

## **Dentsply Sirona Freedom Scholarship Guidelines**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** March 6, 2026

### **PURPOSE**

According to the American Dental Association, the average student loan debt for a dentist is approximately \$300,000, with student debt for dental specialists, far exceeding that amount. This debt is a factor in every decision of a new dentist's life. This scholarship for endodontic residents would alleviate this future burden by providing financial assistance toward tuition to individuals with merit.

Three \$50,000 scholarships will be awarded annually during the five-year pilot phase of this new program (2024 – 2028). Scholarship funds are intended to cover the cost of post-graduate endodontic tuition, courses, equipment, books, and/or fees for training related purposes, or in the case of residents nearing graduation, to pay towards student debt. A formal application and review process is outlined below, including eligibility and application requirements.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- All applicants must be a current student/post-graduate resident of a CODA-accredited Advanced Education Program in Endodontics.
- Applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States or Canada.
- Eligible applicants may apply during any year of residency to cover eligible costs in the following academic year, or in the case of residents in their final year of training, to cover costs for that final year.
- Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the institution and will only cover training-related costs including tuition, courses, equipment, books, and/or fees, as billed by the institution.
- In the case of residents in their final year of training, funds can be paid to the individual, in which case it will become taxable income.
- Residents enrolled in any program where tuition and fees do not exist or are paid in full are not eligible.
- Applicant may not be an employee of or influencer for Dentsply Sirona
- Applicant may not be a family member of an employee or influencer for Dentsply Sirona
- Applicant must be an AAE member
- Applicant must have 3.1 GPA or higher in dental school and thus far in endo residency (transcripts required). If applicant's dental school and/or endodontic residency does not utilize numerical GPAs, please submit a letter from your dental school and/or post-graduate program director (endo) stating that you were a passing student in good academic standing (transcripts should also be included in this case).
- Only one award per applicant in their lifetime

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. [Online Application](#)
2. Personal Statement (two-page limit)  
Personal statement should outline the applicant's story and the reason(s) they are an excellent candidate for this scholarship. This may include merit, life challenges, financial burdens, career aspirations/plans, and/or other reasons.
3. Two [Letters of Recommendation](#)  
One letter should highlight the academic and personal knowledge of the candidate. The other letter should demonstrate the institutional support for the candidate. Both shall be submitted directly to the Foundation, not to the applicant.
  - From the Post-graduate Endodontic Program Director
  - From dental school or post-graduate program faculty member
4. Official Transcripts  
All pre-doctoral and post-graduate program (dental school and residency) transcripts must be provided. If pre-doctoral education was completed outside of the USA or Canada, transcripts should be translated to English using credentialing agencies, World Education Service (WES), Education system Exchange (ESE) or other services are recommended. Transcripts are required.
5. Statement of Tuition and Fees  
Official documentation from school stating tuition and associated fees for the post-graduate program
6. Curriculum Vitae  
A written summary of the applicant's career, qualifications, and education

Selected candidates will be invited to an interview with the selection committee, who will recommend finalists to the Foundation for Endodontics Board of Trustees for final approval.

*The Foundation encourages all applicants to be familiar with their commitments to existing student loans. If student loans are secured prior to the receipt of this scholarship and they are no longer needed once the DS Freedom Scholarship is received, it is the resident's responsibility to notify their school's Office of Financial Aid to reduce the loan amount. The Foundation does not take responsibility for any repayment of loans due to the timeline/receipt of this scholarship.*

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Applications will be reviewed by a committee selected by the president of the Foundation for Endodontics. Committee composition will include the President or President-elect of the Foundation, two AAE members at large that would bring expertise to the student debt crisis, a new practitioner affiliated with the Foundation or AAE New Practitioner and Resident Committee and one Dentsply Sirona representative. Finalists are interviewed by the selection committee.

The Foundation awards the scholarships, which are announced at the APICES meeting.

**TIMELINE**

Applications open January 1, 2026. The deadline for applications is March 6, 2026. The selection committee meets to select finalists following the deadline. Applicants selected to advance to the interview stage will be notified shortly thereafter; virtual interviews will be conducted in late May/early June. Applicants will be notified of their status shortly thereafter. The recipients will be recognized at APICES. Applications must be submitted [online](#). No paper, fax, or email applications will be accepted.