



NAT CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE SCHOLARSHIP

Provided by UCA and RETC
Guidelines and Procedures

UCA
Underground
Construction
Association
A Division of SME

NAT2026
NORTH AMERICAN
TUNNELING CONFERENCE

OVERVIEW

NAT Conference participating scholarships are for the biennial international conferences. The conferences are dedicated to the exchange of new developments in the technology of underground rapid excavation and tunneling on a global scale.

Participating scholarships are provided by RETC and UCA to selected students with an opportunity to attend the conference where they can experience first-hand the challenges, opportunities and rewards of a career in the field of tunneling and underground construction.

The goals of the scholarships are to increase exposure of available career opportunities in the underground industry and provide educational and networking opportunities to future underground industry professionals.

SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship recipients will receive:

- A one-year student membership to the Underground Construction Association (UCA), a division of SME
- Conference Registration with access to the technical sessions and exhibit hall
- Invitation to the networking event and the scholarship orientation
- Conference Proceedings
- Up to \$1,500 travel reimbursement to the conference (these funds are intended to cover travel costs associated with the conference and recipients will need to provide an expense account following the conference.)

TIMELINE

The Attendance Scholarship adheres to the following timeline:

Date	Task
February 14	Launch
March 29	Application deadline
April 15	Selection deadline
April 20	Applicant notification deadline
June 15-18	NAT Conference

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

All applicants must meet the following criteria:

- A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- Pursuing a BS, MS, or Ph.D. degree in Tunneling, Civil, Geological, Mining, or Mechanical Engineering
- Demonstrate a desire for and a probability of success in a career in underground construction/tunneling

RECIPIENT SELECTION

The Conference Attendance Scholarship is administered by the Underground Construction Association (UCA) and Rapid Excavation and Tunelling Committee (RETC), in conjunction with the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc. (SME). The scholarship will be awarded based on an evaluation by the committee and approved by the UCA and RETC Executive Committee. (NOTE: preference will be given to students enrolled in U.S. universities.)