



SCHOLARSHIP VETTING CHECKLIST

(Because scholarship scams are #TheWorst)

Approximately 20% of scholarship “opportunities” you find during your search are likely fraudulent—and that number is growing. With the rise of scholarship scams, it’s important to ensure you spend your time and energy applying to valid opportunities. [Use this checklist to help avoid #sketchy scholarships.](#)

INITIAL SCHOLARSHIP VETTING

If the scholarship you’re considering includes **ANY** of these items, **DO NOT PROCEED WITH APPLICATION.**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Requests personal banking information | <input type="checkbox"/> You are “guaranteed to win” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Requires Social Security Number (SSN) | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship funds are sent to winner via a wire transfer (Western Union, PayPal, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Requires an application fee | |

DETAILED SCHOLARSHIP VETTING

If the scholarship you’re considering includes **THREE OR MORE** of these items, **DO NOT PROCEED WITH APPLICATION.**

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosted on blog site | <input type="checkbox"/> Requires you to send detailed financial or tax information to an unsecured email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Includes grammatical inconsistencies or unprofessional language | <input type="checkbox"/> URL does not match company name (search WHOis.net) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Requires sharing on social media for ‘likes’ | <input type="checkbox"/> Address given doesn’t match with the business information listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contains invalid or out-of-country phone number or email | <input type="checkbox"/> Requires applicants to come up with solutions to a hypothetical legal or business scenario or create a new product that would otherwise be considered applicant’s intellectual property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provides no contact information for follow-up | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There is no evidence of previous winners | |