

ZAH MNE Scholarship Fund

Information, Criteria, and Eligibility

The Executive Committee of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) approved the Mike N. Engineer Scholarship program (MNE Scholarship) the week of August 16, 2016. The academic scholarship fund, established by Mr. Mike Nadirshaw Engineer is in memory of his beloved parents, Nadirshaw and Homai Engineer, and his grandparents. The Scholarship aims to encourage and identify achievers in the Zoroastrian community.

For 2026, the MNE Scholarship award will be a distribution of **two** scholarships one for \$3,000 and one for \$2,000 from donations received and the investment earnings of the MNE Scholarship Fund of ZAH. All awards will be given in March 2026. If there is a tie for any of the scholarship awards, the committee reserves the right to split the amount awarded.

Application Deadline February 28, 2026

Eligibility Criteria

The MNE Scholarship will be awarded to deserving Zoroastrian students to further their post-secondary education. To be eligible, a student must have a good academic record and a desire to succeed. Other significant factors for this Scholarship include:

- Academic performance.
- Past service/involvement within the Zoroastrian community.
- Desire to continue with community service/involvement and pay it forward through future contributions to the Zoroastrian community.

The student,

- must have at least one parent (living or deceased) who is a Zoroastrian citizen of the world.
- must be a member (or become a member) of the ZAH or other local Zoroastrian association.
- must participate in Zoroastrian community events, activities and prayers to the extent reasonably possible.

Eligible Institutions

The post-secondary educational institution an applicant is applying to/accepted to attend must be,

- An accredited University, College, Community College, or
- An accredited vocational/IT/advanced technology related institute with credible certifications, or
- A lesser-known institution with a proven record for good employment/career prospects.

Preference will be given to students attending an educational institution in the following locations (in order of preference):

- Greater Houston TX area including College Station TX.
- Any location in Texas or Louisiana.
- Anywhere in North America.
- Preference will be given to students attending an in-state university.

Selection Criteria

Weighted percentage for applicant evaluation will be: 60% financial need, 20% academic record, and 20% local Zoroastrian community participation. The committee may request additional information, which in its opinion is necessary for the evaluation of an application. Decision of the committee for awarding scholarships will be final.

Summary of selection criteria:

- Applicant must have a good academic record.
- Applicant must participate in community service activities within the Zoroastrian community and/or the local community at large.
- Applicant must be (or become) a ZAH member or a member of a local Zoroastrian association.
- Applicant must be enrolled in an accredited college, community college or vocational program OR is going to be enrolled in a post high school program within 12 (twelve) months from the date of the Scholarship application.
- Applicant must provide proof of admission or application to the institution with all relevant supporting documents.

MNE Scholarship award recipients are strongly encouraged to keep in touch with ZAH at least every six months. Shortly after starting full-time employment or business, the recipient is also encouraged to pay it forward and contribute an amount equal to or greater than the amount of the scholarship award received. Contributions to ZAH MNE Scholarship Fund may be made in a lump-sum donation or arrangements may be made for a monthly payment plan. Your contribution will greatly help the ZAH MNE Scholarship Fund to continue to support students in their post-secondary educational endeavors.

Privacy

Information contained in the MNE Scholarship application is strictly confidential and all details will be kept within the committee.

Checklist For Applicants

Please confirm you meet all the Criteria listed on Page 1 and use the below checklist to ensure your application is complete. Incomplete applications may cause you to miss the deadline and your application may not be evaluated.

- Completed Application Form, signed by the applicant and witness.
- High School/College Transcripts and other relevant documents.
- Information from Institution(s) for annual Tuition + Room & Board etc. costs.
- A copy of the student Aid Report (SAR) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) website including the Student Aid Index. The committee may request additional information from the applicant if needed.
- Reference letters - at least one from the current school or college, and from people who are familiar with the student's character and interactions with academics and community service (they shall not be close relatives of the applicant). *Reference letters should be emailed directly to mnescholarship@gmail.com*

PLEASE EMAIL COMPLETE APPLICATION AND ALL ATTACHMENTS BY FEBRUARY 28, 2026
TO
mnescholarship@gmail.com

For questions, please contact Yasmin Pavri (281) 731-3548 or Rohintan Deputy (832) 532-7394.