



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Geography,
Environment, and Tourism

Milton and Ruth Scherer Fellowship in Geography Two-Year Award

The Department of Geography, Environment, and Tourism at Western Michigan University (www.wmich.edu/geography) is pleased to invite prospective applicants for its Milton and Ruth Scherer Fellowship in Geography in rotating Fall semesters. The Scherer Fellowship is a **two-year award** for students pursuing the master's degree program in Geography with a research focus on Asia in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Tourism at Western Michigan University. The department has a strong research focus on China and East Asia. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding academic achievements and shall exemplify the values of the Milton and Ruth Scherer Endowment Fund by demonstrating a strong commitment to completing master's research in Asia (Southwest, South, Southeast, or East Asia).

Eligibility

Scherer Fellowships are awarded only to students who have been admitted to the Geography master's program and only to applicants who are embarking on an **initial** master's degree. At the time of accepting a Scherer Fellowship, a student may not have completed more than **9 non-geography** credit hours toward a graduate degree at WMU. No fellowship will be awarded if there is lack of qualified applicants.

Application Procedure

Scherer Fellowship applicants must: (1) apply to the master's program in Geography by visiting <http://www.wmich.edu/geography/academics/apply>, and (2) submit via email (geog-info@wmich.edu) a 3-5 page tentative thesis research plan that includes in-country research in a country (or countries) in Asia. Applicants are encouraged to submit draft plans to potential advisors prior to the deadline, but this is not required. The application deadline for both of the above is **February 15**.

Award

The fellowship is valued at over \$70,000 including:

- A stipend plus 40 credit hours of tuition remission (up to nine credits in the fall and spring semesters for two years, and up to four credits during intervening summer sessions).
- One round trip ticket to Asia for in-country research during the summer following the Fellow's first academic year in the program.
- Travel to one national conference to present the thesis research.
- Fellows will work 10 hours weekly as a graduate assistant in teaching, research, or service as a required component of their degree.

A GPA of 3.5 and completion of a thesis research proposal by the end of the first year, and participation in the academic activities of the department and the university will be required for continuation of funding.