



## **Special Operations Fund Exeter Summer Program Scholarship**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Special Operations Fund (SOFund) in partnership with Phillips Exeter Academy is proud to announce the 2025 Exeter Summer Program Scholarship (Exeter Summer) in Exeter, New Hampshire, for children of active duty or retired service members of the special mission units supported by Special Operations Fund. 2025 Exeter Summer dates are from **July 6 to August 6, 2026**.

The Exeter Summer scholarship (\$11,250) includes tuition, room and board, books, along with a transportation stipend. The transportation reimbursement is for up to \$1,000, and includes travel for the student and one parent, and lodging one night before and one night after Exeter Summer. Exeter provides students with a Lion Card preloaded with funds to cover the cost of books and fees. Parents have the option to add additional funds for use in other areas of campus (café and personal items in the bookstore).

Exeter Academy was founded in 1781 by Dr. John and Elizabeth Phillips and has attained the reputation as one of the nation's finest college preparatory schools. Every summer for five weeks (from early July to early August), Exeter welcomes students from around the United States and over 40 nations worldwide. Students include those entering their junior or senior year following summer school.

Students reside and attend all classes at Exeter. Dorm mates from around the world share in many activities such as social gatherings, and off-campus outings.

Students select three classes from the over 100 offered. Choices include art, math and science, dance/visual arts, computer science, English and writing skills, health and human development, history, humanities, psychology, social science, languages and culture. Athletics are a requirement, and sports classes meet four times a week.



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Inside the classroom, students will be taught in the Harkness method, which was established and developed at Exeter in 1930 with a gift from Edward Harkness. Harkness is a teaching and learning method involving no more than 15 students seated at a large, oval table, which places students at the center of the learning process and encourages them to learn from one another. Minimal teacher intervention, along with a low student-to-teacher ratio, are keys to the method. It requires preparation, careful listening, thoughtful engagement and gives students the capacity to find their voice, build relationships, communicate effectively, manage time, and know their true self.

Academic credit will be given for completed course work, students will be evaluated for each course and awarded the following grades: With Honors, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory.

Special Operations Fund in cooperation with Exeter made a video with some of our SOFund students who were attending the summer program. Please watch attached link.

<http://bit.ly/3EVq9up> -Exeter Video link made by SOFund Students

Also attached is the 2026 Exeter Summer Brochure.

[brochure](#)

2026 course catalog

[ES-2026-UpperSchool-Catalog.pdf](#)



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The quotations below are typical of what students report upon completion of Exeter Summer School:

*“Exeter opened up a different world for me, and I would love to go to an Ivy League School now.”*

*“My life has changed so much because of this opportunity.”*

*“It’s so rewarding to be able to meet so many people from other countries and cultures and the learning process was fantastic.”*

*“The Harkness system is truly the best teaching method. Also, I met so many new people from different corners of the planet like France, Turkey, Japan, Brazil, and China. This experience is life changing!”*

*“The Exeter summer program was a wonderful gift from the SOFund and I am forever grateful. A chance to meet new people, both from the SOF families and from around the world. The culture appreciation that I gained and the shared love of learning that I found will help guide me as I continue high school and college.”*



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## INSTRUCTIONS TO THE APPLICANT

The Applicant Information Section (Section 1 of the application) must be completed to determine your eligibility to apply for the Exeter Summer Program Scholarship. **The deadline for receiving completed applications with all required information and documentation is January 12, 2026.**

Applications will only be accepted in PDF format and emailed to [nsf.scholarship160@gmail.com](mailto:nsf.scholarship160@gmail.com) no later than **January 8, 2026**.

### ELIGIBILITY:

- Child of a fallen (killed in action, killed in training, line of duty), or current and veteran Special Mission Unit warriors supported by the Night Stalker Foundation (NSF).
- Applicant must be entering their junior or senior year of high school in the fall 2025.
- A minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA as of December 2024 is required.

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Eligibility Verification: Both applicant and parent/guardian are required to read and sign the Statement of Certification in the application.
- Grade Point Average-Transcripts: Submit your high school transcript(s) to include **December 31, 2025**, that clearly states your cumulative GPA, all courses completed, and grades earned.
- Complete a one-page personal essay on the following topics:
  - Share a significant event, person, or experience that has influenced your outlook on life and your goals.
  - Explain your reasons for wanting to attend Exeter Summer.

HOW YOUR APPLICATION IS EVALUATED AND GRADED: The application contains four categories (Academic, Volunteer/Employment, Leadership, and Optional) that will be evaluated.

The Optional Category provides an opportunity to tell the SOFund anything you think they need to know about you in order to better evaluate your application, i.e., why you might not be involved in school activities, clubs, sports, work, or are unable to volunteer,

COMPLETED APPLICATION: All scholarship applications and related documentation and information must be converted to a PDF and emailed to [nsf.scholarship160@gmail.com](mailto:nsf.scholarship160@gmail.com) no later than **January 8, 2026**. The local scholarship organizations will review, redact, and email the applications to the SOFund's Programs Director. Special Operations Fund is not privy to personal identification or information.

IF SELECTED: Students are required to complete the Exeter Summer online registration and remit the nominal non-refundable registration fee (\$75.00) and complete the remaining Exeter requirements.

Please contact [nsf.scholarship160@gmail.com](mailto:nsf.scholarship160@gmail.com) with any questions.



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**Exeter Summer Program Scholarship**  
**Application Timeline**

<b>Nov 25, 2025</b>	Night Stalker Foundation receive the 2026 Exeter Summer Program Scholarship application via email  Night Stalker Foundation will distribute applications to eligible applicants.
<b>Jan. 8, 2026</b>	Night Stalker Foundation application due date.
<b>Jan 26, 2026</b>	<b>SOF</b> Programs Director notifies local scholarship organizations of their selected students. Programs Director will notify the selectees.
<b>Feb 5, 2026</b>	<b>SOF</b> Programs Director will forward the names of the students to the Exeter Summer Office.
<b>February</b>	<b>SOF</b> Programs Director will assist the selected students with the preparation and submission of the online Exeter Summer application and ensure submission before Exeter's deadline.
<b>May TBD</b>	Pre-Exeter Student Meeting.