

The Lesher Family Scholarship
Department of Political Science, University of Southern California
2026–2027 Application

The *Lesher Family Scholarship*, established in honor of Professor Alison Dundes Renteln, provides assistance for promising undergraduate students in the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

Recipients of the awards must be full-time undergraduate students for the duration of 2026–2027 who demonstrate an interest in **human rights, political freedom, international law, leadership, or public policy**. Students must have a major in at least one of the following areas:

- Political Science
- International Relations
- International Relations and the Global Economy
- Law, History and Culture
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Philosophy, Politics and Law
- Political Economy

Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, be in good academic standing, and be making satisfactory progress toward the completion of their academic program. Students graduating in Spring 2026, Summer 2026, or Fall 2026 are not eligible to apply. At the time of application, eligible applicants should have already completed at least two courses in Political Science, with at least one of these courses being an upper-division Political Science course.

To apply, send the following information to the email listed below by **5 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2026**.

Send application materials to:

scholarships@dornsife.usc.edu

Subject line: Lesher Family Scholarship application

- The **application form**, printed and signed. You may scan the form to create a pdf copy to send with the rest of your application, or you may take a photo of the form and email the photo along with the rest of your application.
- A **resume** (include information regarding your academic achievements, involvement in campus and community organizations, work experience, and special talents and interests)
- An **essay** of not more than 500 words in response to the following prompt: Which of these fields (human rights, political freedom, international law, or leadership and public policy) holds the most interest for you and why?
- A printout of your **USC Unofficial Transcript**, available via ExperienceUSC under My Academics/Academic Records. Do NOT submit an official USC transcript, which requires a fee.
- The **name of a USC faculty member** in the department of Political Science and International Relations who can serve as a reference on your behalf. A letter of recommendation is not needed. Please include the name and contact information (email address and phone number) of the USC faculty member on the application form.

If you have any questions, contact Professor Alison Dundes Renteln at arenteln@usc.edu.

USCDornsife

Dana and David Dornsife
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

**The Lesser Family Scholarship
Department of Political Science, University of Southern California
2026–2027 Application Cover Sheet**

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Local Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Local Phone Number: _____ Permanent Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____ Student ID#: _____

Declared Major(s): _____

Declared Minor(s): _____

Expected Graduation Date (e.g. May 2027) _____ USC Faculty Reference: _____

Faculty Email Address: _____ Faculty Cell Phone: _____

All the information provided by me in my application is correct, and I hereby give permission to the USC Dornsife Continuing Undergraduate Scholarship Committee to verify my academic and financial aid status.

Signature: _____ Date: _____