



Paller Cybersecurity Scholarship Application Guide

Thank you for your interest in the Paller Cybersecurity Scholarship! We have designed this scholarship to enable talented people from around the world, who are not U.S. citizens, to complete a cybersecurity program at the SANS Technology Institute.

The scholarship is open to both seasoned professionals and those interested in transitioning into a career in cyber. Learn more about the scholarship on the [Paller Cybersecurity Scholarship website](#).

DETAILS & ELIGIBILITY

Before starting an application, review this instructional guide.

1. Ensure you meet our eligibility requirements

- To be eligible for the Paller Cybersecurity Scholarship, applicants must:
 - Be 18 or older when you start classes
 - Be a native English speaker or able to meet the requirements for non-native English speakers
 - Meet the admissions requirements for one of our programs
 - Be a non-U.S. citizen who is not a current student or graduate of the SANS Technology Institute.
- We offer programs and scholarships for all levels of experience. Applicants can have experience in cybersecurity, be new to the field, or not in a cyber role at all.
- We are not accepting applications from individuals who have earned GIAC certifications (except through a scholarship program), are alumni of a SANS.edu program, have previously taken a SANS.org course, or are related to people who work for SANS or GIAC.

2. Consider a program of interest and eligibility

- Paller Cybersecurity Scholarship applicants will select a program of interest on the application form. Students can choose from the:
 - [Bachelor's Degree in Applied Cybersecurity](#)

- [Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Cybersecurity](#)
- [Job-specific Graduate Certificate Programs](#)
- [Cybersecurity Master’s Degree](#)
- Explore the curriculum and [minimum requirements](#) for each of these programs. Applicants need to meet the minimum eligibility for at least one of these programs to be considered.
- If you are awarded the scholarship, the Admissions Committee will take into consideration your program of interest but will ultimately determine the program to which you are admitted.

PREPARATION

You can prepare the items listed below, but please DO NOT SEND these documents to the college before you have started an application and passed the aptitude assessment round.

1. Official transcripts

- a. We require transcripts of all undergraduate work be sent to SANS.edu
- b. All undergraduate transcripts will need to be evaluated by one of our partner companies: [WES](#) or [IEE](#).
- c. *WES and IEE charge for their services and we are unable to offer exceptions or scholarships for this cost.*
- d. We do not need any transcripts for graduate work. For all of our programs, we only need evaluated undergraduate transcripts.
- e. Applicants should request an official transcript be sent to WES or IEE from their previous school(s) and request WES/IEE complete a course-by-course evaluation.
 - i. If you are not sure what documents to send or what a transcript is, you can search on [IEE’s website](#) under “Required Documentation” to get a country-specific list of required documents. Enter the country you have earned undergraduate/bachelor’s degree credit in, and they’ll give you a list of documents to get.
- f. WES or IEE will send the official evaluation to SANS.edu email at transcripts@sans.edu.

2. English proficiency

- a. All international students need to prove their English proficiency.
- b. We accept 3 different exams: TOEFL, IELTS or Cambridge English Assessment.
- c. *There is a cost to take one of these exams and we are unable to offer exceptions or scholarships for this cost.*

- d. Scores should be sent directly from one of these organizations to transcripts@sans.edu.
- e. See the required score minimums and/or schedule a test on our [international student website](#).
- f. We *cannot* make exceptions for scores that do not meet our minimum requirement.
- g. Degree Exception: if you have earned a degree from a program that was taught in English, you can request a waiver during the application process on the English Proficiency Form. You will need to send an official transcript from your school to verify your language of instruction.
- h. We do *not* offer any other exceptions. Students must provide either an English proficiency exam or have a qualifying degree exception.

3. Resume

- a. An up-to-date resume is required. The resume should include your education history, a full work history with dates of employment and details on each role, any industry certifications, and relevant industry CTFs or exposure.
- b. The resume document will be uploaded in the application portal.
- c. We do not require you have experience in a cybersecurity role to be eligible for one of our (undergraduate) career-transition programs. The resume will provide helpful background to the Admissions Committee for what program(s) you are eligible for.

APPLICATION STEPS

Once you have these items ready, start an application.

STEP 1: Visit the [Paller Cybersecurity Scholarship website](#) to find the application link.

- Choose “Start Paller Scholarship Application” and then either:
 - “No, I don’t have a SANS.org account”
 - If you do not have a SANS.org account, follow the instructions to create an account and access the application. Then return and use the same email to continue with our application.
 - “Yes, I have a SANS.org account”
 - Enter your SANS.org log-in information to begin
- You will be guided through the application forms, where you’ll provide information regarding your education background, employment status, and general information.

STEP 2: After you have submitted the application form, you will receive an email with instructions for taking an aptitude assessment.

- This is an aptitude assessment designed by SANS.org to help determine students' aptitude for the cybersecurity industry and, specifically, SANS courses and GIAC exams.
- You will not receive the results of your assessment.
- You will be notified about your score results within 5 days.
- If you meet our minimum threshold, you will be notified via email and invited to continue the application process and submit the remaining required documents.
- If you do not meet our minimum threshold, we will inform you via email that we are not able to continue with your application.
- We seek the most qualified candidates for our scholarship. It's possible to achieve a score that qualifies you for a SANS.edu program but not for this scholarship. If this applies to you, we will let you know.
- The assessment covers a variety of information security areas, such as networking and operating systems, and measures general information security aptitude.
- There are no study guides or resources to prepare for this exam.
- To ensure an accurate score, allocate enough time for the assessment and find a quiet place to take it.

STEP 3: After passing the aptitude assessment, we will require some additional documents to determine eligibility and full consideration for the scholarship.

- Official transcripts
 - All applicants are required to submit official transcripts for *all* undergraduate/bachelor's degree work. We do not need any record of graduate work.
 - All transcripts will need to be evaluated for U.S. equivalency by one of our partner agencies, [WES](#) or [IEE](#). If you are invited to continue in the application process, please request transcripts as soon as possible because processing may take several weeks.
 - Each school has a different process for requesting transcripts. Contact your previous school(s) to learn what their process is. Schools in the U.S. usually list the process on their website. Some international schools may require that the request for a transcript be made in person at the school.
 - If you are not sure what documents to send or what a transcript is, you can search on [IEE's website](#) under "Required Documentation" to get a country-specific list of required documents. Enter the country you

have earned undergraduate/bachelor's degree credit in, and you'll receive a list of required documents.

- English proficiency form and English proficiency scores
 - The application checklist will have an English Proficiency Form, which is where you will indicate how you plan to satisfy this requirement. The details for our requirements are listed on this form.
 - We accept TOEFL, IELTS or Cambridge assessments.
 - Our minimum scores are listed on our [international website](#) or the English Proficiency Form.
 - There are no exceptions to the minimum scores required for each assessment.
- Resume
 - Resume should include your work history, education history, current employment (if any), any certifications you may have related to cybersecurity, any internships or projects related to cybersecurity and anything else that you think will be helpful for the Scholarship Committee to know about your background.
 - For work history and education, please include dates and location for employment or time enrolled.
 - Work history should include details on your role, day-to-day tasks in a role and any projects completed.
 - Include your full name, address and contact information as well.
 - References are not required.
- Identity and Citizenship Verification
 - We verify applicants' identity and citizenship as part of the review process.
 - Select from a list of eligible options to upload a copy of your identity verification document.
 - For security purposes, we will automatically delete these identity documents 90 days after an application decision has been released.
- Video Essay
 - The video will be recorded within the application portal.
 - You will have up to 3 attempts to record a version that you deem satisfactory.
 - The video should be 2-5 minutes and should answer the prompt: *SANS.edu is looking for talented, community-focused individuals who want to make meaningful change and protect organizations, nations, and people through cybersecurity. We are looking for individuals who want to make a difference in the world or their community. What is the difference you want to make?*

After you submit a complete application form, we will review your application, and you will receive a decision within the timeframe outlined.