

# **2026 Plastino Scholars Application**

## **College of Arts & Sciences, University of Delaware**

Due by: December 9, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.

- Email your completed application as a PDF to Kim Reimer, Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, reimerk@udel.edu.
- Please inform your recommenders to send their letters to reimerk@udel.edu.
- Read PART I carefully before proceeding with PART II and III of the application.
- You must provide your electronic signature below with your completed application. Your signature indicates that you have read this application in full and, if named as a Plastino Scholar, that you will abide by the provisions stated below.

### **PART I: PLASTINO SCHOLAR REGULATIONS**

Each scholar will be responsible for making their own experience arrangements. Each scholar takes full responsibility for these arrangements and for their own conduct and safety during the Plastino Scholars experience. Each scholar will be required to sign a form releasing the University from responsibility for property damage, personal injury, accidents, illness, death, or other harm that might occur because of the Plastino Scholars experience. Each scholar will be required to carry sufficient medical insurance for the period of the award. If the experience includes travel, that insurance must include a specific provision for evacuation to a location for appropriate medical treatment, if necessary. Each scholar will complete training in Human Subjects Research or other training in ethical practice if the proposed project involves research of that nature. If the scholar intends to travel to a part of the world which, at the time of application or at the time of the Plastino Experience, is on the U.S. State Department “watch list” for possible hazardous travel, the University may require further documentation and evaluation of the proposal. All travel may be subject to University approval depending on pandemic advice and other kinds of restrictions.

The Plastino Scholars Selection Committee may take the budgeted cost of the proposed experience into account in determining who receives a Plastino Scholar Award and how many are chosen each year. The Committee’s goal is to invest a fixed award budget each year as wisely as possible. The Committee makes the final decision as to which students are to be named Plastino Scholars, but it does NOT determine the amount of stipend for each scholar. That determination is made by the Dean after consultation with each scholar when experience plans are finalized. The amount of the actual stipend may be less or more than that budgeted in the application. The personal financial situation of the applicant or his/her family will not be used as a basis for selecting scholars or determining the amount of their stipends.

Categories of appropriate expenditures relating to the experience will, of course, vary from scholar to scholar. They may include, but are not necessarily limited to, living expenses, travel, artistic or scientific supplies, and computer time. Generally, equipment that the Scholar intends to keep or can be used after the Plastino Scholars experience is disallowed. Scholars are required to spend funds only for purposes reasonably related to the Plastino Scholars experience.

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Applicants currently receiving need-based scholarships or financial aid should contact the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid to make sure that receipt of a Plastino Scholars Award will not affect their continued eligibility for a scholarship or need-based financial aid.

Within one month of the conclusion of the Plastino Scholars experience, each Plastino Scholar will submit to the Office of the Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, a three-page written report on the Scholars experience that addresses the following two questions: (1) What did I do? (2) What did it do to me? These reports will be circulated to the Selection Committee and others throughout the University.

During the Plastino experience, scholars may be requested to keep a blog for others to read or post aspects of their trip on UD-sponsored social media. Returning scholars may be requested to speak about their project to one or more campus groups and serve as “Plastino Ambassadors” during their remaining time at the University of Delaware. Returning scholars will also attend an awards ceremony to be held each spring. On that occasion, newly named scholars will describe the experiences they are about to undertake, and those completing experiences will present their projects.

By providing my signature below, I state that I have read the above provisions of the Plastino Scholars Program and that, if selected as a Plastino Scholar, I agree to abide by them.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **PART II: YOUR PROPOSAL**

#### **Project Title and Abstract**

Please begin your proposal with a title and an abstract (250 words or less) for your proposed experience. In the abstract be sure to clearly state the purpose and nature of your project, when it will occur, the locale where you plan to travel, and organizations you plan to partner with (if applicable).

#### **Personal Statement and Plastino Scholars Experience Proposal**

Attach a statement that describes in full the experience (up to 5,000 words) you propose and cite evidence of your qualifications for being selected as a Plastino Scholar. If your proposed experience requires obtaining special permission from companies, archives, government agencies, faculty members, or other individuals/ organizations, letters of support or authorization should be attached or your plans to obtain them should be described.

Please do not submit slides, tapes, examples of written work or other supplementary materials with your application. If the Selection Committee wishes to examine such materials, you will be contacted.

#### **Plastino Scholars Experience Budget**

Attach your budget to your Plastino application. As specifically as possible, please list ALL the expenses connected with the experience you describe. Wherever possible, these should be actual rather than estimated expenses. Examples of allowable expenses include travel, food, living expenses, SIM cards, local transportation, visa/passports, and immunizations. Expenses that fund outside organizations will not be considered (this includes volunteer or service-learning organizations that require sponsorship or a contribution to participate). Except in unusual circumstances, the maximum individual award will be \$6,000.

Questions concerning acceptable budget items should be directed to Dr. Patricia Sloane-White.

#### **Résumé**

Attach your current personal résumé to your Plastino application, listing work experience, campus and community activities, and honors and awards received in college and high school. Be sure to include your home and campus address.

#### **Transcript**

Attach a copy of your current University transcript. Unofficial transcripts will be accepted.

#### **Signature**

Please sign and scan PART I and return it with your completed application.

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### **PART III: Supporting Letters from Two Recommenders**

Give a copy of your COMPLETED application and a copy of the Recommendation Request Form to two individuals who are in a position to (1) assess the talent/promise you cite as the basis for your consideration as a Plastino Scholar, and (2) comment on the likely benefit and feasibility of the Scholar experience you propose. At least one of your recommenders must be a university professor or instructor (not a teaching assistant).

The letters must arrive by the application deadline, December 9, 2025.

Letters of support must be received separately from your application and must include the Recommendation Request Form (see next page). Scan the signed form and include it with your materials or request the recommender to do so.

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### Recommendation Form

The Plastino Scholars Program recognizes undergraduate students at UD who possess extraordinary ability, promise, and imagination. The grants support self-designed, off-campus learning experiences that make a transformational difference in the lives of Plastino Scholars and enable them to pursue a passionate interest to a degree not otherwise possible. As part of the selection process, applicants are required to obtain letters in support of their applications from two individuals who are in a position to (1) assess the talent/promise the applicant cites as the basis for consideration as a Plastino Scholar, and (2) comment on the likely benefit and feasibility of the Scholar experience the applicant proposes.

TO:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title of the Individual Writing in Support of Plastino Scholar Application

FROM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Plastino Scholar Applicant

As an applicant for a Plastino Scholars Award at the University of Delaware, I am asking you to write a letter in support of my application.

In order for my application to be considered, this form and your letter must be received by the Plastino Scholars Program by December 9, 2025, . Please send materials (scanned or pdf) to Kim Reimer at [reimerk@udel.edu](mailto:reimerk@udel.edu)

I have provided you with my completed Plastino Scholars proposal for your information. Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act,

I WAIVE my right to inspect your letter in support of my application. \_\_\_\_\_

I DO NOT WAIVE my right to inspect your letter in support of my application. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please email the recommendation by December 9, 2025, by 5:00 p.m. to Kim Reimer, Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, [reimerk@udel.edu](mailto:reimerk@udel.edu).