Congratulations, and welcome to the University of Chicago and to the Odyssey Scholars community! As an Odyssey Scholar, you are one of a select number of students nationwide whose application reflected incredible academic potential, personal strength, and a drive for success in and outside of the classroom. The Odyssey Scholars’ community exemplifies the diversity of backgrounds, perspectives, and achievements that defines UChicago students. Scholars benefit from a plethora of opportunities and support provided by the College as they navigate their college journeys together. Odyssey Scholarships were first made possible by the generosity of an anonymous UChicago alumnus who strongly believed that students of all socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds benefit from and contribute to UChicago’s student community. This gift, along with other generous contributions from alumni and friends of the University of Chicago, funds the Odyssey Scholarship program and related support for Odyssey Scholars.

As an Odyssey Scholarship recipient, you have an opportunity to earn a funded internship or research experience starting in the summer after your first year. All scholarship recipients who participate in four meetings with their career adviser and complete a special series of professional development programs for first-year Odyssey Scholars will receive a funded internship or research opportunity after their first year.

Odyssey Scholars will have the opportunity to network and learn from a community of peers and foster relationships with students and alumni through various programs in the College. As part of the Odyssey Scholarship program, you will be a member of a dynamic community that empowers the individual while strengthening the whole. Whether you’re studying abroad alongside fellow Scholars in Paris, Beijing, or Barcelona; meeting up at a reception to honor Metcalf interns; or considering your next steps after graduation, your fellow Odyssey Scholars will be with you every step of the way during your undergraduate experience. Your personal excellence, intellectual curiosity, and professional passions make you an invaluable asset to the University, and we hope your time here will allow you to fully share your gifts with the world. We look forward to seeing you on campus.
THE ODYSSEY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
The Odyssey Scholarship Program was created in 2008 as a pioneering effort to reduce or eliminate loans for students from families with modest incomes through support from an anonymous College alumnus. In 2014, the University of Chicago announced the No Barriers initiative, which further bolsters support for students who are part of the Odyssey Scholarship community.

BENEFITS

All Grant Financial Aid Award
Odyssey Scholars are not expected to borrow student loans as part of their financial aid package. Federal student loans have been replaced with University grant funding which does not need to be repaid. Please note that you may be eligible to borrow Federal Student Loans, but will not be expected to borrow to pay for your education. Contact College Aid if you have questions concerning loans or your award.

Financial Life Skills
Financial literacy seminars for Odyssey Scholars will assist students in learning the basics of budgeting a student income, managing personal expenses, and understanding student loans, credit cards, and other consumer debt.

Funding for Study Abroad
Odyssey Scholars are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the wide range of study abroad offerings in the College. Scholars will receive funding for program fees and housing costs associated with study abroad. Additionally, scholarships available through the College can be used to assist with additional costs related to study abroad, such as airfare to your program site and meals.

Assistance with Health Insurance Costs
Students are required to have health insurance while attending the College. You must purchase the University of Chicago insurance plan unless you are covered under another plan (e.g. a parent’s health insurance plan). As an Odyssey Scholar, the cost of the University health insurance plan is paid for you by Odyssey Scholarship funds if you do not have other coverage.

Networking
Through programs and events offered by Career Advancement and the Center for College Student Success, students enjoy opportunities to meet with other current Odyssey Scholars as well as alumni who benefited from and support the Odyssey Scholarship program.

Success at the College should not depend on where a student comes from or on family income, but on the quality of her or his ideas, and on a disciplined and imaginative dedication to learning.”
—John W. Boyer, Dean of the College