



UC Irvine Esports

Endowment Scholarships 2026

Guidelines and Rubrics



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Endowment Scholarships 2026

Are you building the UC Irvine gaming community? Leading on the team? Innovating behind the scenes?

Apply for these prestigious awards and get recognized (and funded) for what you already love doing.

Quick Eligibility Snapshot

- » Current UC Irvine undergraduate
- » 2.0+ cumulative GPA
- » Pokimane Scholarship: Open to all—focus on community, inclusivity, and bridging casual/competitive gaming
- » NZXT Awards: Active UC Irvine Esports participant (athlete, manager, specialist, arena staff)—excellence in leadership, academics, or innovation



Mark Deppe –
Program Director,
UC Irvine Esports

Pokimane Scholarship

Official Rules and Eligibility Guidelines

Overview

The Pokimane Scholarship is an annual award funded by Imane “Pokimane” Anys, a leading figure in gaming and streaming. It recognizes undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional commitment to the UC Irvine gaming and esports community by making a broad impact. This is not a performance-based athletic award—it celebrates community builders who make the UC Irvine Esports program more welcoming and sustainable for everyone.



Imane “Pokimane” Anys –
popular *Twitch* streamer and influencer

Ideal Candidate Profile

The ideal recipient is a true “pillar” of the UC Irvine gaming/esports ecosystem. They:

- » Actively foster a welcoming environment for gamers of all backgrounds.
- » Contribute to events, volunteering, or initiatives that grow the community.
- » Bridge casual gaming and competitive esports (e.g., initiating sub-community activities).
- » Create transformative, lasting impact beyond their immediate circle.

Eligibility Requirements

To apply, you must:

- » Be a current UC Irvine undergraduate student.
- » Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher (verified via records).

Pokimane Scholarship

- » Submit a complete online application by the deadline, including detailed responses with specific examples.

Application Process

- » Access the online form: www.esports.uci.edu/scholarships-2026
- » Provide:
 - ▶ Personal info (name, UC Irvine email, student ID, academic year, GPA),
 - ▶ yes/no for applying to Pokimane,
 - ▶ and written responses
 - Personal Statement ≤500 chars,
 - Community Impact & Engagement ≤1,000 chars,
 - Inspiring Story & Aspirations ≤500 chars.
- » Optional: Upload resume/CV and up to 3 supporting files (photos, transcripts, etc.).
- » Certification: Confirm accuracy and eligibility.

Key Dates

Date	Phase
Mid-March	Scholarship launch
April 3, 11:59 p.m. PDT	Application deadline
April 6 – 17	Committee scores using rubric
April 20 – 24	Top finalist interviews (20 – 30 min. each)
April 27 – May 1	Final decisions
Early May	Winners publicly recognized

Pokimane Scholarship

Rubric

Category	1 – Developing	3 – Proficient	5 – Exceptional
Community Impact	Minimal influence outside of immediate peer group.	Tangible contributions to UC Irvine gaming (events/volunteering).	Transformative impact; recognized as a pillar of the community.
Inclusivity	Focused on personal gaming experience only.	Supports a positive environment.	Actively welcomes people of all backgrounds; combats toxicity.
Engagement	Low participation in community-led initiatives.	Regular contributor to community-led events or digital spaces.	Initiates activities that bridge different gaming sub-communities.
Interview/Narrative	Difficulty articulating personal “why” or value.	Clear communication of past contributions and future goals.	Inspiring narrative that aligns with the donor’s spirit.

Impact Goal

This scholarship supports campus impact in the gaming community, ensuring UC Irvine Esports leads in social responsibility and community strength.

Apply Online

www.esports.uci.edu/scholarships-2026

NZXT Awards

Official Rules and Eligibility Guidelines

Overview

The NZXT Awards, funded by NZXT founder and UC Irvine alumnus Johnny Hou, honor excellence in three areas: leadership/discipline, academic achievement, and innovation. These awards recognize active UC Irvine Esports participants as true stakeholders who drive program success through a pro-growth mindset.

Award Categories

1. NZXT Above and Beyond Award (Leadership & Discipline)

- » For those who exceed role expectations, show resilience, and elevate team performance under pressure.

2. NZXT Esports Scholar Award (Academic Excellence)

- » For balancing competitive esports demands with high-level academics or research (e.g., strong GPA in rigorous major).

3. NZXT Entrepreneurship Award (Innovation)

- » For “Why not?” thinkers who build new tools, systems, or initiatives from scratch to improve UC Irvine Esports.



Johnny Hou –
NZXT founder, UC Irvine '06 alumnus

Eligibility Requirements

To apply, you must:

- » Be an active participant in the UC Irvine Esports program (Athlete, Team Manager, Social Media Specialist, Arena Staff, or similar role—verified).
- » Be a current UC Irvine undergraduate student.
- » Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher (verified).

NZXT Awards

- » Submit a complete online application by the deadline, with detailed examples tied to your role and contributions.

Application Process

- » Access the online form: www.esports.uci.edu/scholarships-2026
- » Provide:
 - ▶ Personal info (name, UC Irvine email, student ID, academic year, GPA),
 - ▶ role selection,
 - ▶ yes/no for each NZXT award,
 - ▶ and written responses
 - Professionalism & Role Performance ≤1,000 chars,
 - Resilience & Leadership ≤500 chars,
 - Academic/Research Excellence ≤500 chars,
 - Innovation ≤500 chars
- » Optional: Upload resume/CV and up to 3 supporting files (photos, transcripts, etc.).
- » Certification: Confirm accuracy and eligibility.

Key Dates

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NZXT Awards

Rubric

Category	1 – Developing	3 – Proficient	5 – Exceptional
Professionalism (5)	Inconsistent communication; struggles with deadlines or program protocols.	Reliable and punctual; communicates effectively with staff and teammates.	Exemplary conduct; acts as a program ambassador; handles high-pressure situations with poise.
Role Performance (10)	Meets basic requirements of their role (athlete/specialist/staff).	Consistently reliable; often takes on tasks without being asked.	Sets the gold standard for the role; elevates the entire team's performance.
Academic/Research (10)	Maintaining minimum GPA; standard coursework.	Balancing esports with a demanding major; showing steady academic progress.	Elite academic achievement or contributes meaningful research to the field.
Innovation (10)	Follows existing protocols; asks "why" things are done this way.	Suggests improvements to current workflows or small-scale creative ideas.	"Why not?" mindset: Built a new tool or initiative from scratch that adds value.
Resilience (5)	Struggles with setbacks; requires significant oversight.	Treats failures as learning moments; shows consistent work ethic.	Exceptional self-starter; highly disciplined in both arena and classroom.
Leadership (5)	Operates as an individual contributor.	Leads by example; assists peers when needed.	Natural leader who takes ownership of program success and mentors others.

Interview scoring for finalists average 25.

NZXT Awards

Impact Goal

These awards encourage viewing the UC Irvine Esports program as a platform for professional development, academic success, and entrepreneurial thinking—building future leaders in gaming and beyond.

Apply Online

www.esports.uci.edu/scholarships-2026

Questions?

Join our *Discord* at
discord.gg/uciesports or
email esports@uci.edu



UC Irvine
Esports

www.esports.uci.edu