

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

# VANDERBILT STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD (VSLA)

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**APPLICATIONS DUE BY 11:59 PM ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH**

*The purpose of the Vanderbilt Student Leadership Award is to both invest in and nurture the potential of students with demonstrated need. Award winners would ideally be students who are already leaders in some capacity but hold the potential and drive to further advance and excel in their organization(s), given the time and resources to do so. The program would award a stipend of up to \$1,000 to its finalists, simultaneously allowing students with demonstrated need to work fewer hours and freeing up more time for them to pursue higher levels of leadership. With this being VSLA's first application cycle, there are bound to be questions, and we are here to answer them! We invite all eligible students to apply.*

## Q&As

### **WHY DO I NEED TO HAVE A JOB TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS AWARD?**

The award is not only a means to recognize students who face financial barriers in their dedication to leadership, it is also a monetary award to alleviate that burden. To that end, the stipend serves to provide the student with the money they would receive from working a certain amount of hours so that they can instead invest those hours in leadership and student organizations.

### **WHAT IF I HAVE AN OFF-CAMPUS JOB?**

Students with off-campus jobs are eligible for VSLA. As long as you at least six hours per week and can provide a reference from the employer, you can apply for the award.

### **WHAT IF I CAN'T REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOURS I WORK?**

Positions in which one cannot work fewer hours, such as a Resident Advisor or Research Assistant, are ineligible to be used as a form of employment to meet the eligibility criteria.

### **WILL I HAVE TO BE PUBLICLY RECOGNIZED IF I RECEIVE THE AWARD?**

No. If you are a recipient of the award, you will have the option of choosing whether or not to be recognized as an award winner at Vanderbilt Awards for Leadership Excellence as indicated in your application for VSLA.

## HOW IS THE AWARD DISTRIBUTED?

The award is distributed in the Fall and Spring semesters. The student receives up to \$500 for the fall semester and \$500 for the spring semester, provided that the student is still meeting the requirements of the award. (Please ensure the direct deposit information on your YES account is up to date.)

## WHAT IF I DECIDE TO DROP MY POSITION IN MY ORGANIZATION?

You will no longer be eligible for the second installment of the award.

## WHAT COUNTS AS A LEADERSHIP POSITION?

All executive board positions for registered student organizations as well as all VSG positions are recognized as eligible leadership position for the 2018-2019 VSLA application cycle.

## WILL THIS AWARD AFFECT MY FINANCIAL AID?

The purpose of the award is to reduce financial burdens amongst students with demonstrated need and enhance their opportunities for leadership. We will work with the Financial Aid Office to the best of our capabilities to ensure that potential award recipients' aid packages will not be affected by our award. Should your aid package face any potential changes, the Office of Financial Aid will explain any implications before the award is allocated. Please contact financial aid at [finaid@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:finaid@vanderbilt.edu) with any other questions.