



International Opportunities Scholarship

The International Opportunities Scholarship was established to support extended research projects abroad for qualified graduate and undergraduate students in comparative religion. Applications can be submitted for: (1) a long-term research project carried out over two semesters or more; (2) a short-term research project that is the culmination of related study abroad experience. Funding requests will be prioritized for projects relating to students previously demonstrated scholarly focus.

Requirements

Option 1: Long-Term Research Project

- Students must use the funding to support a long-term (defined as two semesters or more) research project conducted abroad.
- Research should make use of the language of the target country. For example, if conducting research in Japan, the applicant should be able to conduct research in Japanese.
- Applicants must demonstrate ability to work in the target language at the necessary level.

Option 2: Study Abroad Culminating Research Project

- Students may use the funding to support a short-term (4-16 week) research project if it takes place immediately following a study abroad program of at least one semester in length. Exceptions can be made on a case by case basis for students who demonstrate the ability and need to carry out a short-term (4-16 week) project that is not contiguous with an extended study abroad experience.
- Research must make use of the language of the target country. For example, if conducting research in Japan, the applicant must be able to conduct research in Japanese.
- Applicants must demonstrate ability to work in the target language at the necessary level by the end of their study abroad experience.

Awards: No more than two awards will be made in any fiscal year.
The maximum award amount is \$10,000.

Eligibility

- Must be a full time graduate student or undergraduate major in comparative religion in good standing with a 3.0 or above grade point average.
- Eligible expenses include travel, lodging, per diem expenses, and other expenses related directly to the research project, such as in-country trainings and workshops at the discretion of the committee. We will also consider requests for small equipment, software, books, and supplies/expenses related to an independent research project.
- Students who received the award in the previous year are welcome to apply again, but their applications may be prioritized lower than students who have not previously had the award.

Application Guidelines

- Students must apply one semester prior to the semester in which the funding would be used.
- Applications include the following items:
 1. Curriculum Vitae or Resume
 2. Cover Letter addressed to "Members of the Comparative Religion Department Scholarship Committee," containing: 1) Title of research project 2) Project timeline, including related in-country programs 3) Description of the research goals, methods, activities, and location (about 500 words) 4) Description of the students' background preparation and qualifications (about 250-500 words) 4) Explanation of the educational value of the research for the students' MA or. major (about 250 -500 words) 5) Total project costs 6) Amount requested from the International Opportunities Scholarship 7) List other funding sources with indication of "pending" or "secured".
 3. Budget for the project, including: 1) international travel 2) in-country travel 3) lodging 4) per diem [please note WMU uses State Department rates for international travel - please ask department to confirm rates with you] 5) other costs, specified 6) total costs 7) other support for the project, secured or pending 8) amount requested from the International Opportunities Scholarship
 4. Request a faculty member to fill out the Faculty Sponsor Form.
- To apply, email the above mentioned supporting documents to lori.diehl@wmich.edu. Your application materials should be sent as pdf attachments. The subject line of this email should read "Re: International Funding Scholarship".

If you have a question, please contact the scholarship coordinator at lori.diehl@wmich.edu.