Knight-Hennessy Scholars Fellowship Guide

Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad
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Knight-Hennessy Scholars https://knight-hennessy.stanford.edu

Timeline & Eligibility

- **Application Release:** June 1, 2025
- **Deadline:** October 8, 2025, by 1:00 pm Pacific Time
- **Eligibility Requirements:**
  - Must apply to **KHS and a full-time Stanford graduate degree** concurrently, or meet certain Stanford-specific conditions (e.g., deferred admission, adding a second degree, or starting KHS in the second year of a PhD)
  - **First bachelor's degree must have been earned in January 2019 or later**. For military applicants, this window extends to January 2017
  - **No restrictions** on citizenship, age, field of study, or institution
  - Certain Stanford programs are **ineligible** (e.g., Honors Cooperative Program, Master of Liberal Arts, JSD, MLS, coterminal programs, or adding an MA/MS in the same discipline)

Getting Started—Step-by-Step

1. **Confirm your eligibility**
   - Ensure your degree timeline and enrollment status align with KHS requirements (as noted above).
2. **Plan your applications**
   - One application to KHS, and a **separate application** to your chosen Stanford graduate degree program
3. **Prepare your KHS application** (opens June 1, 2025):
   - **Online Application Form**
   - **Resume** (1 page)
   - **Transcripts & Test Scores** (if required by your program)
   - **Recommendation Letters**
   - **Short Answers & Essays**
4. **Submit application before October 8, 2025, 1:00 pm PT**
5. **Concurrent Stanford application** must be submitted **by your program's deadline**, typically by early December but may vary—for MBA, Round 1 aligns with KHS; others vary

Tips to Build a Competitive Application

- **Studentship Concept:** KHS values three core qualities:
  - **Independence of thought** — curiosity, creativity, analytical thinking.
  - **Purposeful leadership** — perseverance, ethics, and impactful leadership.
  - **Civic mindset** — empathy, humility, collaboration, and a dedication to the greater good
- **Application Materials:**
  - Develop **distinct but reinforcing statements** for both your Stanford graduate application and the KHS essays – KHS should highlight your broader leadership, vision, and impact; the Stanford application should be more program-specific

- o Ensure **test scores** are submitted to KHS if required by your graduate program, by the later of the two deadlines
- o Supply strong, tailored **recommendations** that reflect your leadership potential and commitment to service.

Selection Process Overview

- **Video Statement Invites:** Rolling invitations begin in **January 2026** for up to ~500 applicants
- **Finalist Notification:** Around **January 28, 2026**
- **Interviews & Immersion Weekend:** Mid-February virtual interviews followed by in-person group sessions during the **Immersion Weekend** (early March)
- **Final Offers:** Announced on **March 17, 2026**

Additional Practical Advice

- **Begin early**: Draft your application components well before the summer.
- **Seek feedback**: Work with campus advisers and fellowship offices.
- **Plan for both applications**: The KHS commitment includes programming beyond your degree—leave bandwidth for that!
- **Beyond funding**: KHS offers not just financial support, but leadership workshops, KHeystone innovation grants, retreats, networking, and experiential opportunities like global travel/study

Summary Checklist

▫ Confirm eligibility (degree date and application status)
▫ Plan dual applications: KHS and Stanford graduate program
▫ Register when KHS application opens (June 1, 2025)
▫ Prepare and submit application materials by **October 8, 2025, 1:00 pm PT**
▫ Submit Stanford program application by its specific deadline
▫ Draft essays with a focus on the three KHS pillars
▫ Request and track strong recommendation letters
▫ If invited, prepare video statement (January 2026)
▫ Ready for interviews and Immersion Weekend (February–March)
▫ Expect final decision by **March 17, 2026**