

Opportunity Funds Program (OFP) 2020 Application Form

Name of Applicant: _____

Many students in South Africa lack only financial resources and access to information to better their educational futures. The United States Mission to South Africa seeks to identify highly academically qualified and motivated, low-income, Grade 12/Matric students in South Africa to join the EducationUSA Opportunity Funds Program (OFP).

OFP's mission is to assist highly-talented and determined, economically-disadvantaged students to negotiate and finance the admissions process for colleges and universities in the United States, to produce highly-skilled and widely-educated leaders to build tomorrow's South Africa. OFP works closely with students through regularly scheduled webinars and individual sessions to assist them throughout the application process to secure admission and scholarships for colleges and universities in the United States. OFP finances all costs of the application process, including registration fees for required standardized examinations and provides free membership to the US Educational Advising Centers for its participants. OFP expects a sincere commitment of students to give back their energy and time to the program and their communities and to be the best they can be.

Applicants are welcome from all over South Africa. However, students must have access to the internet on a bi-weekly basis during the program for full participation. Participants will work with our EducationUSA Advisors from July 2020 – August 2021 to try to secure places and financial assistance to begin study in the U.S. in August 2021.

ENTRANCE INTO THIS PROGRAM IS NO GUARANTEE OF A SCHOLARSHIP OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES.

To apply to OFP, you must currently be a highly-determined and hardworking Grade12/Matric or Gap Year student who will write or has written the National Senior Certificate Examinations in 2019 or 2020. To be eligible for consideration, you must have a **VERY** strong academic record, be actively involved in co-curricular and leadership activities, and have a strong record of giving back to your community. You must also demonstrate financial need i.e., show that your family would not be capable of financing the US college application process on their own.

Please complete this application form; return it together with the required documents listed at the end of the application form to cpowell@educationusa.org, to reach our offices no later than June 15, 2020:

We want to get to know you as well as possible. Please complete this application form fully, providing us with as much information as you can about yourself, your dreams and ambitions, your family background, and your academic and co-curricular record. Please send all parts of your application together at one time to ensure that your application is complete and includes as much contact information for you as possible. We cannot consider incomplete applications. **Because of the high volume of applications received, we can ONLY respond individually to those who are successfully selected to participate in the program.**

OFP 2020 Application Deadline: June 15, 2020

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Read directions carefully: You must attach to your application the documents listed below. Please do not send originals of certificates or reports as we cannot guarantee the return of any documents to unsuccessful candidates. Please send the completed application and attachments together.

Attach to this application the following documents:

- 1) A photocopy of your NSC/IEB certificate stamped by your current school. Include mock results (if applicable).
- 2) A copy of your end-of-year report from your Grade 9 through 11 years and, if possible, your first term report from Grade 12.
- 3) The attached letter of recommendation form attesting to your character, talent, and skills completed by a teacher, school administrator, priest/pastor or NGO or community leader who knows you well, either typed or handwritten. Please do not include a basic testimonial that does not talk about you as an individual.
- 4) Write two essays, one from Group A and one from Group B, each of about 250 – 500 words:

Group A – Choose one only

Colleges and universities in the United States want to get to know you as a person, both in and out of the classroom. Use this essay as an opportunity to let us get to know you, how you think, and what's important to you. As we want to get to know you as an individual and not look for the most dramatic tale, all experiences related in these essays must be a true and accurate depiction of your life.

A1. When you meet someone for the first time, what do you want them to know about you, but generally don't tell them?

A2. Presuming there was only one open admission spot remaining, why should this program choose to accept your application and not that of another student?

A3. Pick one person in history or fiction to converse with for an hour and explain your choice. What would you talk about?

A4. Describe the most embarrassing moment of your life and explain what you learned from that experience and how it has made you a better or stronger person today.

A5. What advice will you offer a student just beginning his/her secondary school career?

Group B – Choose one only

Whether you are studying science, commercial or arts subjects at O levels, if you attend college or university in the US, you will be exposed to and will take a wide variety of subjects from the humanities, social sciences, and pure sciences. With this liberal arts educational philosophy in mind, please answer one of the following questions to demonstrate your intellectual strengths.

B1. Rerhceseras say it's siltl plisbsoe to raed txet wth only the frist and lsat lttres in palce. This is beacuse the hamun mnid can fnid oderr in dorsdier. Give us your best example of finding order in disorder. (For your reader's sake, please use full sentences with conventional spelling).

B2. America is often termed 'a melting pot' and American society is often termed to be one of diversity. How would you define diversity and what is its role in our global society? What are the challenges that come with diversity?

B3. "Art is either plagiarism or revolution." –Paul Gauguin. What is your "art"? Is it plagiarism or revolution?

B4. Choose the invention that you think has had the most negative impact on our world and explain why you chose that invention.

B5. How would you compare apples and oranges? Possible answers involve but are not limited to, statistics, chemistry, physics, linguistics, and philosophy.

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OFP 2020 Application Form

Personal Information:

1. Full name (first name(s) followed by family name):
2. By what name do you prefer to be called?
3. Address where you reside when not at school:
4. Contact telephone(s) (required):
5. Email address:
6. Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY):
7. Gender:
8. Mother's current occupation and workplace, if living (Be specific, even if self-employed):
9. Father's current occupation and workplace, if living (Be specific, even if self-employed):
10. If parents are deceased, state name, relationship to you, and occupation/workplace of your legal guardian:
11. The number of direct siblings and their ages. For each one, state whether or not they are in school, which school, and in what grade, form, or level. :
12. The number of other dependent people currently living with and supported by your family and their relationships to you:
13. Amount of your school fees (inclusive of boarding fees if applicable) for the first term in 2020:
14. Who currently pays for your school fees? Are you on any bursary/scholarship? If so, how much does the bursary cover?
15. If your fees are paid by a relative other than your parents, how many other children's fees are paid for by this same person? Do you live with this relative?
16. Have you or your siblings ever missed a significant part of a school term(s) because of finances? If so, please explain.
17. Do you have regular access to the internet either by personal use or public use (i.e. Internet Café, Library, etc.):
18. What else should we know about your economic and personal background, your family, and your financial situation? Feel free to use the back or an extra sheet of paper if this space is too small so we can truly understand your situation.

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Academic and School Information:

- 19. School Name and Mailing Address:
- 20. School telephone number(s):
- 21. Headmaster/Headmistress' name, cell number, and email address:
- 22. Career Counselor name, cell number, and email address (if applicable):
- 23. Subjects you are taking. Please circle your strongest subject:
- 24. List below all schools you have attended and which grades/forms you did at each school:

School	Location	Grades/Forms Completed	Reason for leaving the school
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I.

II.

III.

- 25. List all extra-curricular clubs, sports, and activities that you participate or have participated in at high school and in your community and/or church in order of importance to you. Circle the **one** to which you devote the most time and energy. ***If you want to give us a sample of your talents, feel free to attach evidence (i.e. photo, poem, drawing, a musical recording, etc).***
- 26. Please describe which one of these activities has the most meaning for you and why.
- 27. List all academic prizes or honors you have been awarded in secondary school.
- 28. Do you hold any leadership positions at school? Please list them here and in which forms you held these positions (ie, prefect, Headgirl/boy, President/Secretary of a Club, Captain of a team, etc) Circle the most important leadership position you have held.

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Short Answer Questions:

Feel free to use the back of this sheet or additional paper if the space is insufficient. We want to get to know you well through these questions so take time to answer them honestly and fully.

29. What do you hope to study at university? What is your planned career(s) and why? How did you develop your interest in these chosen field(s) of study and career path(s)?
30. **Outside of your planned career and study path**, what are your other academic or other passions? What skills do you hope to master or what do you simply have a burning desire to know more about?

Thank you for applying for the OFP program. We look forward to reviewing your application!

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OFP 2020 Application Recommendation Form

_____ is a Grade 12/Was a grade 12 student applying to be a participant in the EducationUSA Opportunity Fund Program. OFP's mission is to assist highly-talented and determined, economically-disadvantaged Grade 12 students and 1st year Gap Year students to negotiate and finance the admissions process for colleges and universities in the United States to produce highly-skilled and widely-educated leaders to build tomorrow's South Africa. We are asking you to take a moment to comment on his/her suitability for the program by completing this form and returning it to the student to attach to his/her OFP application or emailing to cpowell@educationusa.org. Applications are due to the EducationUSA Program at the U.S. Embassy South Africa by June 15, 2020

To be completed by the recommender:

Name:

Title/Role:

School/Organization:

Contact Email and/or Telephone Number:

For how long and in what context have you known this student?

What are the first words that come to mind when you think of this student?

Please evaluate this student against the following OFP selection criteria:

Academic Excellence –

Demonstrated Leadership Potential –

Ethos of Giving Back –

Economic Disadvantage –

Feel free to use this space, the back of this paper, or a separate letter for your additional comments about the accomplishments and potential of this student and their suitability for the OFP program.

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