



City of Berlin Scholarship

funded by the **Checkpoint Charlie Foundation**
Berlin, Germany
(Effective Summer 2026)

General Information

In response to the events of September 11, 2001, the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation (CCF), Berlin (Germany) initiated a charitable campaign entitled "Berlin helps the USA" for children with parents who were either killed or whose health was permanently impaired due to the terrorist attacks. Since September 12, 2001, contributions have been received from private donors in Berlin, and also from citizens all over Germany.

Until 2028, this scholarship, in combination with already existing support programs (i.e. FAFSA, Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grants, etc.) will cover the costs of **one academic year's OR two consecutive semesters' tuition (if starting in spring)** for accredited private and/or public colleges and universities in the United States (2-year and 4-year colleges/ universities) on a pro rata basis with the option of renewal for the following academic year (see: Re-application). The fund can be used only for academic purposes that will lead to an associate's degree, Bachelor's and Master's degrees, or for PhD candidates.

Conditions of Eligibility

Candidates must be children who were born after 1986 and who lost one or both parents during the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, DC. Of course this also refers to those whose parents lost their lives as passengers and crew of American Airlines 11 (WTC 1), United Airlines 175 (WTC 2), American Airlines 77 (Pentagon), and United Airlines 93 (crash in Shanksville, PA), as well as those whose parents lost their lives as rescue workers such as firemen and women, policemen and women, and other members of recovery and rescue organizations.

Additionally, children are eligible whose parents were involved in the clean-up of September 11 at Ground Zero and as a result are suffering from long term health problems (specifically, bronchial problems of any degree), died due to their work, are unable to work, and/or forced into early retirement.

Persons who are convicted of or indicted for a felony cannot attain grantee status; scholarship grantees who are convicted of or indicted for a felony during the grant period will be subject to revocation of the scholarship (see: Scholarship Termination).

Grantees are responsible for observing satisfactory academic and professional standards and for maintaining a standard of conduct and integrity that is in keeping with the spirit and intent of the

Checkpoint Charlie Foundation and that will contribute positively to the promotion of mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and Germany.

Though the acceptance of the scholarship is not intended to limit the rights of the grantees to express their views as individuals on political, religious or other subjects, the grantee shall realize that improper use of the name of the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, the scholarship or either government in this regard must be avoided.

Scholarship Amounts

The amount granted by the City of Berlin Scholarship depends on the tuition and fees of the college/university in combination with the grantees already existing financial aid, is a maximum of 2,500 USD per semester (max. USD 5,000 per year - fall and spring semester **OR** spring and fall). Scholarship amounts granted that exceed tuition and fees must be promptly reimbursed to the CCF.

The scholarship money will not be granted directly to the student, but rather it will be transferred directly to the college/university.

Grantees are responsible for determining their individual United States income tax liability as resulting from the City of Berlin Scholarship grant.

Duration of Scholarship

The scholarship is effective from the date of the official beginning of the first granted college/university semester (fall **OR** spring) until the last day of the second granted semester (fall **OR** spring), according the school's academic calendar.

Application

Please submit:

- Application form (3 pages)
- Proof of a parent's accident disability retirement and/or pension related to 9/11, or proof that a parent died after Sept. 11, 2001 due to an illness related to post-9/11 work at Ground Zero
- If the proof of accident disability retirement is not from the FDNY: proof of current or previous employment by the FDNY
- Copy of parent(s)/ - or your own - legal guardian(s) previous year's U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (Form 1040 (here **only** front page and page 2)
- Applicant's birth or adoption certificate
- Two** letters of recommendation

for incoming college freshman only:

- Letter of acceptance from future college/university or vocational school
- Copy of transcript of grades for your High School Diploma

for currently enrolled university/community college students:

- copy of current transcript of studies
- GPA (3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale required)**, please do not apply if your GPA is below 3.0
- Tuition summary or statement
- Total amount of financial aid
- Personal statement (approx. 800 words, type size min. 11, max. 2 pages)

- Essay about Germany (approx. 800 words type size min. 11, max 2 pages)
- Acceptable color portrait photo (size like for a passport) measuring at least 600 x 600 pixels
(if a scan, please send it as a separate file) or 2.5 x 3.5 inches (if sending the photo as a hard copy)

The address to which all application materials should be sent is:

Nancy Carbone
Friends of Firefighters, Inc.
199 Van Brunt Street
Brooklyn, New York 11231
U.S.A.
(718) 643 – 0980 phone
(718) 643 – 1240 fax
www.friendsoffirefighters.org
info@friendsoffirefighters.org

After checking, all application will be send to Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, Berlin, Germany.

Selection Process

A five person panel, composed of the Executive Director of the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation in Berlin, Germany - one member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, a member of the Foundation's Executive Board, the President of the Berlin House of Representatives and one citizen of the city of Berlin - will review the application.

Re-application

Once granted a scholarship, candidates can re-apply with a **current transcript** showing a GPA of at least 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) each following academic year for the remainder of their studies (up to 4 years). Candidates must also send a **letter of progress** once a semester to the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, giving a brief summary how the scholarship has benefited their semester of study.

Only applications submitted by Friday, August 14, 2026 will be considered. Please note that only complete applications will be considered.

Scholarship Termination

A scholarship may be terminated with the concurrence of the Board of the CCF in Berlin.

Grounds for termination of the scholarship include, but are not limited to

- (1) violation of the laws of the United States or of Germany,
- (2) any act contrary to the spirit of mutual understanding and thus likely to offend either country,
- (3) failure to observe satisfactory academic or professional standards,
- (4) physical or mental incapacitation,
- (5) failure to comply with the scholarship's terms and conditions and
- (6) material misrepresentation made by any grantee in the scholarship application form.

Both parties agree that the legal jurisdiction for all matters relating to this contract is Berlin, Germany.

The Checkpoint Charlie Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, disability, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, sexual orientation or gender in granting scholarships.

For more information about the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, please visit our website:
www.cc-stiftung.de/en