

WALTON INTERNATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Walton Scholars



Harding University



WALTON INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP MANUAL

ABOUT THIS MANUAL

The following information is intended to give you, as a Walton -Scholar, a start on what you need to know about Harding University before you get there. The purpose is not to substitute the University Student Handbook, but to cater to your special needs as an international student enrolled in the Walton International Program. Once at Harding University you will have other questions, but be assured that there will also be other people -- staff, faculty and students -- willing to lend you a hand and make you feel welcome to our community and, our university.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

In May of 1985 the Walton family of Bentonville, Arkansas, announced a donation to three Arkansas institutions of higher education -- University of the Ozarks, Harding University and John Brown University -- to fund scholarships for students in the seven countries of Central America and Mexico. The purpose of this program is to provide a quality university education to Central American and Mexican students along with exposing them to the benefits of a society and an economy that flourishes under a free, open and elected government. Mr. Walton was particularly concerned about the promotion of freedom and democracy in Central America and Mexico. He commented at the time of the gift, "If we want future leaders of Central America to know the benefits of a free society, we need to get large numbers of the student generation up here to the United States. The students will learn skills through the liberal arts curricula of these three fine colleges that will encourage democratic traditions and private

development of their countries." We at [NOS] heartily agree with Mr. Walton's concerns and objectives for this Walton International Scholarship Program.

COMMUNITY

Harding's home community, Searcy, Arkansas is a city of about 17,000. It is the county seat of White County. Founded in 1837, Searcy has been the center of a chiefly agricultural area until the last 35 years, when the city brought a favorable balance of economy and more rapid growth than before. Located in East Central Arkansas, Searcy is about 50 miles northeast of Little Rock and 105 west of Memphis, Tennessee. The nearest commercial passenger plane service is at Little Rock, but Searcy is served by bus and has a small airport.

The proximity of Little Rock and Memphis gives Searcians access to the advantages of a metropolitan area without a\sacrificing the special charms of a small town. Both faculty and students enjoy the cultural and entertainment offerings of the two cities. Searcy and Harding serve each other in a variety of ways. The University contributes significantly to the civic, cultural, economic, educational, recreational, and spiritual well-being of the community and while the community also serves Harding in a variety of ways and with recreation facilities and community services of many types.

POLICIES FOR NEW SCHOLARS

THE WALTON INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Now that you have received the Walton International Scholarship, what exactly does this mean? Well, you have received a "package deal" comprised of a set of benefits and a set of responsibilities. We use the term

“package deal” because when you accept the benefits you also accept the responsibilities.

BENEFITS

Air Tickets

The scholarship pays for your air ticket from your country to Harding University when you start school. This also includes tickets to and from your country during the summer vacations and, of course, a one-way ticket back after graduation.

Tuition, Room and Board

The scholarship covers all expenses for your tuition and fees until you graduate. The Walton International Program will also pay for your semi-private dormitory accommodations. Meals are provided are provided at the school cafeteria. The Scholarship program will not provide meals for any periods that the University cafeteria is closed.

Textbooks

As a Walton International Scholar you will receive the required textbooks for your courses. You will not be allowed to sell them back to the bookstore or to another student since you did not purchase the books your self. You are require to return your textbooks after your courses are completed.

You will be personally responsible for your own school supplies such as notebooks, pens, etc.

Insurance

The scholarship pays your health insurance premiums, but you are personally responsible for the deductible in case of illness or injury an all other medical expenses not covered by the insurance policy. The Program will, however, reimburse the student for one-half the cost of the insurance deductible for each illness. The insurance secretary will assist you in filing any claims you may have.

Monthly Allowance

For every month during the fall and spring semesters you will receive a \$125 check in your name as your monthly allowance. This is meant to cover all of your personal expenses such as toothpaste, soap, deodorant, notebooks, laundry, etc. For certain periods in the summer when you will not be on campus for an entire month, the allowance will be prorated accordingly. At the beginning of your first semester at Harding University, you will receive an extra amount for winter clothing and bedding. The monthly allowance will not be prorated for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring break.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Lifestyle

As a Harding University student, and even more, as a Walton International Scholar, your lifestyle should be in accordance with the Christian faith and comply with the standards of the Harding University Student Handbook. The basic rules can be summarized as follows: students are not allowed to use offensive language, nor to smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, or use drugs while on or off campus; neither are students allowed to possess tobacco products, alcohol, or drugs while on or off campus.

Dating and Marriage

As a Walton Scholar you are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior in your relationships with the opposite sex that reflects the high moral standards of the University and the Walton International Scholarship Program.

You are not permitted to change your marital status during the term of your scholarship. You are also asked not date anyone outside the Central America or Mexico region. Since you are required to go home after graduation, we don't want you to marry someone from outside your home region.

Chapel

As a Harding University student you are required to attend the University chapel services daily, Monday through Friday. We hope you will enjoy this time of worship and fellowship and the chance to listen to Christian speakers from all over the world. You will only be allowed 10 unexcused absences from chapel during each semester. If you exceed the allowed number of unexcused absences, (1) you will be removed from privileged housing, and (2) you may be forced by the university to become a part-time student. It is illegal for you to be here as only a part-time student, so if this happens, you will be sent home. Use your absences wisely, and make the best out of this opportunity for spiritual enrichment.

Grade Point Average (GPA), Academic Performance

You will be expected to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (B/C) or above, where A is the highest grade, F is the lowest and C is passing (see the catalog for more details on the grading scale).

Realizing that English is a foreign language for most of you, Harding University provides several opportunities for you to obtain some help with your English skills. You will take an English test upon your arrival on campus, and according to your score, you will be assigned to the proper English class. In all of your classes you will have to communicate effectively in English both verbally and in written form.

Please take advantage of the English courses that are offered and the help that is available. Some good advice is to take advantage of every opportunity to practice your English, starting NOW!

Summer School

All summer school classes will be taken online in your home country with the Walton's director's permission

Summers

All Walton International Scholars are required to go home immediately after classes are completed. This way you will maintain contact with your native country, your family and your friends and readjustment to your country after graduation will be facilitated.

Completion of Degree Programs

The scholarship granted by the Walton International Scholarship Program provides funding for a student to complete ONE bachelor's degree. Scholars are expected to complete this degree within (8) semesters of study. Scholars are permitted a total of 17 hours per semester.

Permission to pursue graduate studies outside a student's home country may be granted only after a student has returned home to satisfy their scholarship

commitment.

Work and Study

During your first two years on campus, you will NOT be allowed to work for pay. Your primary responsibility will be to adapt to a new culture, learn English, and achieve a good GPA. We believe that these tasks will require your full time and attention. We want you to develop good study habits so that perhaps later on you can add additional responsibilities to your schedule.

During your second year, you are expected to take part in some special experiences designed to help you obtain a more complete understanding of democracy and free enterprise. At Harding University, each Walton International Scholar is expected to take an active part in the American Studies Program.

During your third and fourth year you will participate in some sort of community service to the university or the community.

Home Sweet Home

After graduation or withdrawal from the University for any reason, you are required to return to your home county and live there for a minimum of six months for each academic semester at Harding University. You are under legal and moral obligation to fulfill the requirements of the agreement you have signed for the Walton International Scholarship. The University will not release officially authenticated diplomas or transcripts for any student that violates the contracts made with the University. Please read the Walton International Scholarship Agreement very carefully in this regard.

BEFORE LEAVING HOME

Now, there are a few things you need to do before you get on the plane to come to Harding University.

Traveling Documents

The first thing you must do is get your passport. This may take several days, so start as soon as possible. Don't leave it for the last week! After you have your passport, you need an F-1 visa from the U.S. government. To get this visa you need to take your I-20 form to the consulate in your country. In many instances, this process takes several days, so ACT NOW! The I-20 form will be sent or given to you by the Walton Program representative in your country.

This document, as well as your passport, is an extremely important document. It is your ticket into the United States. Even when you go home for the summer you will need to take it with you to be able to return again. On arrival in the U.S. an I-94 card will be attached to your passport. This also is an important document and it must be kept with your passport.

School Transcripts

If you have done any previous college work, you may want to transfer your credits to Harding University. Be sure you have complete transcripts from the school and descriptions of the courses you want to transfer to. Getting these documents often takes a few days, so start now. Related to this, you may also want to check on how your Harding University degree will translate in your home country according to your major. Check the requirement, documentation, etc.

Medical Checkup

A full physical examination, blood work including AIDS test, TB skin test, and hepatitis test, is recommended prior to issuance of your I-20 form. Dental work and eyeglasses are not covered by the Walton International Program, and these things are

much more expensive in the United States. It would be much better and cheaper for you to get these things done right now rather than waiting to do it in the United States. Your Harding University medical record form must be completed before your arrival. Also, bring along any documentation of immunization.

Packing

As you prepare to leave, remember there are four seasons in Arkansas and the weather can be very cold (-20 degrees C) in the winter and very hot (40 degrees C) in the summer. Be prepared for both! Also be sure to include soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. Chances are you will arrive on the campus at night and will be unable to buy these things until the next day. (See Appendix H for a copy of the Medical Form).

You are encouraged to bring traditional dress, musical instruments and other items of your country. The university often has programs for international students where you may want to demonstrate your cultural uniqueness.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Completion of Degree

The scholarship granted by the Walton International Scholarship Program provides funding for a student to complete ONE bachelor degree program with an appropriate minor. A maximum of eight (8) semesters is allowed for completion of the approved degree program.

Class Attendance

The Walton scholarship is a substantial investment in your education. Therefore, in your pursuit of academic excellence as a Walton International Scholar you are

expected to attend all scheduled classes. Unexcused absences in excess of two (2) per credit hour may be cause for withdrawal of your scholarship funds. Excused absences may be granted in cases of illness or other emergencies. See the University catalog for complete policy on class attendance.

Study Abroad

The program will not allow funding for study abroad courses. Study abroad programs are contrary to the intent and purpose of WISP which is to provide students experiences which will promote and understanding of democracy and free enterprise within the United States.

Grade Renewal

The Scholarship will not pay tuition or fees for repeat courses taken to renew grades. Approval may be granted by the Program Director at the written request of the student's advisor to renew a deficient grade in a required course in exceptional cases.

Academic Probation

Walton International Scholars are required to maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA to continue in the program. If the cumulative GPA remains below 2.5 for the SECOND consecutive semester the student will be given written notice of dismissal from the program. The student may present a written appeal to the Program Director for an additional semester if circumstances warrant.

Work on Campus

Continuing students in their last four semesters will be permitted to work up to 10 hours per week. Completion of a work clearance form and verification of satisfactory fulfillment of

community service must be on file prior to accepting employment. The student must also maintain regular class attendance and a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Tuition and Fees

The Walton International Scholarship will pay tuition and fees for all classes taken for college credit. Tuition for non-credit classes will not be covered. Fees for late registration, or drop/add will not be covered by the program.

Living Allowances

A \$125 per month personal living allowance will be given to each student for each month of the academic year. Any partial months will be prorated.

The scholarship will provide each student with medical insurance. The student will be responsible for any deductible and all costs not covered by the insurance. The Program will, however, reimburse the student for one-half the cost of the insurance deductible for each illness. The University will supply the student with information on the extent of the insurance coverage and the student should review the data and become familiar with his/her financial responsibilities.

Taxes

Liability for all local, state and federal taxes rests with the student. The University provides assistance in the filing of the tax forms and the Walton International Scholarship pays all taxes resulting from scholarship grants. Any income taxes incurred by the student related to student employment or any other source of income will be the sole responsibility of the student.

Book Resale

Text books cannot be returned to the bookstore for cash reimbursement or sold to other students. They have been purchased by the Walton International Program and any monies realized from their resale must be returned to the Walton International Program.

Textbook Shipping

Seniors may be given \$50 to defray the cost of shipping their books home.

Loans/Advances

The Walton Program will not make any cash loans or advances of personal allowances.

STUDENT LIFE

Housing

The Walton International Scholarship will provide regular dormitory housing (semi-private room) and the standard University meal plan.

Meetings

Attendance at all Scholarship Program meetings is required. Failure to attend any program meeting with an unexcused reason will result in the following: First unexcused absence will cost \$10.00. All additional absences will be \$25.00 each.

Except in case of an emergency, an excused absence form must be presented PRIOR to the meeting missed. We will try to give you sufficient notice of meeting times so there will be no unexcused absences.

You will also be required to attend any meeting among the three universities that are a scheduled.

Breaks and Holidays

For all University breaks (Christmas, Thanksgiving, Spring Break) housing and meal will not be provided.

TRAVEL

Airline

Each student will be provided an airline ticket home for the summer. Ground transportation will be provided between the University and the airport only at the beginning and end of the year. This means ground transportation will only be provided for the summer trip. Any costs associated with intermediate stops or variations the student makes while traveling home will be paid by the student.

Domestic

All domestic travel and field trips will be the responsibility of the student and will not be paid by the Walton International Program.

VEHICLES

No student may own or ride a motorcycle. Students may own automobiles provided such ownership is approved in advance by the Program Director and evidence of proper license and insurance is provided.

