Knight-Hennessy Scholars Program

The Program prepares a new generation of leaders with a deep academic foundation and the broad skill set to develop creative solutions to effect positive change in the world.

I. Eligibility
   • Citizens of all countries
   • You must have earned, in January 2015 or later, a US bachelor’s degree or its equivalent from a college.
   • Applying to enroll in any full-time graduate degree program at Stanford
   • The following are examples of programs not eligible for the Knight-Hennessy Scholars program:
     o Applicants to the Honors Cooperative Program
     o Applicants to the Master of Liberal Arts
     o Applicants to the Doctor of Science of Law (JSD)

II. Awards
   • Tuition and fees
   • Stipend for living and academic expenses
   • Travel stipend to cover an economy-class ticket for one annual trip to and from Stanford.

III. Criteria
   1. Independence of Thought
      Exhibits first-step mental sharpness
      Seeks out knowledge and new experiences
      Full of original ideas
      Makes sense of ambiguity
      Can hold a contrarian or dissenting point of view

   2. Purposeful Leadership
      Ambitious, in the best sense
      Driven to improve self
      Able to bring others along
      Self-aware
      Persistent and resilient

   3. Civic Mindset
      Personally humble and kind
      Supportive and accountable
      Embraces difference
      Concerned for and helpful to others
IV. Application Package

Online Application
Transcript(s)
Standardized Test Scores (if your graduate program requires)
Resume (1 page) – highlights of your experiences, interests, and academic record in reverse-chronological order.
Two recommendation letters
  o They must be able to provide specific examples, anecdotes, and evidence of your ability and determination to make a difference.
  o The Knight-Hennessy program reviews your departmental recommendation letters. As such, your recommendation choices for the Scholars program should make a compelling independent case, and complement your graduate program.

Short Answers and essay
  o After graduating from Stanford, what are your immediate and long-term intentions? How will your Knight-Hennessy Scholars experience prepare you to realize your intentions? (250-word limit)
  o Please tell us when you: a) made someone proud of you, b) were most challenged, and c) did not meet expectations. (150-word limit combined)
  o Please tell us eight improbable facts (things that are unlikely but true) about you. (150-word limit)
  o Connect the dots. How have the influences in your life shaped you? (600-word limit)

Video (invitation only for up to 500 applicants in January) – “Teach something to your cohort of fellow Knight-Hennessy Scholars.” (2-min max)

V. Selection Process

• August 1, 2021: Application open
• Apply the specific Stanford graduate degree program you wish to pursue
• October 6, 2021, 1:00 pm (Pacific Time): Deadline of Knight Hennessy Application
• January 26, 2022: Notification of Finalists
• February 25-26, 2022: Up to 150 finalists invited to Stanford for “Immersion Weekend”
• March 15, 2022: Knight-Hennessy Scholars Announcement

VI. Website

• https://knight-hennessy.stanford.edu/ - Knight-Hennessy Scholars Program Official Site

2020 cohort Stats:

• 76 scholars from 26 countries out of 6,171 applications
• 26% in Humanities and Sciences, 22% in Engineering, 17% in Business, 16% Medicine, 13% in Law, 3% in Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences, and 3% in Education
• 51% women, 49% men
• 34% pursuing doctoral degrees, 27% Master’s degrees, and 39% professional degrees
• 43% international scholars from 26 countries