

The Heinlein Society

2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

3553 Atlantic Ave, #341
Long Beach, CA 90807-5606

The
Heinlein
Society

PURPOSE

To provide scholarships to four deserving full time students attending a four-year college.

AWARD COMPONENTS

Five (5) \$4,000 scholarships awarded to students selected by The Heinlein Society. The Robert A. Heinlein, the Dr. Yoji Kondo, the Dr. Jerry Pournelle, and our bonus scholarship are available to candidates of any gender majoring in a STEM field. The Virginia Heinlein Scholarship is dedicated to female STEM majors only (see "Eligibility Requirements" below).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Applicant must plan to attend an accredited college that awards Bachelor of Science degrees as a full-time undergraduate Sophomore, Junior, or Senior for the 2026 - 2027 academic year. Incoming Freshmen are ineligible.
- 2 Major must be Engineering, Math, or Physical or Biological Sciences.
- 3 Open to residents of any country.
- 4 Previous applicants, including winners, may enter again, but must write on a different topic than their previous entry.
- 5 Candidates cannot have previously been awarded a bachelor's degree in any subject.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicant must submit the following items:

- 1 Completed application form. Only this PDF application form will be accepted, and must be returned by email to scholarships@heinleinsociety.org.
- 2 A brief explanation of career goals and biographical (background) information on page 4.
- 3 A 500 – 1,000 word essay on one of the subjects listed on page 5.

Deadline for the application is **April 1, 2026**. Applications emailed after this date will not be considered.

Please read the following instructions carefully before filling in the application. You have been warned.

Do not alter the format of this application. We will only accept the application in its current format. We have a very limited number of reviewers and a large number of applications to process, so we cannot spend additional time dealing with a variety of file formats. The form must remain interactive so that we can read the entirety of every field.

The fields are not limited to their apparent size. If the amount of text entered into a field is larger than can be displayed fully, a scroll bar will automatically appear on the right side of the field to allow all of the text to be read. Use the fields provided in the form to enter your biographical information and essay. Do not send them as separate attachments. Please do not send any additional attachments (resumes, transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.) with your application. We will request them if and when we need them.

We recommend not filling out the application in a web browser, as the data entered is usually not saved. Whatever application you choose to complete the application, be sure to save it to a drive somewhere (local or in the cloud), close the application, and then reopen the form to verify that the data you entered is still there, and that the form remains editable. Forms that are received with missing data, or fields that are no longer fillable (meaning we can't read the entire field) will not be considered. Applicants have reported problems using Chromebook to complete the application.

The use of AI for initial research is acceptable, but may not be used to write or edit your essay. Essays will be checked for plagiarism and AI usage. Any essay determined to be plagiarized or written by AI will be rejected. You may wish to use one of the many free online tools to check your essay before submitting it. Citations are not required unless quoting someone else's work. Citation may be made in the body of the essay or in footnotes. Use of quoted text without citation is plagiarism.



Last Name

First Name

MAILING ADDRESS

Street

City

State/Province

ZIP/Postal Code

Country

Daytime

Telephone Number

Email

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

We are collecting demographic information in order to better serve the student community. You are not required to provide information in this section. **However, female identifying applicants who do not select their gender will not be eligible for the Virginia Heinlein scholarship.** They will be eligible for the other three scholarships, as those are available to applicants of any gender.

Country of citizenship

Age

Ethnicity

Please indicate your gender by selecting from this dropdown

NAME & ADDRESS OF PARENT(S) OR LEGAL GUARDIAN(S) (IF UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE)

Name(s)

Street

City

State/Province

ZIP/Postal Code

Country

Home phone of parents or legal guardians

Name of the school you will be attending in the Fall of 2026

*Proof of acceptance or current student enrollment from the above school is **required prior to receipt of funds.***

I will be entering the above-mentioned school as a

Name of major



List the name of any college you have attended

Year Began Year Ended

A

B

C

List any community service you have done

Year Began Year Ended

A

B

C

Enter a brief explanation of career goals and biographical (background) information including some description of the community service listed above

Write a 500 – 1,000 word essay on one of the following subjects. If you have won in the past, you must choose a different topic than previously:

- A** How did Robert Heinlein influence your career choice? What Heinlein writings would you use to illustrate how he sparked your interest in science and technology?
- B** The expansion of social media has led to widespread placement of devices by which your movement and private conversations can be monitored. Social media has also accelerated the clustering of like-minded interests into largely non-interacting 'tribes'—the so-called 'metadata' gathering. Can you find and comment on the Heinlein stories that predicted these phenomena?
- C** Robert Heinlein said "The Age of Science has not yet opened." Evaluate this statement compared to your technical field. Do you expect to see this golden age in your lifetime?
- D** Heinlein is credited for inventing, or inspiring, many items we now take for granted, including waterbeds and cell phones. Using specific examples from his writings, share how his projections became realities in modern life.
- E** Heinlein has been criticized periodically for his depictions of female characters. Is this a fair criticism, or merely a reflection of how society has changed in seventy years? Discuss his depiction and treatment of females, using characters from at least two different novels as examples.
- F** Heinlein said, "Specialization is for Insects." Specialists are, of course, necessary. However, many scientific breakthroughs have been the result of collaborative efforts. How might some knowledge of other disciplines benefit you in your chosen field?

Please select the topic you've chosen from this dropdown

ENTER ESSAY TEXT HERE

STATEMENT OF ACCURACY

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, I must provide evidence of enrollment/registration at the post-secondary institution of my choice before scholarship funds can be awarded.

Signature of scholarship applicant

(name entered by email submission will be regarded as signature)

Date