

APPLICATION FOR ROBERT L. BALSTER SCHOLARSHIP

Please note that applications for scholarship will not be reviewed unless you have already been admitted to the MS or Certificate Programme in Addiction Studies. This means you **must complete the program application and be accepted to the programme** before your application for scholarship will be reviewed.

If you have not yet applied, please go to the “Apply Now” section of our website, and follow the instructions. If you are unable to afford the application fee, there are a limited number of fee waivers available. Please reach out to Mary Loos, VCU IPAS Program Director, if you are seeking a waiver. Note that all application materials must be uploaded in the application portal before an application fee waiver can be considered.

INSERT LINK TO APPLICATION PORTAL

Scholarship essays

To be considered for the Robert L. Balster scholarship, please respond to all of the following questions in a document formatted in either MS Word or pdf. Email your responses to Mary Loos at meloos@vcu.edu, including your name and contact information. We will verify receipt of your application. Scholarship offers will not be made until June 2025.

Provide the following: Your name, email address, postal address, and telephone number

1. Describe the personal and professional objectives you hope to achieve by completing the MS in Addiction Studies Program. Include information about any current paid or volunteer activities (including those related to research, advocacy, treatment, teaching/training, policy or harm reduction) related to the field, and how receiving the scholarship might facilitate your current or future work in the field.
2. Excellence in academics is generally a criterion for scholarship. Provide us with information about your prior study in the area of substance use/addiction or any related field. If there are circumstances that impacted your prior academic performance or if your previous study was not in an area closely related to substance use/addiction, provide the committee with information about other aspects of your background and experience that have prepared you for success in graduate study.
3. Balster scholarships are partial in nature, and cover between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ of program tuition. Scholarships are paid over time in proportion to the number of credits you are completing in a given semester. In order to be eligible to receive the scholarship, you will need to demonstrate the ability to pay for the remainder of the program. Please indicate the manner in which you are planning to fund the remainder of the tuition if the scholarship is offered.
4. Please verify that you have already submitted all required materials associated with the application for the MS in Addiction Studies or Certificate Program in Addiction Studies through the VCU application portal.