financial aid, up to a maximum of USD 2,500 per semester (max. USD 5,000 for two semesters - fall and spring or spring and fall). The scholarship money is not provided directly to the student, but will be transferred directly to the college / university. Any amounts transferred that exceed the student's tuition and fees must promptly be reimbursed to the CCF.

Grantees are responsible for determining their individual United States income tax liability that results from the City of Berlin Scholarship.

Duration of Scholarship

The scholarship officially starts on the first day (as defined by the respective college or university) of the first semester (fall or spring) for which funding has been requested and extends until the final day of the subsequent semester, according to the school's academic calendar.

Application

Please submit:

- 2 letters of recommendation (including at least one recent teacher/professor/ counselor)
- a 1000 word essay about your knowledge of Germany and the German-American relationship
- a 1000 word personal statement on how you would benefit from this scholarship, including a brief description of your father's involvement with 9/11.
- proof of a familial connection (your birth certificate and the official death certificate of the parent who died in connection with September 11th terrorist attacks or other documentation of your parent's illness or incapacity)
- a photocopy of the notification from the City of New York Board of Trustees of the Fire Department Pension Fund, Subchapter II Medical Board, confirming an award of accident disability retirement and / or pension due to your parent's involvement in the World Trade Center catastrophe on or following September 11, 2001.
- an advantageous photo of yourself
- an official cost summary from your university or college for the first semester for which funding is requested; a summary for the second semester must be provided to the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation as soon as it is available
- an existing financial aid summary (FSEOG, Federal Pell Grants, etc.) if applicable

If you are an upcoming college freshman, please include:

- a letter of acceptance from your future college/university
- an official copy of your high school diploma

If you are currently a college/university student, please include:

- an official copy of your current transcript (**GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale**)

Applications will be accepted throughout the entire year, but must be **received three months before the beginning of the first semester** for which funding is requested to allow the selection panel time to meet and make a decision. **Only complete applications will be considered.** All application materials should be sent in one envelope with sufficient postage to the following address:

Nancy Carbone
 Friends of Firefighters, Inc.
 199 Van Brunt Street
 New York, New York 11231
 Phone: (718) 643-0980 Fax: (718) 643-1240
www.friendsoffirefighters.org info@friendsoffirefighters.org

After checking for completeness, the Friends of Firefighters will send all applications to the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, Berlin, Germany.

Selection Process

A five-person panel, composed of the Executive Director of the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, one member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, a member of the Foundation's Executive Board, the President of the Berlin House of Representatives and one citizen of the city of Berlin, will review the application.

Re-application

Once granted a scholarship, candidates can re-apply with a **current transcript** showing a GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) each following academic year for the remainder of their studies (up to 4 years).

Scholarship Termination

A scholarship may be terminated with the concurrence of the Board of the CCF in Berlin.

Grounds for termination of the scholarship include, but are not limited to

- (1) violation of the laws of the United States or of Germany,
- (2) any act contrary to the spirit of mutual understanding and thus likely to offend either country,
- (3) failure to observe satisfactory academic or professional standards,
- (4) physical or mental incapacitation,
- (5) misuse of drugs or alcohol,
- (6) failure to comply with the scholarship's terms and conditions and
- (7) material misrepresentation made in the scholarship application form.

Both parties agree that the legal jurisdiction for all matters relating to this contract is Berlin, Germany.

Communication with the CCF before and after Graduation

Recipients must send a letter of progress once a semester to the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, giving a brief summary of how the scholarship has benefited their semester of study. This is especially necessary for grantees planning to re-apply for the following academic year.

Upon graduation, we ask that every scholarship grantee send us a copy of his or her diploma and a yearbook picture for our records. In addition we ask that every grantee send us a brief report (1000 words) about the impact that the scholarship has had on his or her academic career and future professional plans. We share these reports with the scholarship fund donors, and it is very important for them to have feedback from the students sponsored by the City of Berlin Scholarship.

Visits to Berlin

For scholarship grantees interested in learning more about the city of Berlin, there are three options, partially* funded by the CCF:

1. Three week stay with a host family
2. German language course
3. Internship at the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation (unpaid)*

(*Flight costs, room and board can only be provided for grantees participating in an internship.)

Please contact us if you are interested in participating in any of these three options. They can be specialized for each individual.

The Checkpoint Charlie Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, disability, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, sexual orientation or gender in granting scholarships.

For more information about the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, please visit our website: www.cc-stiftung.de/en