



## VIISTA Scholarship Application Requirements

Villanova University is pleased to offer a limited number of scholarships to financially support passionate champions of immigrant justice to enroll in VIISTA. Scholarships will be awarded at the start of each semester: Fall, Spring, Summer.

- ❖ Students can only apply once to the scholarship.
- ❖ Scholarships are renewable (each scholarship covers tuition costs for Modules 1, 2 and 3. You can take time off between Modules and are not required to take the Modules consecutively as long as you complete all 3 Modules within 3 years of the start of Module 1).
- ❖ Scholarship recipients must pass all courses with a grade of C or higher in order to maintain the scholarship award.
- ❖ Scholarships are awarded to first time, new VIISTA students. Students who have prior or current enrollment in VIISTA are not eligible.
- ❖ *Application Deadlines: 8/1 for Fall Semester, 12/1 for Spring Semester, and 4/1 for Summer Semester*

**Please submit 3 Essays, using the following prompts.**

- 1) Why do you want to participate in the VIISTA program? (250-500 words)
- 2) Please provide a summary of the work you would like to be able to do post-VIISTA, including the types of cases or clients you would like to serve (maximum 250 words)
- 3) Why are you seeking scholarship funds? (250-500 words)

**Recommendation Forms (2 required) – please use the sample recommender form on page 2 of this document.**

- 1) Please submit a recommendation form from your sponsoring organization. The form should be signed by a member of the organization's leadership team and indicate that the sponsoring organization is recognized by the DOJ or willing to seek recognition and willing to provide you with a paid or volunteer placement after you complete VIISTA. Sponsoring not-for-profit organizations must be:
  - a. Recognized by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide low or no cost legal services to migrants and refugees or willing to apply for DOJ recognition; and
  - b. Willing to provide employment or a volunteer position to the scholarship winner post-graduation. You can learn more about the DOJ recognition process here: [www.justice.gov/eoir/recognition-and-accreditation-program](http://www.justice.gov/eoir/recognition-and-accreditation-program).
- 2) Please attach a recommendation form completed by someone who can speak to the following: *your passion for immigrant justice, your previous community/volunteer work, OR your experience as a student.*

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***When you have compiled your (3) essays and (2) recommendation forms,  
please email them to [cps.info@villanova.edu](mailto:cps.info@villanova.edu)  
and fill out the VIISTA Scholarship Application Form.***

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## VIISTA Scholarship Application Recommender Form

You are invited to provide a recommendation for a student applying for a scholarship to enroll in an innovative 100% online certificate program to train advocates for immigrant justice. Designed and developed by Professor Michele Pistone and offered through Villanova University, College of Professional Studies, VIISTA (Villanova Interdisciplinary Immigration Studies for Advocates) is the first program of its kind.

The goal of Professor Michele Pistone and VIISTA is to expand access to immigrant justice by training accredited representatives. To learn more about VIISTA, visit [immigrantadvocate.villanova.edu](http://immigrantadvocate.villanova.edu)

Your Name

Your Email

Your Organization/Affiliation

Is your organization recognized by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide low or no cost legal services to migrants and refugees or willing to apply for DOJ recognition?      Yes                      No

Your Title

Name of Scholarship Applicant

What is your relationship to the applicant? How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

What three words best describe the applicant and why?

Why would you recommend the applicant for the VIISTA program?

In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges or areas of new learning the applicant will face?

VIISTA is a demanding program, and most students report spending 10-15 per week on assignments. How would you describe the applicant's level of motivation and ability to fulfill the time and learning requirements to complete the VIISTA program?

What else would you like us to know about the applicant?

Your signature