

Page 1: Welcome



The Carson Scholars Program is dedicated to training the next generation of environmental researchers in the art of public communication. Throughout the scholarship year, Carson Scholars work closely with faculty mentors and invited experts who provide hands-on training and other resources to develop skills, strategies, and products to effectively convey the value of their research and enhance their skills in communicating environmental scholarship to a variety of audiences. The Scholars then put their training to work, completing an article, video, exhibit, public presentation, website, blog, or other communication project, by the end of the academic year.

Included in the scholarship is a \$5,500 award for the University of Arizona (UA) graduate students selected for the Carson Scholars Program.

Current UArizona PhD students, JD students, or Master's students in terminal Master's Creative or Professional programs are eligible to apply.

2026–2027 Carson Scholars Program Application

- Complete the application survey, including submission of your personal statement and CV, to apply for the 2026–2027 Carson Scholar cohort. **Once you complete the form, you will be unable to go back.**
- Ensure that your faculty references are aware of your request prior to submitting. They will receive an email to submit their reference after the application period is closed.
- For full eligibility requirements, application instructions, and program benefits, please visit carsonscholars.arizona.edu/apply.
- The deadline to submit your application is **Monday February 16th, 2026 at 11:59pm.**
- Please reach out to Maia Schneider at maiaschneider@arizona.edu for questions.

Page 2: Personal and Academic Information

Full legal name (First, middle, last – needed for verification purposes):

Preferred name:

University of Arizona email address:

Student ID Number:

Your college (ex: College of Science, College of Humanities, etc):

Your academic department/program (ex: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, School of Music, etc.):

Name of degree in your program (Ex: Anthropology, Biosystems Engineering, etc):

Degree type (Ph.D, MFA, JD, etc.) :

Graduate minors or certificates (if applicable):

Degree start date (ex: Fall 2024):

Expected graduation date (ex: Spring 2029):

Primary advisor(s):

Briefly describe your thesis or dissertation topic (1-3 sentences):

What stage(s) of your research and graduate degree will you be in during the 2026-2027 academic year?

- ☐ Completing core classes
- ☐ Creating research proposal
- ☐ Data collection and analysis
- ☐ Writing and revision
- ☐ Thesis / dissertation defense

Have you applied for the Carson Scholars Program in the past?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Page 3: Demographic Information

What gender do you identify with?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary / third gender
- ☐ Other (please elaborate)
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

What are your pronouns (ex: they/he, she/her/ella, etc):

Our program aims to engage and support students with underrepresented identities in environmental professions. Do you identify as any of the following? Select all that apply:

- ☐ Person of color
- ☐ Indigenous

- ☐ LGBTQ2s+
- ☐ Person with a disability
- ☐ First-generation student
- ☐ International student
- ☐ Other (please elaborate)
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Page 4: Carson Scholars Participation

The Carson Scholars Program has several participation requirements including:

- An overnight retreat at Biosphere 2 on **Saturday August 29th - Sunday August 30th, 2026**
- Monthly workshops on the third **Friday of each month, 10am-12pm**
- Presenting at least one public talk to a non-expert audience
- Completing and publishing a communication project geared toward non-expert audiences
 - This can be a written article, creative writing piece, video, podcast episode, photo essay, etc.

Please describe how you will manage your time, tasks, and deadlines in order to fully engage with the Carson Scholars Program requirements during the year:

What type of communication project would you want to publish as a Carson Scholar? (this does not have to be a final decision – please select any project type you might be interested in):

- ☐ Written short-form essay, article, or op-ed
- ☐ Creative writing piece or collection of pieces (poetry, prose, etc)
- ☐ Static visual piece such as a photo essay, illustrative book, or infographic series
- ☐ Audio/video piece such as a narrated video, podcast episode, or series of social media reels
- ☐ Other (please elaborate)

Page 5: Application Documents and References

Please submit a personal statement: approximately 750-word essay containing the following (in no particular order):

- A description of your current or intended research/scholarship area targeted to a layperson audience (try to avoid too much jargon and explain terms where necessary).

- Your communication interests and experience with respect to environmental topics and those areas where you seek to improve your skills).
- Your ability to work with, contribute to, and learn from a vibrant cohort of peers and mentors.
- How a Carson scholarship will help you develop various skill-sets to communicate and translate your research to broad, diverse audiences.

[upload button]

Please submit your Resume or CV (up to 5 pages)

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Please submit the full names of your faculty and professional references and their email addresses in the designated boxes below. At least one reference should be from your primary faculty advisor or another UA faculty member who is very familiar with your scholarly work.

References will receive an email from Maia Schneider requesting their recommendation after the student application period has closed.

Name of faculty advisor/professor:

Email of faculty advisor/professor:

Name of second faculty or professional reference:

Email of second faculty or professional reference:

Page 6: Submit your Application

You are about to submit your application to the Carson Scholars Program for the 2026-2027 academic year. Once you have submitted this application, you cannot go back to change or edit it.

Please take a moment to review your application to ensure all parts are filled out correctly and that all necessary documents are attached.

When you're done reviewing, click the arrow at the bottom of this page to submit your final application.



Thank you for your interest in the Carson Scholars Program! Your submission has been received, for additional questions, please reach out to Maia Schneider at maiaschneider@arizona.edu.