



2026 Associates Program

Poised for Impact: Data, User, Strategy-Driven Libraries

June 1 - 24, 2026

Mortenson Center Associates Program Scholarship: Description and Application Guidelines

Funding for Program Participation

The Mortenson Center for International Library Programs is delighted to provide funding to support individuals to attend the 2026 Associates Program to advance their leadership and professional development goals. The scholarships support 2026 Associates, who would otherwise be unable to participate due to financial constraints. Each scholarship **covers the \$4,000** program fee. The recipient will be responsible for paying all other associated costs (e.g., airfare, visa fees, meals and other personal costs). Scholarship applications are welcomed from library and information science (LIS) professionals who are residents of under-represented countries, from low- and middle-income countries, and/or members of historically underrepresented and marginalized communities from countries outside of the United States.

To determine your eligibility, please review the specific requirements outlined below and complete the scholarship application form. All sections of the application form should be completed and submitted to mortenson@illinois.edu by the deadline of 21 November 2025.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Admission to the 2026 Mortenson Center Associates Program.
2. Demonstrated financial need.
3. Ability to pay all other associated costs (airfare, visa fees, meals and other personal costs).
4. Commitment to learning, applying and sharing new knowledge and skills to enhance their institutions, the LIS field, and/or professional practice.
5. Demonstrated and/or potential leadership and innovation in their workplace and/or the LIS field in their local context.
6. Professional readiness, work ethic and promise based on 2 reference letters - one submitted with the Program application, and **a second one for the grant application from a different recommender (supervisor/dean/director/professional mentor).**

Application Materials

1. A completed 2026 Mortenson Center Associates **Scholarship application AND**
2. A completed 2026 Mortenson Center **Associates Program application**
3. Confirmation of ability to pay all other associated costs with attending the Associates Program (e.g., airfare, visa fees, meals and other personal costs)
4. Letter of reference speaking to the applicant's professional leadership, work ethic and promise, directly aligning them to the scholarship's criteria and goals.
5. Statement of purpose (max. 500 words) addressing criteria 2 and 5 above.

Application Deadline

All materials must be submitted to the Mortenson Center by **21 November 2025**. Selection decisions are final. Selected scholarship recipients will be notified regarding selection by **6 January 2026**.

2026 Associates Program: Scholarship Application

Please TYPE your responses on this form AND send them with the following documents (PDF format):

- Scholarship application form
- Additional Letter of Recommendation-
- Statement of Purpose

Personal Information (***IMPORTANT*** Name must exactly match your passport)

Surname:

Given Name(s):

Contact Information

Home Address:

Street Address

City

Postal Code

Country

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Preferred Email Address for Communication:

Professional Information

Position/Title:

Institution:

Institution URL:

Office email address:

Recommendation Letter

Please provide the name of a professional reference who will be providing a recommendation letter on your behalf.

Name:

Title and Institution:

Relationship to You:

Statement of Purpose

The statement of purpose (max. 500 words) should address criteria 2 (demonstrated financial need and why seeking scholarship), and 5 (applicant's demonstrated and/or potential leadership and impact in their workplace and/or the LIS field in their local context).

Certification Agreement

I certify that the information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and I did not use AI tools to write my statement. If selected as a Mortenson Center Scholarship recipient, I agree to abide by the stipulations of the scholarship, including securing any additional funding required.

Signature

Date

Email your application packet with the following documents:

- ☐ [] Completed typed and signed Scholarship application form.
- ☐ [] Statement of Purpose
- ☐ [] Letter of Recommendation for Scholarship Application

TO:

mortenson@illinois.edu

**All applications are due by:
21 November 2025**

Thank you!