

Could your ocean career start with a scholarship?

The Women Divers Hall of Fame is known for celebrating women who have shaped the underwater world. But its 2027 scholarship and training-grant programme carries an important message: many opportunities are open to women, men and non-binary applicants alike.

If you are planning to learn to dive, develop your skills or pursue marine research, the application window is now open. Applications close on 30 November 2026 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time (11:00 pm Central European Time).

More than a Hall of Fame

Founded in 1999, the [Women Divers Hall of Fame](#) (WDHOF) recognises women whose work has advanced diving in science and medicine, commercial and military diving, arts and media, exploration, education, safety and conservation.

Its work goes beyond recognition. WDHOF also supports the next generation of divers, researchers and ocean advocates through mentorship and funding. Since 2002, it has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships and grants. For 2027, the programme includes 19 scholarships and training grants, worth more than \$100,000 in total.

For the diving community, this matters because funding can remove a practical barrier: the cost of initial certification, advanced education, fieldwork or graduate research. It can also offer a route into a network of people working across marine science, conservation, exploration and dive education.

Opportunities open to all genders

Several awards explicitly welcome women, men and non-binary applicants. Eligibility differs by opportunity, and applicants can submit one application per cycle.

Opportunity	Qty	Value each	Open to	What it supports
Basic Dive Training Grants	9*	\$1,200	8 Women only 1 All	Initial scuba training
Advanced Dive Training Grants	5*	\$1,500	4 Women only 1 All	Further training for certified divers
Dive Instructor Training Grants	2	\$1,500 / \$2,000	Women only	Become an instructor (\$1,500) / further education for active instructors (\$2,000)
Technical Diving Training Grant	1	\$2,000	Women only	Mixed gas, rebreather, cave; TDI certification
Underwater Photography Training Grants	2	\$1,500	Women only (1 U.S. only)	Course and camera equipment for certified divers
Undergraduate Marine Research Internship	1	\$1,500	All (U.S. only)	Internship for undergraduates
Undergraduate Marine Conservation Scholarships	2	\$1,500	1 Women only 1 All	Undergraduate conservation research
Graduate Marine Conservation Scholarships	9	\$2,000	Women only	Graduate conservation research
Oceans and Human Health Graduate Scholarship	1	\$2,500	All	Graduate work on human health and the ocean
Captain Wayne Hasson Memorial Fellowship	1	\$10,000	All	Graduate research in climate change
Laurel Clark Sea to Space Physiology Research Grants	2	\$5,000	All	Diving, altitude and space physiology
Cecelia Connelly Memorial Graduate Scholarships in Underwater Archaeology	2	\$2,500	Women only	Graduate study leading to a career in underwater archaeology
J. Berman Memorial Grant for Sea Turtle Conservation	1	\$2,000	Women only	Hands-on sea turtle conservation activity
Bonnie Cardone Memorial Scholarship for Ocean-Minded Content Creators	1	\$2,000	Women only (U.S./Canada)	Journalism, photography, videography or graphic design studies
Jennifer King Memorial Dive Training Grants	2	\$1,200 / \$1,500	All (U.S. only)	Basic or advanced, ROTC or military academy

Plus up to 20 additional basic or advanced dive training grants, open to all, funded by donations to WDHOF.

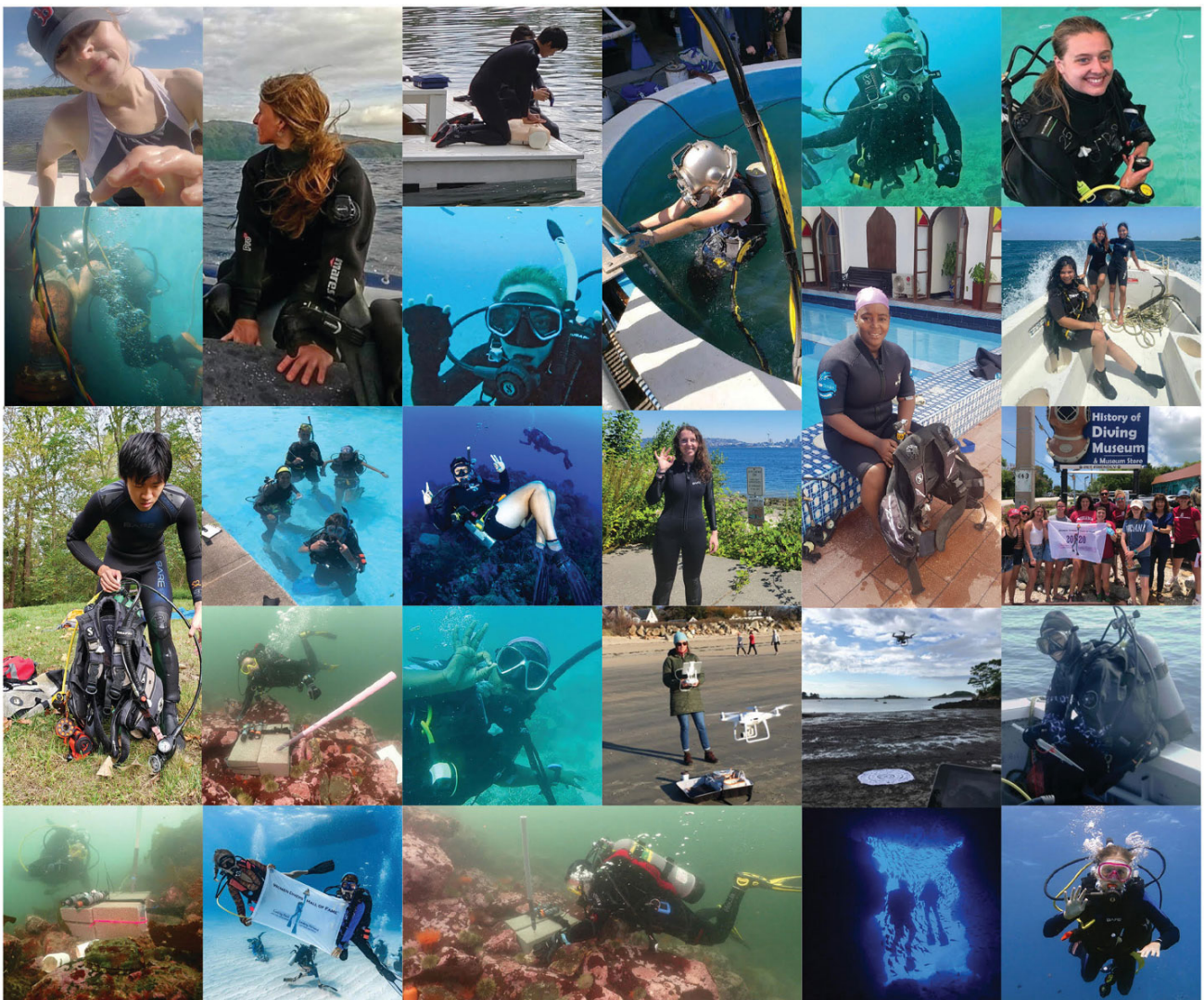
Some awards remain reserved for women, including commercial and hardhat diving, underwater archaeology, sea-turtle conservation and graduate marine conservation. But the list of gender-inclusive opportunities is substantial.

The best starting point is the online eligibility questionnaire, which matches applicants with the awards they qualify for.

Dates and key rules

- Applications open: 1 October 2026
- Deadline: 30 November 2026, 5:00 pm Eastern Time / 11:00 pm Central European Time
- Award announcements: Mid-February 2027
- Funds disbursed: March 2027
- Recommendations: Two letters are required, and late letters are not accepted
- Application limit: One scholarship or one training grant per cycle
- Use of funds: Awards must be used by 31 August 2028 and cannot cover costs incurred before March 2027

Ask referees early and give them a clear briefing, including your proposed project or training plan and the deadline. Recommenders have a mysterious talent for vanishing in late November.



How to apply

Everything happens online, beginning with an eligibility questionnaire that matches your profile with the awards for which you qualify:

1. On or after October 1, head to the [WDHOF grants portal](#).
2. Register and complete the eligibility questionnaire.
3. Review your matches, select the opportunity that best fits your plans and submit your application.

One last thing

Maybe you have been thinking about learning to dive for years. Maybe you are ready for more advanced training, or you have a research idea that deserves the chance to become a real project. Wherever you are starting from, don't assume this opportunity isn't for you. The name on the door says "Women", but the welcome mat is out for divers of every kind.