



Eligibility and Membership Requirements

Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must be active Garnes Society members and meet one of the following criteria:

- A second-, third-, fourth-year, or gap-year medical student in good standing with an interest in plastic and reconstructive surgery
- A resident or fellow in good standing who is currently training in plastic and reconstructive surgery
- A resident or fellow in another specialty with a strong interest in pursuing plastic and reconstructive surgery

Do I have to be a Garnes Society member to apply?

Yes. The PSTM Travel Scholarship is an exclusive opportunity for **active** Garnes Society members.

Membership also provides access to mentorship office hours, research and publication support, professional development opportunities, the Garnes Society Member Directory, opportunities to be featured for your work, free admission to the annual PSTM networking event, and additional membership benefits.

Which Garnes Society membership should I select?

Full Membership — \$100 annually

For board-certified or board-eligible plastic and reconstructive surgeons.

Associate Membership — \$50 annually

For integrated or independent plastic surgery residents, plastic surgery clinical fellows, and plastic surgery research fellows enrolled in an accredited training program.

Affiliate Membership — \$25 annually

For medical students, undergraduate students, non-plastic surgery residents, and research fellows or assistants interested in pursuing plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Can international students or residents apply?

Students/residents/fellows who are studying in the **United States of America and/or Canada** may apply as long as they meet the scholarship and the Garnes Society membership eligibility requirements and are able to attend PSTM. International students who have graduated and are currently doing research/fellowship in the United States are eligible to apply.

Applicants are responsible for obtaining any necessary visas or travel documentation.

Can I re-apply if I have applied to the travel scholarship before?

Yes. Previous applicants are welcome to apply again.

Can I apply if I previously received a Garnes Society travel scholarship?

No. At this time, we would like to help as many students/residents as possible to be able to participate in sharing their work at PSTM; thus, we are not accepting applications from scholars who were awarded in previous years.

Application Requirements

What does the application require?

Applicants must submit:

- A written essay of no more than 750 words in Word or PDF format
- A current curriculum vitae
- One letter of recommendation
- A video essay
- Information indicating whether they will present an abstract at PSTM 2026

Applicants presenting research at PSTM must also complete the additional research form so the Garnes Society can highlight their work.

Can my letter of recommendation come from someone who is not a plastic surgeon?

Yes. Your letter may come from a faculty member, program director, mentor, or another individual who can meaningfully speak to your dedication, strengths, character, and potential.

When possible, applicants are encouraged to obtain a letter from a surgeon or someone familiar with their interest in plastic and reconstructive surgery, but the recommender does not have to be a plastic surgeon.

Letters may be uploaded with the application or emailed directly to **scholarship@garnessociety.org**.

What should I discuss in the video essay?

The video essay should discuss:

- Why diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are important to you
- Why these principles are important to the field of plastic surgery
- How the Garnes Society is helping advance this mission

Applicants should share the video on Instagram, X, TikTok, or another social media platform, tag **@GarnesSociety**, include **#Garnes26** and **#PSTM26**, and submit the video link with their application.

By submitting the video, applicants give the Garnes Society permission to retain, share, and reshare it for future outreach and marketing.

Is there an interview component?

No. Applicants will be evaluated based on their complete application, including the written essay, video essay, curriculum vitae, and letter of recommendation.

Scholarship Awards and Funding

How many scholarships will be awarded?

Six scholarships will be awarded to:

- Four medical students
- Two residents or fellows

How much is the scholarship?

Each selected scholar will receive a **\$1,500 travel grant**.

What does the scholarship cover?

The scholarship helps offset eligible expenses associated with attending PSTM, including travel and lodging. Scholars should retain receipts for all eligible expenses.

Alcohol is not an eligible reimbursable expense.

How will the scholarship funds be distributed?

The \$1,500 grant will be distributed in two payments:

First payment — 75%

Disbursed approximately two weeks before PSTM 2026.

Second payment — 25%

Disbursed after the scholar completes all post-conference requirements.

How does reimbursement work?

Selected scholars must retain and submit receipts for eligible expenses incurred during the trip. The remaining 25% of the grant will be distributed after the required receipts and post-conference materials have been submitted.

Travel Scholar Requirements

What is required of selected travel scholars?

Selected scholars must:

- Attend PSTM
- Attend the Garnes Society Annual Networking Event during PSTM
- Submit receipts for eligible expenses
- Submit a written final report reflecting on your PSTM experience
- Complete all post-conference requirements within 30 days of the meeting
- Represent the Garnes Society professionally throughout the conference

The Garnes Society may retain and share scholars' reflections on its website, social media, or other platforms.

Important Dates and Event Information

When and where is PSTM 2026?

PSTM 2026 will take place in **Houston, Texas, from October 15–18, 2026.**

When is the Garnes Society Annual Networking Event?

The Garnes Society Annual Networking Event will take place on **Saturday, October 17, from 7:00–10:00 p.m.**

Selected travel scholars are required to attend.

When is the application due?

Applications are due **August 1, 2026.** Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.

When will applicants be notified?

Applicants will be notified by email after the Scholarship Committee completes its review. The anticipated notification date should be added once finalized.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions, please contact: info@garnessociety.org