



2026-27 Kinder Institute Wall Scholars

Call for Applications

Deadline: January 15, 2026

Program Overview

The Wall Scholars program provides individual mentorship and leadership development opportunities to selected outstanding students who were past participants in the Kinder Institute Constitutional Democracy Academy and plan on continuing as Constitutional Democracy majors at Mizzou.

Wall Scholars will be invited to take part in the Kinder Institute's intellectual community, where they will plan Kinder Institute high school outreach activities, learn academic success strategies, discuss career opportunities, and consider the possibility of graduate education in history, politics, or law. Scholars will have monthly check-ins with faculty mentors.

Students who are full and active participants in Wall Scholars programming and make steady progress toward their undergraduate degrees will receive a \$5,000 tuition scholarship, renewable each year for up to four years. They will also be eligible for a trip during the spring semester to somewhere deeply connected to American history and the U.S. Constitution.

How to Apply

Step 1. Prepare the application components detailed below—the academic CV and essay responses—and save them as a single PDF.

I. *Academic CV:* Provide a record of your high school accomplishments, making sure, when applicable, to include such things as GPA; ACT and/or SAT scores; AP, IB, and/or dual-credit classes taken; awards received; clubs participated in; work and/or volunteer experience.

II. *Essay Questions:* Please respond to **both** of the following questions in 300-500 words **each**.

- How have you integrated the lessons you learned at the Constitutional Democracy Academy into your life as a high school student?
- How do you see yourself engaging in the Kinder Institute's community both inside and outside of the classroom? For example, in addition to the Constitutional Democracy BA, Kinder also holds bi-weekly lectures, coordinates a Freshman Interest Group (FIG), offers several undergraduate research opportunities, and organizes opportunities to study abroad and in DC. What interests you most?

Step 2. Email your application materials to Thomas Kane, kanetc@missouri.edu. Please use the subject line "KIWS Application-Your Last Name" in your email.

ELIGIBILITY and TERMS

Eligibility

To be eligible for a 2026-27 Wall Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

—Applicants must have attended the Kinder Institute’s summer Constitutional Democracy Academy in Columbia;

—Applicants must be incoming, first-year Mizzou students who plan to declare or have declared Constitutional Democracy as their major;

—Applicants must select the Kinder Institute Democracy Lab or Honors-Kinder Institute Democracy Lab option on the FIG Preference Form as they’re applying to Mizzou and then take the Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 seminars associated with that program.

Note: Students who have already applied and/or been accepted to Mizzou but have not yet selected the Democracy Lab can still log back into their application portal and make that selection retroactively.

Terms

The **deadline to apply for a Wall Scholarship is January 15, 2026**, and notifications will be sent out in late January/early February. Scholarships will be disbursed in two equal installments prior to the beginning of the Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 semesters.

Also note that, while students cannot receive both awards, all KIWS applicants will be automatically considered for a general Kinder Institute Democracy Lab Scholarship, should they not receive the Wall Scholarship.

Any questions can be directed to Dr. Rudy Hernandez, hernandezrk@missouri.edu