



2024 OMEGA Scholarship Application

Recommendation Letter Guidelines

Submissions due May 31, 2024

2024 OMEGA Scholarship Application Recommendation Guidelines

Due May 31, 2024

OMEGA: Opportunities for Multigenerational Exchange, Growth and Action

Through the generous sponsorship of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) [AgeLab](#) and [AARP Massachusetts](#), the MIT AgeLab's Opportunities for Multigenerational Exchange, Growth and Action (OMEGA) program is proud to offer **five \$5000 college scholarships** to recognize the efforts that teens are making to create multigenerational connections. **High school juniors and seniors are eligible to apply.**

Each award will include a \$5000 college scholarship to the winning student and \$1000 to the winning student's intergenerational initiative to support its activities. The OMEGA Scholarship is intended to amplify and support students' contributions to building initiatives, organizations and institutions that connect teens with older adults.

Applications are due May 31, 2024. Winners will be announced in late August 2024 and will be invited to present their work at a virtual OMEGA scholarship awards reception (specific date to be determined).

Questions? Please call or email the MIT AgeLab at omegamit@mit.edu or 617-253-1894 if you have any questions about completing a recommendation letter. Students are also encouraged to set up a phone call or Zoom meeting with MIT AgeLab staff to discuss the progress of their programs and applications.

Background Information

About the MIT AgeLab

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology [AgeLab](#) is a research program started in 1999 to invent new ideas and creatively translate technologies into practical solutions that improve the quality of life of older adults and those who care for them. Through research ranging from longevity planning to caregiving, transportation, smart home, multigenerational work, and more, the AgeLab draws upon resources across MIT and applies user-centered systems thinking to understand the challenges and opportunities of longevity and emerging generational lifestyles to catalyze innovation in society, business, and government. Follow the MIT AgeLab on Twitter ([@MIT AgeLab](#)).

About AARP Massachusetts

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence and nearly 38 million members, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation's largest circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org, www.aarp.org/espanol or follow @AARP, @AARPenEspanol and @AARPadvocates, @AliadosAdelante on social media.

About OMEGA

[OMEGA](#) was created by the MIT AgeLab to support the development and growth of student-led programs and clubs that connect high school students with older adults. The goal of OMEGA is to strengthen relationships and promote connections across generations. OMEGA convenes student summits, virtual calls and other events each year in an effort to encourage students to connect across generations, brainstorm and share programming ideas, and to plan and carry out intergenerational programs and projects in their communities.

OMEGA Scholarship Information

Eligibility and Application Requirements

Applicants must be current high school juniors or seniors attending a high school in the United States serving in initiatives connecting high school students and older adults.

Applicants must be anticipating completion of a high school diploma in 2024 or 2025 and planning to pursue higher education at an accredited post-secondary institution.

Note: Each OMEGA scholarship will award a **\$5000 college scholarship to the winning student** and **\$1000 to the winning student's initiative** to support its activities to build relationships between teens and older adults. For more information about the OMEGA match, please visit our website at agelab.mit.edu/omega.

A complete application, including letter of recommendation, must be received in order to be considered for the scholarship.

Judging Criteria

- **Impact:** The extent to which your intergenerational initiative effectively responds to a significant problem or need among teens and/or older adults and demonstrates a commitment to fostering a diverse, inclusive environment.
- **Sustainability:** The extent to which your intergenerational initiative's activities have potential for long-term success or positive influence beyond the initial implementation phase, including continuing after you graduate.
- **Recommendation:** How your recommender regards your contributions, leadership efforts, and program's long-term sustainability.
- **Creativity:** The extent to which your intergenerational initiative demonstrates an original, engaging, or innovative approach to fostering intergenerational connection.
- **Quality:** The extent to which the application is well-written, well thought-out, organized, and edited. This includes proofreading! Photos, videos and other digital media documenting your work are encouraged and can be submitted as supplemental materials.

OMEGA Scholarship Information

Recommendation Letter Guidelines

For the scholarship, students respond to a series of questions about their involvement with an intergenerational initiative. Applications should be based on an initiative already implemented.

In order for a scholarship to be considered complete, a recommendation letter in support of the applicant's scholarship application, must be completed and submitted by a recommender by May 31, 2024. This letter can be submitted via the online form at agelab.mit.edu/omega, emailed to omegamit@mit.edu, or mailed to The MIT AgeLab, Attn: OMEGA Scholarship Committee, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E40-275K, Cambridge, MA 02139. Please email us at omegamit@mit.edu or give us a call (617-253-1894) if you intend to mail in a recommendation letter so we can keep a look out for it.

The recommendation letter should include:

- your name, title, organizational affiliation, e-mail address and phone number;
- the name of, how long and in what capacity have you known the applicant;
- the name of the applicant's intergenerational initiative;
- the role you serve in relation to the student's intergenerational initiative (e.g., as an advisor, program participant, community partner, etc)
- a description of the applicant's contributions to multigenerational engagement and connection;
- a reflection on the applicant's professional promise for post-secondary higher education;
- how the scholarship match award will be used by the initiative, including what you have discussed with this student related to how the scholarship match award will be used by the school, student's initiative or community partner;
- any other data regarding the applicant's personal characteristics, strengths, capabilities, or other experiences that would strengthen the student's application for an OMEGA Scholarship.

Please keep recommendation letters to no more than approximately 2 pages or 1,000 words in length.

Recommendation Letter

Please copy and paste or type your recommendation below. When you reach the end of this first page please stop and continue writing on the second page below to ensure we can view all of your contributions.

Recommendation Letter