



SCHOLARSHIPS

2025-26



2025-26 SCHOLARSHIPS

at a Glance

Total scholarship budget for 2025-26:

\$327.5M

63.2% comes from endowed scholarships at Princeton and 36.8% comes from University funds, federal grants, state aid and third-party scholarships.

More than
90%

of recent **PRINCETON SENIORS**
GRADUATED DEBT-FREE.

For seniors who borrowed money, the average total debt at graduation was approximately \$18,100.

IN THE 2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR,
more than **4,000** undergraduates –

69%

of the student body –
received financial assistance.

IN THE 2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR,
the average grant for a student
receiving aid is more than

\$80,200,

which exceeds the cost of tuition
by more than **\$15,000.**

25%

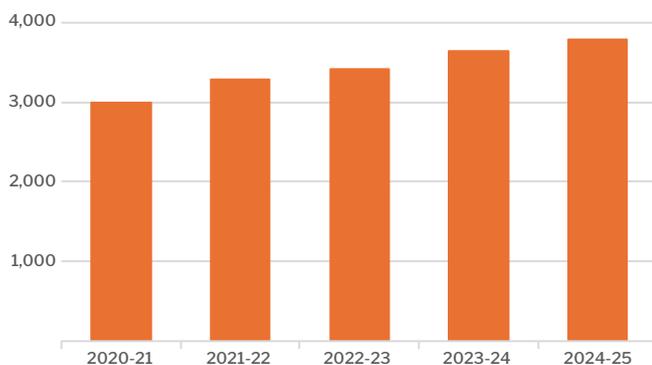
of **THE CLASS OF 2029**
is **ELIGIBLE**
for need-based federal Pell Grants, which is
the highest percentage and count of Pell-eligible
students in Princeton's history.

VENTURE FORWARD CAMPAIGN SCHOLARSHIPS

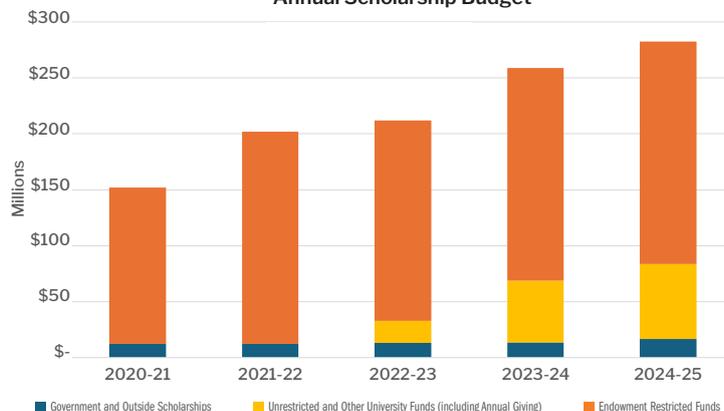
at a Glance

More than 350 scholarship funds were established since the launch of the campaign.
Plus, hundreds of additional gifts were made to existing funds.

Number of Students on Financial Aid



Annual Scholarship Budget





For more than 230 years, student financial aid at Princeton University has played a pivotal role in ensuring that students are able to attend the University and fully engage in all its educational opportunities. Countless Princeton undergraduates have benefited from the nearly 1,650 scholarship funds established by generations of alumni, parents and friends of the University. This sustained generosity and partnership — for which Princeton remains immensely thankful — has enabled the University to continue its steadfast commitment to access and affordability.

WHEN ANTHONY H.P. LEE '79 decided to give back to Princeton, he knew exactly how he wanted to maximize his impact. “Seeing the wealth disparity in the world, a Princeton education is a total game-changer in terms of breaking the poverty cycle,” said Anthony, who lives in Sydney, Australia. “I wanted to make sure that every kid smart enough to get into Princeton can afford to go to Princeton.”

In 1996, Anthony established the Harold H.W. Lee P79 Scholarship Fund in honor of his late father. Since then, nearly 100 students have attended Princeton on the Harold Lee scholarship or the Sharon and Anthony H.P. Lee '79 P11 P14 Scholarship, which Anthony and his wife endowed in 2017.

John Y.S. Lee '06 (no relation to Anthony) applied to Princeton as a high school student in New Zealand because it was one of the few schools that offered need-blind financial aid to international students. His parents couldn't afford Princeton, but when he was accepted, a scholarship covered not only his tuition and board, but also textbooks, a laptop and airfare to Auckland. “That amazed us at the time,” John said. “I remember thinking, ‘If ever I am in a position to give back to the University, I would love to give back.’”

Now a private equity executive in Hong Kong, John reconnected with Princeton to establish his own scholarship for future students: the Wook and Kyungjin Lee Venture Forward Scholarship Fund, named in honor of his parents. At a 2023 gathering in Hong Kong, John met Anthony, and



JOHN Y.S. LEE '06 and ANTHONY H.P. LEE '79

they discovered that John had attended Princeton on the Harold Lee scholarship. “We got along instantly,” Anthony said. “We think alike, obviously. He established a scholarship in honor of his parents, and I did the same thing in honor of my late father.”

“I just felt that the alumni and the University had done this amazing thing for me, so I want to do that for the next generation,” said John, who established a second fund, the Lee Family Scholarship, a tip of the hat to both Lees, in 2025. “And for that thinking to be the real factor that connected me and Anthony is kind of cool. He feels like a parent to me now.”

STUDENT VOICES



NOAH BLAIR '28

Omaha, Nebraska

WHY MY SCHOLARSHIP MATTERS

“At Princeton, I’m a part of a community that strives to pick each other up regardless of background, regardless of income, regardless of your beliefs.”

GROWING UP IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA, Noah Blair never considered Princeton an option. “I knew nothing about the school,” he said. “Until I visited campus and learned about Princeton’s rigor, I couldn’t fully comprehend how amazing this place is and how lucky I was to be here.” The transition from Omaha to Princeton opened unexpected doors for the politics major. “Along with my amazing professors, I’ve met so many people and become involved in clubs that have opened my eyes to just how much opportunity there is to grow,” he said. Blair has thrown himself into campus life, joining the Honor Committee, serving as vice president of the Princeton Open Campus Coalition and taking on leadership roles at the local Chabad organization. Blair aspires to attend law school before embarking on a career in public service. “Princeton is the place for me to be the best version of myself,” he said. “It’s not just a privilege to be here, but it’s also a duty to go out and contribute to society afterwards.”





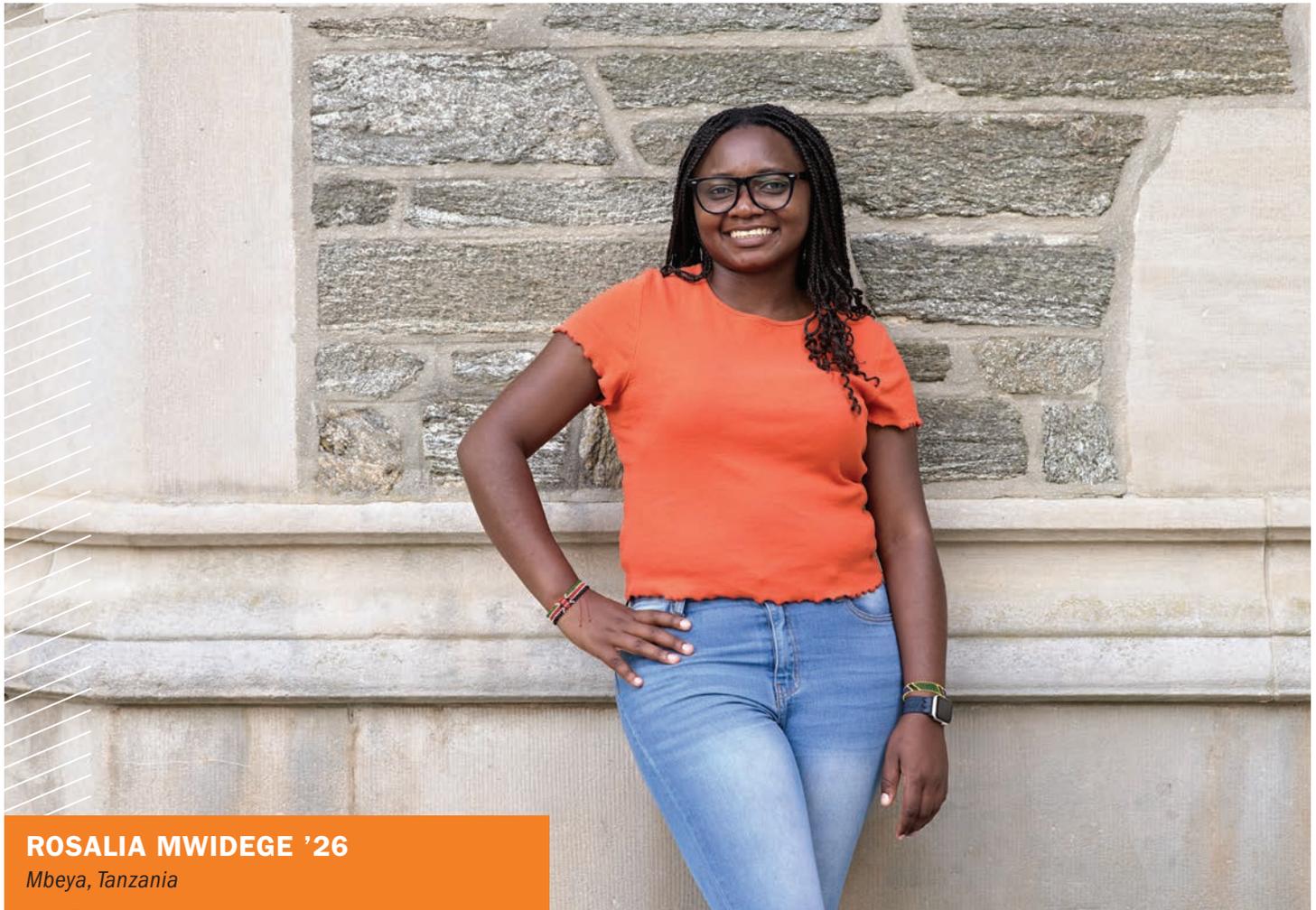
AMELIA MELENDEZ '28

Trenton, New Jersey

WHY MY SCHOLARSHIP MATTERS

AMELIA MELENDEZ grew up in a part of the Dominican Republic countryside where electricity and water weren't always available and resources for education were scarce. She had a curious mind, an aptitude for math and an eagerness to learn. After a six-year wait for her green card, Melendez arrived in Trenton, New Jersey, with her family and began working to save money to attend Mercer County Community College. In four years, she earned associate degrees in mathematics, physics and engineering while balancing full-time work and serving as the primary English speaker for her family. Then Melendez was accepted into Princeton's Transfer Scholars Initiative. "I had never considered Princeton because I thought it was too expensive," she said. Princeton's full financial aid package allowed her to focus solely on academics for the first time in her life. Considering physics and mathematics as majors, Melendez is passionate about plasma fusion and clean-energy research. Her goal is to attend graduate school before embarking on a career developing sustainable energy solutions for underserved communities. "I grew up in a community where we didn't have electricity most of the time," she said. "The idea of bringing electricity to low-income communities sounds like a nice fulfillment project."

"The support I've received from Princeton is life-changing. I can focus on my studies without having to also work."



ROSALIA MWIDEGE '26

Mbeya, Tanzania

WHY MY SCHOLARSHIP MATTERS

“I never knew any woman who did computer science in my community. If it was not for Princeton, I wouldn’t have thought I could do computer science.”

ROSALIA MWIDEGE, the daughter of two teachers from an agrarian community in Tanzania, grew up believing teaching and farming were her two career choices. Her trajectory changed after securing a full scholarship to a United World College and befriending classmates from multiple nations who planned to study in America. When she began her own college search, one factor stood out: affordability. She set her sights on Princeton because of its financial aid program for international students. “Never in my dreams would I have imagined getting into the No. 1 university in the world with my costs covered,” she said. She initially planned to follow in the footsteps of her father, an economics professor, but she discovered computer science at Princeton and developed a passionate interest in the study of artificial intelligence. Now a senior, she’s combining both interests through her thesis on machine-learning models for stock portfolio management. “The Princeton I know is different than what people see in the college ratings,” she said. “It’s beyond the excellence that people know about, because I know the feeling of being here.”



D'SCHON SIMMONS '27

Corpus Christi, Texas

FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT D'Schon Simmons knows that achieving big dreams requires persistence. His journey to Princeton began in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he took classes at his local community college while in high school so he could earn an associate's degree alongside his diploma. He wanted to attend a top university, and he had expected to pay back college loans for years to do so. "Affordability was always something like a monster that was hiding in the closet," he said. "When I realized that Princeton had such a robust assistance program and that attending wouldn't risk being in debt, it was a dream come true, truly." Now president of his Princeton class and a residential college adviser at Mathey College, Simmons plans to attend law school and go into public service after graduation. His passion for criminal justice reform has taken him from studying in Greece to working with the United Nations in Geneva. "Not every university gets invited to work at the U.N. and not every student gets to work with professors who have such expertise," Simmons said. "Studying abroad was literally priceless."

WHY MY SCHOLARSHIP MATTERS

"There are so many resources on campus here to assist students that I just was not expecting — whether it's mentorship, whether it's financial assistance, whether it's one-on-one counseling."



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY is pleased to share the names of recently established scholarships awarded to students for the first time during the current academic year. We are grateful that these funds help the University meet the full financial needs of all undergraduate students.

- The Martin C. Battestin '52 Scholarship
- The Ryan '98 and Jennifer '98 Bergsieker Scholarship Fund
- The Class of 1979 Scholarship Fund
- The Class of 1993 Venture Forward Scholarship Fund
- The Class of 1997 Scholarship
- The Class of 2027 Scholarship Fund
- The Elizabeth McVey Dawson '98 Memorial Scholarship Fund
- The Matthew D. Eisaman, Ph.D. '00 S00 Memorial Scholarship
- The Katherine Ferguson '00 Scholarship Fund
- The Williams Fitzgibbons Venture Forward Scholarship Fund
- The Friel Family Scholarship Fund
- The Gabelli Foundation Scholarship Fund
- The Laura M. Gaffney '03 and David P. Willard '06 Scholarship Fund
- The John and Helen Huang Family Scholarship Fund
- The Arrengton Fawn Jackson Scholarship Fund
- The Ginny and Arden Lee '98 Family Scholarship Fund
- The Robert K. Lee MD '94 Optimistic Future Scholarship Fund
- The Dr. Eve A. Lehrman Venture Forward Scholarship Fund
- The Lightdale Family Scholarship Fund
- The Malman/Phillips/Warren Scholarship Fund
- The Hussein Malik '94 Scholarship
- The Maple Leaf Scholarship
- The Lewis A. Miller '49 & Jean C. Miller S49 Scholarship
- The Palumbo Family Venture Forward Scholarship Fund
- The Margot Albeck Phillips '99 and David Phillips '99 Scholarship Fund
- The Rockefeller Family Scholarship Fund
- The Route 1 Scholarship Fund
- The Betty and Richard Scherrer Scholarship
- The Shah Family Venture Forward Scholarship Fund
- The Dorie and Chad Smith Family Scholarship
- The Raymond Chao-Kwang Sung '46 Scholarship Fund
- The Patricia and Gary Takacs '72 Venture Forward Scholarship Fund
- The Vahabzadeh Family Scholarship
- The Theodore Xi Zhou '83 and Denise Ding Liu S83 Thanksgiving Scholarship Fund