



2026 Portuguese Historical Center \$1,000 Scholarship Application

Sponsored By: Maria “Zeca” Rodrigues Memorial

2026 Point Loma High School Graduate

Maria José “Zeca” Rodrigues was a passionate advocate for education, language, and Portuguese cultural heritage. Born in Portugal and later immigrating to the United States, she embraced learning with determination and graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Linguistics.

A gifted linguist who spoke five languages, Zeca believed language was a bridge connecting people, cultures, and generations. She played an important role in supporting Portuguese language education at Point Loma High School alongside the Portuguese Historical Center and encouraged students to embrace their heritage through education.

This scholarship honors her legacy by supporting students who demonstrate academic achievement, dedication to Portuguese language studies, and a commitment to continuing their education.

Applicant must:

1. Be of **Portuguese descent**.
2. Be a graduating senior at **Point Loma High School**
3. Have a minimum **cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher on a scale of 4.00** throughout high school, *according to official transcript*.
4. Have completed at **least three years of Portuguese language coursework**
5. Plan to attend a **two-year or four-year college or university**
6. Demonstrate an interest in the **Portuguese language, culture, or community involvement**
7. **Sponsor/Member** for this scholarship must be a Parent, Grandparent, or Great-grandparent and a member of the Portuguese Historical Center (PHC).
8. **Sponsor/Member** for this scholarship must be a member in good standing of the PHC for no less than 12 months (minimum of one year, preceding in January).
9. Written **verifiable volunteer experience** within the past two years in the **San Diego Portuguese community**.
10. The applicant must present a minimum of **two (2) Letters of Recommendation** from individuals who will vouch for the candidate’s *academic standing, character, and school activity record*. The letters *must* be from: **(A) a teacher** at the school attended; and **(B) any other source** *except a relative* (i.e., a coach, instructor, mentor, etc.). *Individuals must type letters and must include their titles and relationships*. Requesting letters as early as possible is recommended.

The 2026 Maria “Zeca” Rodrigues Memorial Scholarship Award Eligibility Requirements

Scholarships are awarded on a **competitive basis**, with consideration given to academic achievement, character, leadership, community involvement, and demonstrated commitment to higher education. Up to \$1,000.00P in scholarship awards may be granted in memory of Maria “Zeca” Rodrigues, and payment will be made directly to the selected student(s).

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant must:

1. Be a **graduating senior from Point Loma High School**
2. Have a minimum **3.50 cumulative GPA**
3. Have completed **at least three years of Portuguese language coursework**
4. Plan to attend a **two-year or four-year college or university**

Preferred Qualifications

(Additional consideration may be given to applicants who:)

- Are of Portuguese descent
- Have completed **four years of Portuguese coursework**
- Plan to continue **Portuguese language studies in college**
- Have been involved in the **Portuguese community**
 - Cultural organizations
 - Language programs
 - Community events
 - Church or heritage-based activities

Activity Summary Requirement *(must be typed on a separate sheet(s) of paper).*

- **2026 Point Loma High School Senior** Summarize your principal extracurricular activities, honors, and leadership positions.
- **Community Service** Summarize your volunteer work within the past two years within the Portuguese Community
- **Community Involvement** Summarize additional service and involvement within the San Diego community.

Personal Statement

(Maximum 150–250 words and must be typed on a separate sheet(s) of paper).

Please respond to the following: **How has the Portuguese language, culture, or community influenced your life, and what are your educational goals?**

Required Application Materials

A complete application packet must include:

- Completed Scholarship Application Form
- Official High School Transcript
- One (1) Letter of Recommendation
- Personal Statement

PLEASE COMPLETE AND INCLUDE THE APPLICATION

Name:	Phone:
Residence Address:	
City/Zip:	
Birthplace:	Date of Birth:
Ancestry:	
Current High School:	
Current High School Address:	
Current High School City/State/Zip	
When will you graduate from high school?	
Name of College, University or Trade School you plan to attend or are attending?	
Name of PHC Sponsor/Member :	
Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Year Sponsor/Member joined PHC:	

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all information provided in this application and all attached documents are accurate and represent my own work.

Required Signature of Applicant: X	Date:
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Completed applications and all supporting materials must be **postmarked by June 30, 2026**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Any questions, call (619) 726-6685.

Send application to:
Portuguese Historical Center
ATTN: Scholarship Committee
2831 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego, CA 92106