



Polish University Club of Los Angeles Scholarship Application Instructions 2026

**APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIALS
INCLUDING REFERENCE LETTERS:
*APRIL 20, 2026 AT MIDNIGHT PST***

**Please send your completed application packet
to the following e-mail address:
PUCLAinfo@gmail.com**

PLEASE MAIL MEMBERSHIP FEE TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

Polish University Club of Los Angeles
3400 W Adams Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90018

Eligibility:

1. Permanent residence in California from one of the following five counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Ventura, and San Bernardino. Permanent residency is evidenced by holding a California driver license or California identification card and/or designating California as the permanent address on all school, employment, or military records.
2. Attendance at an accredited 4-year college or university issuing a bachelor's or higher degree.
3. **College sophomore or better status as of August 1, 2026.**
4. **STUDENTS MUST HAVE AT LEAST A 3.0 GPA ON A 4.0 SCALE, OR A 4.0 GPA ON A 5.0 SCALE, FOR CONSIDERATION.**

Documents to be submitted: (forms available on pucla.org)

- Scholarship Application Checklist
- Scholarship Application
- Membership Application with payment of \$20 student membership dues.
- Most recent official transcript sent directly by your university (We will NOT accept transcripts sent by applicants). Please order your official transcript directly from your university in advance, as this process can take days or weeks.
- One letter of recommendation sent by your college instructor from their university email address.
- One letter of character reference sent from a responsible person who is a respected and established member of the community. You may not use members of your immediate family, other applicants or children. Please inform your reference that email submission is preferred.
- A recent, identifiable digital photograph. Photo may be used for publicity purposes – on PUCLA Web site, in program booklets, etc.
- A copy of your most recent tuition invoice only for the quarter or semester. This will be held in strict confidence. Please submit electronically.
- A concise, informative and factual autobiography along with a brief Statement of Merit describing why you believe you deserve this scholarship. This should be no longer than 500 words and should not exceed 1 page single-spaced.
- Curriculum Vitae (Resumé) which includes education, employment history, community / volunteer activity and membership in Polish-American organizations.
- A 7–10 page research paper on any aspect of Polish history or culture. (instructions below)



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Other requirements:

1. Attendance at a personal interview **TBD via Zoom (though typically in early May)**. The Scholarship Chairperson will notify you of your interview time after reviewing your application. Interviews usually last between 15-20 minutes and may be scheduled at any time during the day. If you anticipate a scheduling conflict, please notify the Scholarship Chairperson at the time of submittal. Accommodations are not guaranteed. Interviews may NOT be scheduled for any other day. Interviews are held once a year only.
 2. Attendance at our PUCLA fundraiser in June for scholarship presentation. Recipients who are unable to attend must send a representative in their place. Failure to attend the fundraiser or send a representative will result in a \$50 fee, which will be deducted from the award amount. **The date and location of the luncheon TBD.**
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Research Paper Instructions

Purpose:

This project is designed to give you a chance to express your interest in Polish culture and history in a scholarly fashion and to provide the scholarship committee of the Polish University Club with a way to measure your academic potential and writing skills.

The Topic:

Research a topic that is related to Polish history or culture. You may choose to explore current political events or social developments. We accept actual term papers you have written for one of your classes if they meet the requirements.

The paper should have a clearly stated thesis; this means that you should make a statement in your introductory paragraph and provide arguments to support it. If you choose to write about an eminent Polish figure, do not simply submit a biography of that person; your thesis should state why you chose to write about him or her. For example, you may write about Marie Skłodowska-Curie's efforts to highlight the plea of Polish political independence, but do not simply summarize her biography. Further, as we expect a university-level paper, we do not accept casual descriptions of childhood memories or rhapsodies about Polish food or pop culture.

Format & Style:

The paper should be 7-10 pages long, written in English, and **include at least 3 references from reputable sources** such as textbooks, research journals, or scholarly articles. Inclusion of materials from the web or magazines can be included but do not count towards the three reputable sources. Please include your name, date, and personal email on the first page, along with the title of your paper.

The format of the paper should follow the standards for any university-level term-paper. You may choose any standard format of annotations and bibliography, such as the Chicago Manual of Style. Regardless of formatting style, you should provide a reference page.

Please e-mail your paper as an attachment to **PUCLAinfo@gmail.com** along with the rest of your digital application materials.



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Plagiarism:

Papers taken off the Internet, written with the use of AI, or copied from books or other print material will be rejected. We will be checking all papers on an online plagiarism checker upon submittal. Plagiarism is a punishable offence at universities and colleges; punishments include failing courses and other disciplinary measures, up to being expelled from the university. Do not try to receive funds to further your education by committing the very offence that would end your education prematurely.

Applicant evaluation is based upon character, academic standing, and financial need. Scholarship awards are at committee discretion.

Please e-mail any questions or comments to puclainfo@gmail.com

Non-sensitive content from your application may be used on our website.