

# **Guidelines for the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Water Professionals Scholarship**

## **Program Overview**

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) Water Professionals Scholarship was created to assist qualified individuals in their pursuit of a higher education and a potential career in Texas water resources management, conservation, or stewardship. The scholarship will be in an amount up to \$10,000 and will be awarded for the 2024-2025 school year (includes summer 2024). One or more scholarships may be awarded each year. An individual who has previously been awarded the UGRA Water Professionals Scholarship is eligible to reapply provided they continue to meet all eligibility criteria.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

In order to be eligible for the Water Professionals Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a legal Texas resident and a U.S. Citizen.
2. Have graduated from a high school in Kerr County or an adjacent county and/or has resided in Kerr County during the last six years. Preference will be given to students who graduated from a Kerr County high school.
3. Be a full-time student at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas enrolled in at least twelve hours per semester.
4. Be a Schreiner University student with the equivalent of at least 60 semester hours of credit by May 15, 2024.
5. Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
6. Be pursuing a degree in natural resources, environmental science, engineering, chemistry, biology, education, or similar with emphasis on water resources management.
7. Submit the completed UGRA Water Professionals Scholarship application (Exhibit A) prior to March 15, 2024.
8. Be available to complete an interview with the UGRA Outreach and Education Committee when requested.
9. Be available and complete 45 hours during two of the following semesters: summer 2024, fall 2024, or spring 2025 (90 hours total) as an unpaid UGRA intern assisting the Natural Resources or Environmental Laboratory Departments in fulfilling the mission of UGRA.

## **Selection and Award Process**

Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic achievement, leadership, community activities, personal essays, letters of recommendation, and potential to succeed in a water resources related career in Texas.

The UGRA Outreach and Education Committee will select the scholarship recipient (subject to the approval of the UGRA Board of Directors). No member of the UGRA Board of Directors or their immediate families shall be eligible for the scholarship during their tenure on the UGRA Board. The Outreach and Education Committee and the UGRA Board of Directors have the sole discretion for selecting recipients based on the criteria set forth in these guidelines. UGRA retains the right to withhold scholarship awards in any year if no candidate is determined to be qualified. Previous UGRA Water Professionals Scholarship recipients can reapply for a second scholarship, but students are only eligible to be awarded the scholarship twice.

Scholarship recipients will be required to give a presentation to the UGRA Board of Directors describing their internship experience with UGRA. Additionally, scholarship recipients will be required to submit an exit letter to UGRA at the conclusion of their internship.

UGRA shall notify the chosen scholarship recipient(s) of its decision after the May meeting of the UGRA Board of Directors. The first scholarship payment of up to \$5,000 will be made after UGRA verifies that the selected student is enrolled full-time at Schreiner University for the 2024-2025 school year (includes summer 2024) and the student has committed to complete the 45-hour internship during the summer 2024 or fall 2024 semester. This information must be verified and received by UGRA at least three weeks prior to the start of the semester.

The second payment of up to \$5,000 will be made after the student successfully completes the first semester internship, submits an updated transcript to UGRA demonstrating the maintenance of a 3.0 GPA or better and completion of course work, proof of enrollment for the following semester (either fall 2024 or spring 2025), and a commitment to complete the remaining 45-hour internship during the following semester. This information must be verified and received by UGRA at least three weeks prior to the start of the semester.

All scholarship checks will be made payable to Schreiner University for the student and will be distributed in accordance with the university financial aid department. Scholarship checks will not be given to the recipients. Acceptance of the scholarship constitutes permission for UGRA to promote the name and/or likeness of scholarship recipient.

UGRA reserves the right to reject any application based on fraud, irregularities, lack of budgeted funds, or otherwise as determined in UGRA's sole discretion. The scholarship is funded with monies budgeted for the program by the UGRA Board of Directors and no other monies will be utilized for payment. The scholarship will be awarded without regard to race, gender, national origin, disability, or religion.

### **Renewal, Modification, or Termination of Program**

The UGRA Outreach and Education Committee will review the scholarship program guidelines and budget annually and recommend significant modifications to the Board as needed. The Board of Directors of UGRA may determine in its sole and absolute discretion whether to renew, modify,

or terminate this scholarship program at any time, and nothing herein shall be construed to grant any person any vested right to payment from UGRA.

**EXHIBIT A**



**Upper Guadalupe River Authority  
Water Professionals Scholarship Application**

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**Date Submitted:**

**Student Name:**

**Student ID#:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Birth Date:**

**Current Mailing Address:**

**If selected as the scholarship recipient, would you be able to present evidence of your U.S. citizenship and proof of your legal right to reside in Texas? Yes  No**

**Will you be attending Schreiner University as a full-time student (at least 12 credit hours) during the 2024-2025 school year? Yes  No**

**If yes, what will your status be during the 2024-2025 school year?**

Undergraduate Junior  Undergraduate Senior

**For which two semesters are you applying?**

Summer 2024  Fall 2024  Spring 2025

**Field of Study:**

**Anticipated Date of Graduation:**

**Current GPA:**

**Are you a previous recipient of the UGRA Water Professionals Scholarship?**

Yes  No

**If yes, when did you receive the scholarship:**

**On a separate sheet(s) of paper please respond to the following:**

1. List any awards and/or scholarships you have received.
2. Describe your leadership experience including an example of an accomplishment that demonstrates your leadership ability.

## **EXHIBIT A**

3. Describe your involvement in community activities, and membership in professional organizations.
4. How would this scholarship help you attain your educational and professional goals?
5. Provide three reasons why you would like to stay in Texas after graduation.
6. Respond to the following questions about your future career goals as an essay (limit 500 words). What are your future career goals? How will your degree prepare you to improve management and conservation of water resources in Texas?

**Please attach the following items to this application form:**

1. An official college/university transcript showing graduate and undergraduate degrees, courses, credits, and grades from each school you have attended.
2. Documentation of Kerr County high school graduation or residence in Kerr County during the last six years.

**Additional information requested:**

1. Two letters of reference submitted directly to UGRA by the person writing the letter.

**Certification**

In submitting this application, I certify the information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I have read and understand the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Water Professionals Scholarship guidelines. If awarded a scholarship, I will provide UGRA with information to verify my full-time enrollment at Schreiner University by the deadline stated in the guidelines and I will commit to completing 45 hours as an intern at UGRA during two semesters (90 hours total). False information submitted as part of this application will result in the revocation of any scholarship granted.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Application must be received by UGRA by 5 p.m. on March 15, 2024.**

**Submit application by mail or by email:**

Upper Guadalupe River Authority  
Water Professionals Scholarship  
125 Lehmann Drive, Suite 100  
Kerrville, TX 78028

UGRA staff contact: Shelby Taber (staber@ugra.org; 830-896-5445)

***Incomplete applications will not be considered***