



**ZONTA**  
INTERNATIONAL

**Young Women in Public Affairs Award  
2023 Application**

# Young Women in Public Affairs Award

## A Zonta International Program, Funded by the Zonta Foundation for Women

### General Information

The goal of the Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award Program is to encourage young women to participate in public affairs by recognizing the candidate's commitment to the volunteer sector, evidence of volunteer leadership achievements and a dedication to empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

'Public affairs' refers to all aspects of community life where decisions are made about issues which relate to and affect those communities in which people work and live.

In order for more women to be represented in key decision-making positions worldwide, we must encourage young women to pursue careers or seek leadership positions in public policy making, government and volunteer organizations and further their education with these aims in view.

### The Award

The Young Women in Public Affairs Awards are awarded to young women who demonstrate leadership skills and a commitment to public service and civic causes. Zonta International offers up to 37 international awards of US\$5,000 each.

### Who is Eligible?

Women, aged 16-19 on 1<sup>st</sup> April each year, living in a Zonta district/region, or who are citizens of a Zonta country, who demonstrate evidence of the following, are eligible to apply.

- ❑ Active commitment to volunteerism.
- ❑ Experience in local government, student government, or workplace leadership (paid or unpaid).
- ❑ Volunteer leadership achievements.
- ❑ Knowledge of Zonta International and its programs.
- ❑ Support for Zonta International's mission of empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Note that applicants from geographic areas within a Zonta district/region where no clubs are located may apply via a Zonta e-Club or directly to the district/region to be eligible for the international awards.

Club members and individuals with direct membership with Zonta International and employees of Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women, and their family members (ancestors, descendants, adoptees, siblings, nieces or cousins, and those of their spouse or co-habiting partner), are not eligible to apply for the Awards.

Z club and Golden Z club members are eligible to apply. Previous district and international Young Women in Public Affairs Award recipients are not eligible to apply to renew the Award for a second year.

### How Do I Apply?

Complete an official application in English. Please note that only typed applications will be accepted and considered. All non-English documents must be translated into English. The following documents are to be submitted in the application package.

### Application Requirements

- ❑ Completion of the official application (may be downloaded from the Zonta International website, [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)).
- ❑ Verification of current enrollment by school/institute official (if applicable), or
- ❑ Letter from employer stating employment (if applicable).
- ❑ Two recommendations from adults, not related to the applicant, such as teachers, school officials, employee supervisors or community leaders, which must be sent directly to the Zonta club or district/region and not through the applicant.

Supporting documentation not requested will not be considered. All applications and supporting information become the property of Zonta International. Zonta International has final authority over any aspect of the Awards.

## Application Process

The application process must start with a Zonta club. All application materials must be received at a Zonta club by the printed deadline. If you downloaded the application from the Zonta International website, you must contact a Zonta club for deadline information. Please locate the Zonta club nearest you using the [Club Locator](#) at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org), or e-mail your name and contact information to Zonta International Headquarters at [programs@zonta.org](mailto:programs@zonta.org).

Zonta clubs each select one application to send to the Zonta governor/region representative. A district/region evaluating committee reviews the applications and selects one applicant per district/region to submit to Zonta International Headquarters. The five largest districts in terms of Zonta membership may submit a second applicant to Zonta International Headquarters. The Zonta International Headquarters team confirms the eligibility of the applicants put forth by the districts/region and submits a recommendation to the Zonta International Board (or the Executive Committee acting on its behalf) for final approval. If approved by the Zonta International Board, the Zonta Foundation for Women provides awards and certificates to the international recipients.

## How May I Use the Award Funds?

1. There are no restrictions on the use of funds.
2. Please note: If the applicant is studying at a secondary school, university or college, Zonta International is offering a "scholarship" type of payment to be used for tuition and/or living expenses. Please see below under Tax Considerations.
3. Recipients are not permitted to defer the YWPA Award.
4. Recipients may accept additional grants and awards from other sources.

## Tax Considerations

**The following considerations will help define which type of payment will fit the applicant's purposes best.**

- ❑ "Award": with no restrictions for use. As an award, it is taxable income under U.S. tax regulations. To comply with the law, all awardees will receive tax forms. Also, according to U.S. tax regulations, 30% of the award must be withheld from awards made to non-U.S. residents. If Zonta International is notified that there is a U.S. tax treaty with the resident's country, the withholding will be appropriately adjusted.
- ❑ "Scholarship": to be used for tuition, fees and materials (books, supplies and equipment) required for courses at a secondary school, college or university only. As a scholarship to be used for tuition, fees and materials, the income is tax free.
- ❑ "Scholarship": to be used for living expenses while attending a secondary school, college or university. Although tuition and related expenses are tax free, income used for living expenses is considered taxable income. Tax forms will be provided to all awardees, as required. Withholdings range from \$ 0 (tax treaty), 14% (appropriate student VISA) to 30% for non-U.S. residents.
- ❑ Supplemental awards and scholarships that are directly paid by a club or district will follow the tax regulations of their taxing authority.

## Timetable

<b>Applications</b> received by Zonta clubs.....	(Contact club for deadline)
<b>Club</b> recipients selected and applications received by governor/region representative.....	by 1 April
<b>District/region</b> applicant selected and applications received by Zonta International Headquarters.....	by 1 May
<b>Official announcement</b> of international recipients.....	by 1 July