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
- Applying to enroll in any full-time graduate degree program at Stanford
- You are in your final year of study for your first/bachelor's degree.
- You are eligible to apply to the Knight-Hennessy Scholars program if you received your first/bachelor's degree in 2014 or later.
- If you enroll in a graduate degree program at Stanford in 2020 or earlier, you are ineligible for consideration as a Knight-Hennessy Scholars program for your current degree program.

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
Unofficial Transcript(s)
Standardized Test Scores
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? (150 word limit)
  o How will your Knight-Hennessy Scholars experience prepare you to realize your intentions? (150 word limit)
  o Please tell us eight improbable facts (things that are unlikely but true) about you. (150 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 Connect the dots. How have the influences in your life shaped you? (600 word limit)

Video – “Teach something to your cohort of fellow Knight-Hennessy Scholars.” (2-min max)

V. Selection Process

- Apply the specific Stanford graduate degree program you wish to pursue
- October 14, 2020, 1:00 pm (Pacific Time): Deadline of Knight Hennessy Application
- December 9, 2020, 1:00 pm (Pacific Time): Deadline of Video Statement
- February 2021: Notification of Finalists
- March 5-6, 2021: Up to 150 finalists invited to Stanford for “Immersion Weekend”
- March 2021: Knight-Hennessy Scholars Announcement

VI. Website

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

2019 cohort Stats:

- 76 scholars from 26 countries out of 6,171 applications
- 51 % are women and 49 % are men.
- 34 % are pursuing doctoral degrees, 27 % are pursuing master’s degrees and 39 % are pursuing professional degrees.
- 43 % international scholars
- 18 % were the first members of their families to attend college.
- 8 % serve in the U.S. Military.