

# *Islamic Center of Minnesota Scholarship Award Application 2017 - 2018*

## SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

The Islamic Center of Minnesota (ICM) Scholarship Fund was endowed in 1992 with a vision to recognize and reward college students through annual scholarship awards based upon academic achievement, financial need and service to the community.

The Board at the ICM is pleased to announce the availability of **10** scholarship awards – totaling \$10,000.00 - for the upcoming academic year 2017-2018. These 10 awards are divided into two separate categories. The first category is designated as “ICM Merit Awards”. For this category, scholarships will be awarded based primarily on academic achievement and service to the community. There are 5 scholarship awards in this category. The second category is designated as “ICM Financial Need & Merit Awards”. For this category, demonstrated financial need will be the primary judging criterion followed by academic excellence and community service. There are 5 scholarship awards in this category as well.

Please carefully review the information contained throughout this application form, select the appropriate application category and make special note of applicable deadlines.

It is the sincere hope of the ICM Board and Council that these scholarship awards will help inspire a new generation of community leaders who will serve as ambassadors of Islam, Insha'Allah. We wish each applicant the very best of luck!

## SECTION II: ELIGIBILITY

The purpose of the ICM Scholarship is to provide financial assistance to outstanding youth in our community in order to encourage the pursuit of higher education. To be considered for the ICM scholarship, an applicant must:

### ELIGIBILITY:

- |  |
|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Be a <u>full-time</u> student registered for a <u>degree</u> program at an accredited college or university. Students in their senior year of high school, or at any level of college, may apply for the next academic year. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completely fill out this application form and submit all supporting documents by the officially notified deadline of <b>May 12th, 2017</b> .   |

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 (on a scale of 4.0).
- Submit at least two letters of recommendation. These letters should be written by people who are unrelated to the applicant and who have had the opportunity to assess and observe the candidate's academic/work performance, community service, leadership contributions and/or personal character.
- Be a Muslim, and a legal resident of the state of Minnesota

The following criteria will be used by the selection committee:

**SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA & REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:**

- GPA and Academic Excellence** – Must submit an official transcript from the school/college/university attended showing completed course-work and grades.
- Demonstrated Financial Need** – Must submit documents and financial information in order to establish financial need (for example, a certified copy of federal tax form 1040 for tax year 2016). Required only for applicants for the Financial Need + Merit-Based Scholarship Awards.
- Community Service** - Provide description of services rendered, personal references and supporting documents, covering a period of up to 2 previous years.
- Two Letters of Recommendations** – Submit two letters or recommendation; one from a school teacher/instructor/professor and the other from an Islamic organization.
- Two Personal Essays** – Submit two personal essays as outlined in the application form. The essays may be no longer than 2 pages each.



### SECTION III: APPLICATION DEADLINES

Please note the following application deadlines. All applicants must submit completed application forms and all supporting documentation by **May 12th, 2017** in order to be considered for an ICM scholarship award.

| TASK/STEP                           | DATE                        |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Submit Completed Application        | May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2017 |
| Notification Sent to All Applicants | May 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2017 |
| Distribution of Checks              | May 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2017 |

### SECTION IV: SCHOLARSHIP AWARD POLICY & AWARD AMOUNTS

The following scholarship award policy will be followed for the year 2017– 2018:

- Checks will be issued in the name of the educational institution
- Scholarship awards are non-renewable. Candidates, including award recipients from previous year(s), must reapply in order to be considered for a scholarship award.
- The ICM Scholarship Committee will recruit a set of independent judges from the Minnesota Muslim community who will judge each application. The ICM Scholarship Committee will solely be responsible for all matters related to the scholarship award and the scholarship fund.
- The ICM Scholarship Committee's award decision based on the judge's results will be final.
- For the 2017 – 2018 academic year, ICM Scholarship Committee will award **\$10,000** in scholarships as listed below:

| <b>AWARD</b>                                      | <b>AMOUNT</b>  | <b>CRITERIA</b>   |
|---|----------------|---|
| ICM Financial Need & Merit Award I <sup>1</sup>   | <b>\$1,000</b> | Financial Need + Academic Achievement + Community Service |
| ICM Financial Need & Merit Award II <sup>1</sup>  | <b>\$1,000</b> | Financial Need + Academic Achievement + Community Service |
| ICM Financial Need & Merit Award III <sup>1</sup> | <b>\$1,000</b> | Financial Need + Academic Achievement + Community Service |
| ICM Financial Need & Merit Award IV <sup>1</sup>  | <b>\$1,000</b> | Financial Need + Academic Achievement + Community Service |
| ICM Financial Need & Merit Award V <sup>1</sup>   | <b>\$1,000</b> | Financial Need + Academic Achievement + Community Service |
| ICM Merit Award I                                 | <b>\$1,000</b> | Academic Achievement + Community Service                  |
| ICM Merit Award II                                | <b>\$1,000</b> | Academic Achievement + Community Service                  |
| ICM Merit Award III                               | <b>\$1,000</b> | Academic Achievement + Community Service                  |
| ICM Merit Award IV                                | <b>\$1,000</b> | Academic Achievement + Community Service                  |
| ICM Merit Award V                                 | <b>\$1,000</b> | Academic Achievement + Community Service                  |

**NOTE:**

1. Please clearly indicate if you are applying for a financial need + merit award in the application form and provide the needed financial information to support your case. These awards take demonstrated financial need into account.

**SECTION V: APPLICANT INFORMATION**

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

*First*

*Middle*

*Last*

**Mailing Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Number & Street*

*Apt#*

*City*

*State*

*Zip Code*

**Email Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION HISTORY**

1. List all educational institutions attended beginning with high school. Attach a separate sheet if you need more space.
2. Submit an official transcript from each institution attended showing all completed coursework and grades.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Name of College 1 (if any)

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City and State

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Graduation Date (month/year)

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Cumulative College GPA

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Student ID #

---

Full-time/Part-time?

---

Name of College 2 (if any)

---

City and State

---

Graduation Date (month/year)

---

Cumulative College GPA

---

Student ID#

---

Full-time/Part-time?

---

Name of College 3 (if any)

---

City and State

---

Graduation Date (month/year)

---

Cumulative College GPA

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Student ID#

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Full-time/Part-time?

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**ICM MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Are you a member of the ICM? Yes/No

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If Yes, Please Provide ICM Membership Number /Parent Name:

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**SECTION VI: COMMUNITY SERVICE OR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

- 1. Please list out community service or volunteer experience in the space below. In case you need more space, please attach another sheet.*
- 2. Include reference names and contact information.*

I

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

Duties/Accomplishments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

II

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

Duties/Accomplishments: \_\_\_\_\_



Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reference Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

III

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_  
From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_  
Duties/Accomplishments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION VII: PERSONAL ESSAYS

On separate sheets of paper, please answer the following two questions. Please provide examples and references as needed. For each of the two essays, your response must be typed and should be limited to no more than two double-spaced pages.

1. Describe your most meaningful achievements and how they relate to your field of study and future goals.
2. In your opinion, how can the Muslim youth make a difference in the community at present and for charting the future of the Muslim community in America?

## SECTION VIII: FILING STATUS

Please check one of the boxes below to indicate your application filing status:

Merit Based Only

Financial Need + Merit Based

**NOTE:** If you check “**Financial Need + Merit Based**” box than you will need to submit a certified copy of your 2016 federal tax return form 1040 and supporting documents (as indicated in the next section below). If necessary, you may also - on a separate sheet of paper – explain any special circumstances that the scholarship committee must take into account in evaluating your financial need.

## SECTION IX: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1. DO NOT fill this section UNLESS applying for ‘Financial Need + Merit-based’ scholarship awards.
2. Please indicate your tax filing status. If no one can claim you as a dependant for tax filing purposes, you must apply as an ‘Independent Student’. If, however, someone can and did claim you as a dependant on previous year’s (2016) tax forms, you must apply as a ‘Dependant Student’.

Filing Status:  Independent Student

Dependant Student

Number of Dependents in the Household<sup>1,2,3</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of College Students in Household<sup>4</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Household Income<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Tuition at the University/College<sup>5</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any other scholarship or financial aid award received for academic year 2017-2018 below.

Scholarship/Financial Aid Award Amount<sup>6</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES:**

1. Please submit a copy of tax year 2016 federal tax return form 1040 in order to establish annual household income and the number of dependants (if any).

2. For independent students, a dependant is defined as someone who relies on the student for all or part of their financial support. Dependants must clearly be listed on federal tax form 1040.
3. For dependant students, the number of dependants in the household includes everyone listed as a dependant on federal tax form 1040.
4. Please indicate the number of college students in the household including you.
5. Submit a copy of University/ College Tuition bill.
6. Please attach a copy of the award letter.

**SECTION X: SIGNATURE**

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the instructions for submitting an application for an ICM Scholarship Award. I certify that all information, statements and documents submitted in support of my application are accurate and complete. I understand that an impartial and independent selection committee will process and evaluate my application and supporting information. The committee will base its scholarship award decision on the criteria set forth in this application form. I solemnly undertake to accept the decision of the scholarship committee as final and irrevocable. I further undertake that, if a scholarship is awarded, I will support the development and growth of the community and the scholarship fund.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Guardian Signature (if under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Return application and other materials to:**

Attn: ICM Scholarship Committee  
1401 Gardena Avenue NE  
Fridley, MN – 55432

**To be completed by ICM staff**

Applicant Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Points Awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

Selection Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_