**Science and Engineering Research Scholarship (SERS)**

Science & Engineering Research Scholarship (SERS) is an incentive for undergraduate students in the Physics Programme at the Universidad del Atlántico. SERS provides a financial aid to cover undergraduate tuition, transportation, board, and fees for students who *possess outstanding academic records and personal integrity*.

**There are three (3) categories of SERS:**

* ***Diamond*** - Senior students (those in their ninth or tenth semester of the degree).

Award: Complete tuition waiver and expenses support.

* ***Sapphire*** - Junior students (those in their seventh or eighth semester of the degree).

Award: Complete tuition waiver and half expenses support.

* ***Quartz***- Sophomore students (those in their fourth, fifth or sixth semester of the degree).

Award: Tuition waiver.

Expenses covered per semester:

Transportation and Lunch: **$880.000 COP** (provided by-weekly: **$110.000 COP**)

Tuition: Varies on award recipient.

**Qualifications:**

* Must be enrolled in the Physics Programme at Universidad del Atlántico
* Have at least a 3.6 grade point average in math and science courses, as evidenced by their grades
* For Diamond applicants, students must be enrolled in undergraduate research (course codes: 210310 or 21032, i.e. ninth and tenth semester, respectively) and need to submit a research statement. If the candidate belongs to a **Research Seed** at the Physic Programme, it will be a plus!

The above are the PROPOSED scholarship minima for this upcoming term. It is possible that the minima may be lower if we should have more scholarship funds to disburse. It is also possible that the minima could be higher should we attract a greater number of qualified applicants. Please note: even if you meet the standings above, you are not guaranteed a scholarship.

**Requirements:**

* For Diamond SERS Applicants:
	+ Two (2) letters of recommendation: one from an official Advisor (Director of undergraduate research) and one from a professor in the Physics Programme (who is familiar with the applicant's academic standing or who taught the student core courses)
	+ Complete personal and research statements in the online application.
* For Sapphire and Quartz SERS:
	+ Two (2) letters of recommendation: one from a professor in Math/Engineering Department and one from a professor in Physics Department (who are familiar with the applicant's academic standing or who taught the student core courses)
	+ Complete personal statements in the online application.

Once you start your online application process, you will be required to submit a personal statement on your accomplishments and what a college education will mean in your life. Please complete this essay in word processor (250 words maximum) and copy and paste into the application form. Please be aware that the online application will log you out after a period of inactivity, and you may lose your progress.

**Application Deadline, Reminders, and Notifications:**

* The scholarship will be open for online applications from **March 1, 2017** to **May 5, 2017**
* General application deadline is **May 5, 2017**, midnight Colombia time (UTC -5)
* Pre-selected candidates will be notified by email on **July 1, 2017**
* Complete and submit all supporting documents via SERS online application by **May 5, 2017**
* Requests for reference letters are made through the scholarship online application
* Reference letters submitted after the deadline shall not be considered for review

Students pre-selected will be required to provide proof of their grades from the completed semester, a chance to continue in the process is lost if the cumulative grades drop below minimum requirements after application is submitted. Students selected to receive a scholarship will be notified during mid-July. Those not selected can expect an email notification by late-July (sent to address provided on the application). Note that the online application will log you out after a period of inactivity, and you may lose your progress. We strongly recommended complete the essay (250 words maximum each) and research statement in a word processor and copy and paste into the online application.

**Scholarship Selection**

The SER Scholarship and Awards Committee, composed of faculty, PhD students, and the founders, evaluates the applications and award scholarships based on merit, need, or other criteria specified by the donors. Good luck to applicants and best of luck in your studies at Universidad del Atlántico!

**Questions? Contact us!**

Send us your questions to: serscholarship@gmail.com

Other contacts:

* Dra. Zulia Caamaño (zuliacaamano@mail.uniatlantico.edu.co)
* Dra. Margarita Correa (margaritacorrea@mail.uniatlantico.edu.co)

Office Location: 201 C, Physics Department, Universidad del Atlántico.

Phone number:

## Selection criteria

Students who meet all the eligibility criteria and are ranked highest on the basis of the selection criteria will be proposed by the award committee as a candidate for the scholarship.

The following criteria will be taken into account for the selection of students for a scholarship:

1. **Motivation**

It is essential that the motivation and the career goals of the candidate focus on development of relevant goals which are dealt within the science program. Not only previously obtained academic results are key, but also the potential of the candidate to act as a 'change agent' in our country after completion of the bachelor program.

1. **Gender**

The selection committee will aim at a relative balance between the number of male and female candidates awarded a SER scholarship

1. **Social background**

In a case of two equally qualified candidates, preference will be given to candidates who can demonstrate that they belong to a disadvantaged group or area or an ethnic or social minority group.

1. **Previously awarded scholarships**

Preference will be given to candidates who have never received a scholarship

**Scholarship policies:**

* These three scholarships are not renewable\*
* Students must reapply for any second-semester awards by the deadline
* Applicants must provide evidence of need (e.g. The last tuition paid in high school and UA)
* ALL of these scholarships require you to complete at the end of the semester a brief survey to explain how this financial assistant helped in your career
* SER Scholarships **DO NOT** apply to students who receive any other scholarships

*\* Automatic renewal of scholarship will be available to students that hold a Diamond Scholarship and either present a scientific conference abstract accepted or a scientific journal paper submitted.*

**Award Committee**

*Founders and Sponsors:*

M.S. Sugeily Flores and Ms. Amanda Charris

*Physics Department members:*

Dra. Zulia Caamaño

Dra. Margarita Correa

*Alumnus:*

Mr. Cesar Díaz

Mr. Rodolfo Capdevilla

Ms. Amanda Charris

**Students FAQS - Preguntas frecuentes**

1. **¿Qué debo hacer para aplicar para la beca SERS?**

Todos los estudiantes interesados en aplicar a la beca SERS deben completar la aplicación en linea y cumplir con los mínimos requisitos especificados en la página web.

1. **¿Puedo aplicar a la beca si estoy en tercer semestre?**

Si, estudiantes en tercer semestre pueden aplicar y someter todos sus documentos. La beca la recibirán al siguiente semestre de la aplicación, i.e. cuarto semestre.

1. **¿Debo escribir el ensayo y la propuesta de investigación en Inglés?**

No, todos los documentos requeridos pueden ser presentados en Español, incluyendo las cartas de recomendación. Los profesores que emitan las recomendaciones pueden hacerlo en Español.

1. **Si soy elegido en el proceso de preselección ¿Qué debo hacer?**

Si usted ha quedado preseleccionado, recibirá un email de notificación y deberá enviar prueba de su promedio de notas. Para continuar evaluando su aplicación, su promedio debió haber aumentado o permanecer igual al momento que sometió su aplicación.

1. **Con respecto a la renovación automática de Diamond SERS, ¿el resumen aceptado debe estar relacionado a mi trabajo de grado?**

Si, el resumen debe ser como resultado del trabajo de grado del estudiante, éste debe ser Ponente del evento científico nacional o bien internacional. El artículo debe ser sometido (se deberá anexar constancia) a una revista indexada y categorizada por Colciencias (ver Publindex).

1. **¿Para renovar mi beca debo hacer el mismo proceso que realice el semestre anterior?**

Si, cada semestre el proceso es igual, tanto como para nuevos aplicantes, como para estudiantes que deseen renovar.

1. **Al terminar de recibir la beca, ¿Debo presentar algún informe?**

Sí, todos los estudiantes favorecidos con la beca deben responder una corta encuesta. Deberán redactar un breve ensayo explicando cómo esta beca les ha ayudado en su carrera profesional.