

# **Ronald E. McNair**

## **Postbaccalureate Achievement Program**

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St. Lawrence University



Ronald E. McNair

## **Application**

Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program  
171 I Whitman Hall  
Canton, NY 13617

Phone: (315) 229-5605  
Fax: (315) 229-7415



**RONALD E. McNAIR POSTBACCALAUREATE  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM  
ST. LAWRENCE PROGRAM UNIVERSITY**

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

(To be completed by applicant)

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # or Student ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, known as the Buckley Amendment, gives students the right to inspect and review their educational records. You may, however, waive the right to see specific confidential letters.

\_\_\_\_\_ I hereby waive my right to examine this letter and understand that it will not be shared with me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not waive my right to examine this letter.

\*Failure to sign or indicate waiver status indicates confidentiality by default.\*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(To be completed by Recommender)

Established and funded by the US Department of Education, and named in honor of Challenger space shuttle astronaut Ronald E. McNair, the McNair Program at the St. Lawrence University encourages graduate study by providing participants with a mentored research experience, seminars and workshops on topics germane to the pursuit of the doctoral degree, and opportunities to meet with role models who have obtained the terminal degree.

The above-named student has submitted an application to the McNair Program. In order for us to accurately assess the applicant's qualifications, please answer the following questions as fully as possible. Attach a separate sheet, if needed.

**When you have completed this recommendation please mail to:**

**McNair Office**

**1711 Whitman Hall**

**St. Lawrence University**

**Canton, NY 13617**

**\*Fax copies will be accepted: (315) 229-7415 pending receipt of an original copy.\* (Email letters of recommendation are acceptable and will be attached to this form.)**



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**Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program  
Faculty Recommendation Form**

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity? (Give dates, if possible.)

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2. Please rate the applicant in each attribute/skill listed below in comparison with other students.

Attributes/Skills	UPPER 10%	UPPER 25%	UPPER 50%	LOWER 50%	NO BASIS TO JUDGE
Intellectual Ability					
Oral Experience					
Written Expression					
Motivation/Initiative					
Cooperative					
Emotional Maturity					
Dependability					
Creativity					
Open-mindedness					
Ability to Commit & Follow Through					

3. (For professors of applicants only.) I would rank this applicant in the top \_\_\_\_% of approximately \_\_\_\_ undergraduate students I have taught within the last five years.

4. Recommendation concerning selection for program (check one):

- \_\_\_\_\_ I recommend the applicant with confidence.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I recommend the applicant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I recommend the applicant with reservation  
(Please explain in item #5.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ I do not recommend the applicant. (Please explain in item #5.)

5. Please attach a separate sheet of paper and provide any additional comments and/or assessments of the applicant's potential. Include any particular strengths and weaknesses. We appreciate your candid appraisal. If you can talk about what you see as the potential for this student to persist in a graduate program, please do.

Evaluator's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title & Dept. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Institution/Company \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send this form to 171 I Whitman Hall. You may email any additional comments to Carol Kissam. ckissam@stlawu.edu*



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*Please send this form to 171 I Whitman Hall. You may email any additional comments to Carol Kissam. ckissam@stlawu.edu*

# St. Lawrence University

## Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program

### Application Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in the St. Lawrence University Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. Your decision to apply to the program indicates that you recognize the value of pursuing graduate education. As an applicant to the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, you are responsible for completing all of the attached items and submitting them to the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program Office at St. Lawrence University.

Applications will be accepted in during the dates annually announced. Applications sent after the announced deadlines will be reviewed and placed in a wait list in case there are openings during the academic year. The attached items should be mailed or brought to the McNair Office, room 171 I, Whitman Hall.

**You must request an official transcript be sent to the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program at St. Lawrence University.** Please check back on that because if you owe the University money, your transcript will be held, and the McNair Office will not have indication as to why your transcript has not arrived.

#### Eligibility:

You are eligible to apply for the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program if you are a citizen of the United States or have permanent resident status and you are a full time student at St. Lawrence University. You also must meet the following criteria:

- 1) If you are a first generation college student (neither parent has graduated from a four-year higher education institution)  
*and*  
you meet the income guidelines for the program, you may qualify. Complete the income eligibility form attached to see if you meet the income guidelines established by the US Department of Education. (If you have questions about this process, please do not hesitate to call a staff member for assistance.)

OR

- 2) If you are a member of one of the following groups historically under-represented in graduate education, (African American, Native American including Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic) you may qualify for the program *without* being a first generation college student, and *you do not* have to meet the income eligibility guidelines. However, you are still required to complete that section of the application.

*We look forward to receiving your completed application, and to meeting with you in person to discuss the benefits of the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program.*

Carol Ann Kissam  
Project Director  
1711 Whitman Hall  
(315) 229- 5605  
[ckissam@stlawu.edu](mailto:ckissam@stlawu.edu)

## Selection Criteria for St. Lawrence University

Although Students may be eligible for the program, that does not guarantee selection. Scholars are selected based on the following additional criteria:

### Selection Criteria: You must indicate you

- Have a commitment to obtain a doctoral (Ph. D) degree
- Will have a minimum of 16 units before the research internship, and complete the research internship before graduation
- Will be able to maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher in his/her major and an overall 2.8 or above
- Have a commitment to participate in the McNair Orientation Program and other McNair workshops, seminars and activities until graduation

### Application Checklist:

- Completed Application Form
- Personal Statement (one typewritten page)
- Official Transcript (You must request that this be sent to our offices from the Registrar.)
- Two recommendation letters/forms (to be sent separately by the recommender)
- Signed and delivered request to Financial Aid Office to have required paperwork sent to McNair Office

Please have each of the following pieces of information sent to St. Lawrence University's McNair Scholars Program, to the address below. Please contact St. Lawrence University's McNair Office (315-229-5605) with any questions or concerns.

#### Submit all materials to:

St. Lawrence University  
Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program  
1711 Whitman Hall  
Canton, NY 13617  
Phone: (315) 229-5605  
Fax: (315) 229-7415

# St. Lawrence University Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program

## Personal Data Form

LAST NAME(s)	FIRST NAME	M.I.	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
CAMPUS ADDRESS		CITY, STATE ZIP		CAMPUS PHONE #
PERMANENT ADDRESS		CITY, STATE ZIP		PERMANENT PHONE #
CLASS STANDING COMPLETED HOURS TO DATE: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Freshman <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Senior	CURRENT NO. OF CREDITS	EXPECT TO GRADUATE QTR/YR	MAJOR
DATE OF BIRTH	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. CITIZEN <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER STATUS (Please explain) <input type="checkbox"/> PERMANENT RESIDENT <small>RESIDENT ALIEN CARD NUMBER</small>	SEX: <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	MARITAL STATUS: # OF DEPENDENTS:	

**Ethnic Background**

<input type="checkbox"/> Native American: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> African/Black American: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan Native: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian American/Pacific Coast: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> European American: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian: _____

**Educational Background**

Did either of your parents complete a four-year college degree?    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No  
 If yes, who completed the degree?    \_\_\_ Mother    \_\_\_ Father    \_\_\_ Guardian

**Educational Data**

- List all higher education institutions attended:  

<u>Name of Institution</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
_____	
_____	
- How many semesters have you completed from all higher education institutions?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- First semester enrolled at St. Lawrence University (Month/Year):  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Did you enroll as a  Freshman     Transfer Student     Transfer Student w/ AA Degree?
- St. Lawrence University – Academic Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

At this time what area most interests you for doctoral studies? \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING.**

My signature below indicates that, to the best of my knowledge, I have given you on this application, true statements complete and accurate. With my signature, I also hereby grant permission to the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program at St. Lawrence University to use my name and/or photograph for editorial, promotional, recruitment or educational purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

**In addition to this form, each applicant will need to complete the remainder of the application packet.**

**Essay:**

Write a 500-word essay (approximately 2.5, double-spaced pages) explaining:

1. Why do you think you want to pursue a Ph.D.?
2. What are your current short-and long-term career goals?
3. How do you think the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program can assist you in attaining those goals?
4. What specific research area would interest you the most? (Discuss a possible research topic and mentor/professor with whom you would like to work.)

Letter of Recommendation:

Whom have you asked to write your letters of recommendation?

\_\_\_\_\_  
FACULTY/STAFF MEMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
FACULTY/STAFF MEMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER

**Please note:** The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is funded by a federal grant, under TRIO Programs, from the U.S. Department of Education. Grant requirements require that, of the students selected for the St. Lawrence program each year, 2/3 will be low-income, first-generation college students, and that the remaining 1/3 will be from an ethnic group that is underrepresented in graduate study as stipulated by the U.S. Department of Education.

**St. Lawrence University**  
**Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program**  
**ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

I regularly resided with and received support from

Both parents  mother only  father only  legal guardian

Provide the following information only for the parent(s) or guardian with whom you regularly resided:

Name of

Mother/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Last

MI

First

Her Highest Grade of Education Completed: <8 9 10 11 12  Associates  Master's  Doctorate

Name of

Father/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Last

MI

First

His Highest Grade of Education Completed: <8 9 10 11 12  Associates  Master's  Doctorate

**ARE YOU A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT?**  Yes  No

(First-generation college student: neither parent has a bachelor's degree, or, if you regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, that parent did not complete a bachelor's degree.)

**IF YOUR PARENTS CLAIM YOU AS A DEPENDENT:**

Including you, how many people are in their household? \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE COMPLETED By MCNAIR OFFICE BASED UPON 1040/FAFSA/Other Financial Aid

Information: On their **federal income tax form**, what is their "**Total Taxable Income**"? \_\_\_\_\_

**IF YOU ARE A FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT STUDENT:**

Including yourself, how many people in your household are financially dependent on you? \_\_\_\_\_

On your **federal income tax form**, what is your "**Total Taxable Income**"? \_\_\_\_\_

**ARE YOU RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID?**  Yes  No If yes, specify type of aid \_\_\_\_\_

**HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN:**  HEOP  EOP  CSTEP

Talent Search  Upward Bound  Student Support Services  Pre-McNair

McNair at another college/university

**ARE YOU A U.S. CITIZEN?**  Yes  No

If not, do you have permanent resident status?  Yes, Registration # \_\_\_\_\_  No



**St. Lawrence University  
Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program  
& Pre-McNair Program**

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELEASE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ give permission to the Financial Aid

Office at St. Lawrence University to release financial information to

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program at St. Lawrence

University. This information includes the FASFA and the preceding year's 1040

filed by my family. If other verification is deemed important or necessary (as in

the case of an independent student), a Financial Aid officer may write the

McNair Director with that information.

**ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY**  
**RONALD E. MCNAIR POSTBACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT**  
**PROGRAM**  
**PARTICIPANT CONTRACT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby agree to comply with the following as per my agreement with St. Lawrence University's Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program.

During the academic year,

- I must obtain a 3.0 or better GPA in my major (s). I understand that failing to do so will jeopardize my McNair Achievement Program eligibility.
- If needed, I agree to seek tutorial sessions or Writing Center assistance if recommended by my project director or faculty mentor.
- I will participate in the academic year programs, i.e. further research opportunities, seminars/guest speakers, Career Services and Leadership Education programs, Graduate Record Exam preparation programs, trips to graduate school and research conferences, etc., to achieve the goals of the McNair Scholars Program.
- I will maintain contact with my mentor and the McNair Scholars Program staff at least twice monthly during the academic year for professional advice and research guidance.
- Additionally, I understand that taking the Graduate Record Examination is an indication of my express intent to go to graduate school, and I will take that exam before I leave SLU.
- I understand that if I comply with the above, the McNair Scholars Program will provide me with the following:
  - A GRE test preparation course
  - Academic, personal and career counseling
  - Funds to pursue scholarly events related to my postbaccalaureate plans or research

By signing this contract, I give my permission to be tracked regarding my educational progress annually until I obtain my Ph. D. or Ed. D. or for 10 years after the completion of the Bachelor's Degree.

I understand further that if I fail to comply with the above, I will be subject to the withholding of the McNair stipend and/or suspension from the McNair Scholar Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date