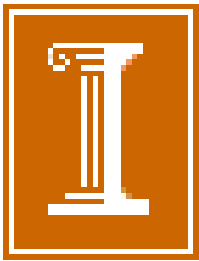


Scholarships for International Study Newsletter

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Office of Scholarships for International Study

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Notes from a Current NSEP Recipient

Ahlan wa sahan! Greetings from Cairo! It's hard to believe that a semester has almost passed. As I finish up final papers and study for exams, I am thankful for a relatively smooth transition into this first semester and look forward to the next one. This semester, along with Arabic, I took classes in Arab political and social theory, Quranic studies and early Islamic institutions. However, my day-to-day experiences are probably where I have learned the most.

Since my main objective for being here is to learn Arabic, I am continuing to study the modern standard form, and learning to speak the Egyptian dialect with friends, bus and taxi drivers, security guards, and anyone else I meet. "Egyptians love to talk!" is what someone once told me, and I've found this to generally be true. Walking around Cairo or taking a taxi will afford you the chance to tell someone who you are, where you are from and why you are studying Arabic in Egypt.

Studying in Cairo has been a lot of what I had imagined it to be. I credit much of this to the scholarship application process, which asks for us to define our objectives and plans to study abroad. So before ever arriving in Cairo, I had a pretty good idea of what I wanted to accomplish and become involved with. I had met with professors at Illinois and other universities who advised me on which professors I should take during my time at the American University in Cairo, and I met with students who had recently studied abroad in Cairo. I learned about the Volunteers in Action club from AUC's website and about a refugee assistance program from a friend last year, and have been involved with these organizations throughout this semester. Each week we visit with children in an orphanage and also tutor English to Sudanese refugees.

I think it is important to be able to give something back to your host country, and I'm learning that part of this can be a cultural

exchange. I may be the only face of an American that a person ever has the opportunity to know, in rural areas especially. And I feel as though I am changing how America is perceived each time I meet a person and they get to know me: a bi-racial woman from Central Illinois, who may appear to be Egyptian at first glance, but has her own set of traditions and values. My nationality always comes as a surprise, but there seems to be a common ground that I enjoy with people, which has made almost all my interactions pleasant ones.

As I look back on all the wonderful experiences I've had so far in Egypt - drifting down the Nile River on a felucca, visiting Al-Azhar mosque - the location of one of the world's oldest operating universities - walking the streets of Old Cairo, visiting churches where the earliest Christians gathered, watching the sunset from the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, and the sunrise in the white desert - I realize that each of these experiences were even more meaningful because I was with Egyptians or Egyptian-Americans. And that is my final word to those preparing to study abroad: you must make the effort to integrate yourself into the society, to experience the culture with the people or else you will not have a clear picture of the society. Once people know that you are serious about learning their language and learning about the culture, they will befriend you, and you'll find those will be your best lessons and most memorable experiences.

Being the recipient of a scholarship has been truly an honor and has kept me grounded in my reasons for being here. I know that I have to be responsible with how I spend my time and with whom I spend my time. Not everyone studying here is here to learn Arabic, for example. That's why it is important to keep your goals in mind and be prepared to continually seek opportunities that will help you reach them.

--Angie Williams, anticipated BA Linguistics
May 2006

Fall 2005 University of Illinois Applicants

We congratulate the following applicants who took the time to reflect, write, ponder, write, dream, write, research, write, soul search, write, and submit an application for a prestigious international scholarship in the fall of 2005. We wish each candidate success in their future endeavors and hope to count some among our scholarships alumni!

U.K. Fulbright Grant

Chris Fletcher	Medieval History, York
Andrew Johnston	Ancient History, Cambridge
Steve Maas	Anthropology, Bangor
Matty Major	Prosthetics, Strathclyde
Tessa Oberg	English Literature, Sussex
Mike Oltmann	Media Economics, East Anglia
Anne Reckitt	English Literature, Cambridge
Sarah Rowe	Archeological Heritage Mgmt., York

Gates Cambridge Scholarship

Andrew Johnston	Ancient History, Cambridge
Morgan Polikoff	Math Education, Cambridge
Anne Reckitt	English Literature, Cambridge

Marshall Scholarship

Andrew Johnston	Ancient History, Oxford or St. Andrews
Tessa Oberg	English Literature, Sussex or King's College
Anne Reckitt	English Literature, Cambridge or King's College

Mitchell Scholarship

Andrew Johnston	Ancient History, U. C. Dublin
Christian Tansey	Ethical and Cultural Studies, NUI Galway

Rhodes Scholarship

Nate Allen	Economics for Development, Oxford
Andrew Johnston	Ancient History, Oxford
Tessa Oberg	English Literature, Oxford

Churchill Scholarship

Robert Vlach	Bioengineering, Cambridge
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Luce Scholars Program

Hassen Al-Shawaf	MAS, Accountancy
Derek Beaty	Alum, Financial Analyst
Amanda Beer	PhD, Psychology
Bridget LeMieux	Alum, Teacher
Kristine Lorenzo	Senior, Education
Jason Stokes	Alum, Business
Mark Wehling	Alum, International Affairs
Hollie White	Alum, Librarian

Current Illinois Scholar Profiles

Jonathan Hollander (Materials Science and Engineering BS, May 2005, Churchill Scholar) is enjoying the opportunity to research at Cambridge and is contemplating staying for the PhD. "Studying at Cambridge has provided me with a unique perspective on global issues and broadened my horizons in many respects. I had not expected the richness of diversity, and the personal growth from encountering so many unique peoples and cultures." He is living with 2 Americans, 2 Brits, 2 East Asians, 2 Indians, 1 Brazilian, and 1 German. When not in the lab working with gallium nitride materials, Jonathan participates in ultimate frisbee, lacrosse, water polo, and underwater hockey. He also is enjoying the fact that his office is in the same room that was used as

Watson and Crick's lab over 50 years ago. "The double-helix model of DNA was conceptualized no more than 30 feet from where I sit to do my own work every day!"

Ann Dailey (Anticipated BA Political Science and International Studies, May 2008, NSEP scholar in Yaroslavl, Russia) reports that some experiences are quintessentially Russian, such as eating borscht and shopping in old Soviet-style shops, but has been intrigued by the juxtaposition of deteriorating Soviet buildings and beautiful old churches and pristine, state of the art hotels and business establishments. Ann also realized she didn't need to pack as much as she did, as "you can find just about anything you could want here in Yaroslavl – except a decent Mexican restaurant". As a scholarship winner, she

feels compelled to study and work harder than others and is improving her language skills and understanding of Russian culture – as much outside as inside the classroom. Ann also gives kudos to her hosts, "the Russian people are more welcoming than I could have imagined or hoped for. Sure, it may take a while for them to warm up to you, but in general they are very helpful and interested in talking to foreigners."

Reflections and Advice from Illinois Scholarship Alumni

We asked various Illinois alumni who were awarded prestigious international scholarships to muse a bit on their experiences. Here are some illustrative quotes:

What is your memory or what are a couple of salient memories of the campus scholarship process?

I would say that for the personal essays you really have to be comfortable with the person you are when you're writing your essay. You have to show your passion and progression and clearly outline why this is a great opportunity for you. Just because your proposal isn't about saving the world doesn't mean it's not important.

Mostly, I remember having to keep track of all the deadlines, and trying to sort out all of the different materials that I would need for each individual application! I applied to seven different programs in one year.

The process of writing many drafts of my dissertation this summer reminded me of writing my application essays in the campus scholarship process. By the fifth draft you begin to think you will never be done, but by the end you realize how much better your application (or dissertation) sounds thanks to the many iterations you went through.

The Study Abroad office was a buzz of frenetic, friendly energy, a fun place to have a chat, flip through brochures, get advice about programs and scholarships and to be around other people who craved international experiences.

Looking back, what tips do you have for future applicants?

For future Gates applicants, I suggest they try to contact the people they wish to work for at Cambridge. The Gates-Cambridge Trust does not even consider applicants that are not accepted by their department very early in the application cycle.

“The Study Abroad office was a buzz of frenetic, friendly energy.”

You can never start the application process too early, but you can definitely start too late.

I would recommend to future applicants to listen to their advisers, as they really do know what they are talking about. In addition, have confidence and apply for everything you can. Don't be intimidated by high expectations or stringent requirements. Make the most of your time and talents.

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Where Are They Now?

Angella (Detters) Crane (awarded NSEP Undergrad to Russia 2001) assisted in humanitarian aid projects with the military both in Iraq as a Civil Affairs specialist and in Uzbekistan as a Russian Interpreter for military officials. Currently, Angella is working in a travel office for a company on a military base near Kandahar, Afghanistan. Her husband also works in Afghanistan.

Joannah Metz (awarded Gates Cambridge 2004), in her first year in a PhD program at Caltech, is working operations for the Mars exploration rovers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where she helps to decide where to send the rovers as well as what scientific observations they should undertake. One of her research projects involves mapping out the bedrock around the crater at which the Opportunity rover is currently located (Erebus crater).

Jimmy Antia (awarded Fulbright 2002) After completing his scholarship in Costa Rica focusing on sustainable development, he now works at the headquarters of the Environmental Protection Agency.



Jamia Porter (awarded NSEP Undergrad to Kenya 2002) is working for Senator Barack Obama's Washington office as a Congressional Staff Assistant. She will begin an MA in International Relations in January.

Adam Lashinsky (awarded Luce 1994) is a senior writer at FORTUNE. He covers finance and the Silicon Valley for the magazine. He also is a featured commentator for "Marketplace," a nationally broadcast, public radio business-news magazine, and a regular contributor to business-news programming on the Fox News Channel. Adam is based in San Francisco with his wife, Ruth Kirschner.

Dexter Boniface (awarded NSEP Graduate to Brazil 1999) is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. His research interests include contemporary Brazil and international democracy promotion efforts in Latin America. Last summer he visited the Galapagos Islands with a group of 16 faculty from Rollins.

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Where Are They Now? - *continued*

James Trefil (awarded Marshall 1960) spent two years at Oxford and then took his PhD in theoretical physics from Stanford. He has written extensively about science for the general public and is a co-author of THE DICTIONARY OF CULTURAL LITERACY. He is currently the Clarence J Robinson Professor of Physics at George Mason University.

Tim Koritz (awarded Marshall 1978) After receiving his Ph.D. in immunology from Cambridge, he graduated from Harvard Medical School. Tim then served as a Flight Surgeon for the US Air Force. He is currently a staff anesthesiologist at Rockford Memorial Hospital, in Illinois.



Committee Members make it Happen

Students at Illinois are fortunate to have numerous exceptional faculty and staff devoted to the scholarships process. Committee members spend hours reviewing applications, engaging with candidates in selection and mock interviews, and providing insightful feedback to assist in the revision process. We greatly appreciate those who served on prestigious international scholarship committees in the last six months.

2005 Priority Application Reviewers and Mock Interviewers

Werner Baer	Professor of Economics
Heini Halberstam	Professor Emeritus of Mathematics
Jon Higdon	Professor of Chemical Engineering
Carol Leff	Assoc. Professor of Political Science
Tony Leggett	Professor of Physics
Bruce Michelson	Professor of English
Penny Soskin	Asst. Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Charles Stewart	Assoc. Provost for International Affairs
Stuart Swetland	Adj. Assoc. Professor of Religious Studies

2005 Churchill Scholarship Campus Selection Committee

Heini Halberstam	Professor Emeritus of Mathematics
Jon Higdon	Professor of Chemical Engineering
Derek Robinson	Professor of Math

2005 Luce Campus Review Committee

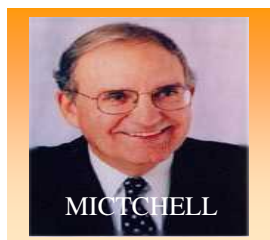
Tom Ginsburg	Professor of Law, Political Science
Rania Huntington	Assoc. Professor of Chinese Lit.
Gale Summerfield	Director, Women and Gender in Global Perspectives

2005 International Scholarships Campus Selection Committee (Gates, Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes)

Caroline Hibbard	Assoc. Professor of History
Jon Higdon	Professor of Chemical Engineering
Tony Leggett	Professor of Physics
Ron Webbink	Professor of Astronomy

2005 University U.K. Fulbright Interview Committees

John Buckler	Professor of History
Brenda Farnell	Assoc. Professor of Anthropology
Kirk Freudenburg	Professor of Classics
Peter Garrett	Professor of English
Fred Giertz	Professor of Economics
Lauren Goodlad	Assoc. Professor of English
Russ Jamison	Professor of Bioengineering
Kevin McGowan	Public Service Archeology Program
Andrew Orta	Assoc. Professor of Anthropology
Gary Porton	Professor of Religious Studies
Xudong Zhang	Assoc. Professor of Bioengineering



MITCHELL



CHURCHILL



RHODES

Reflections and Advice - *continued*

If possible plan ahead. I am a procrastinator extraordinaire! I think deadlines work for me but had I given myself enough time I would have had many more restful nights. Secondly, make a commitment to go abroad early. I always knew I wanted to go and sat in class year after year hearing them plead for students to really consider going. Each time hearing the segment I would say to myself that it would be a great experience. I never thought of going again until the next presentation. Third, Don't let the name daunt you. I usually viewed myself as an average person. When I saw the National Security Education Program Scholarship I thought there is no way I could get this award. In retrospect all that was needed was a clear statement, succinct conveyance of passion for my field, and a lot of research on the country.

Looking back on my time abroad I feel it should be a requirement for all students to spend time abroad before they graduate; even if it is only for two weeks.

Give yourself ample time. Complete everything early so that you can review it several times before making a final submission. Ask others for feedback.

Do research; look into places that may not be your first choice or the most attractive to you. I had never heard of Yaroslavl before I started applying, but I'm very glad that I chose to study abroad here. I don't think that my experience would have been as satisfying had I chosen Moscow or St. Petersburg.

Scholarships Administered

U. K. Fulbright One year of study or research in the U.K. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. For U.S. citizens.

Gates Cambridge One to four years of study leading to a degree at Cambridge University. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. For U.S. and non-U.S. citizens under the age of 30.

George Mitchell One year of postgraduate study in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. For U.S. citizens under the age of 30.

Rhodes One to three years of study leading to a degree at Oxford University. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. For U.S. and some non-U.S. citizens under the age of 24.

Marshall Two to three years of study leading to a degree at any British university. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. For U.S. citizens.

Churchill One year of postgraduate study leading to a degree in engineering, mathematics, or the sciences at Cambridge University. Seniors and graduate students are eligible to apply. For U.S. citizens under the age of 26.

Luce One year internship in East or Southeast Asia. Asia studies majors/minors or those who have been to Asia for more than 4 weeks are ineligible. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and young professionals are eligible to apply. For U.S. citizens under the age of 30.

NSEP Undergrad Open to freshmen through seniors for summer, semester, or yearlong study in a non-western country. For U.S. citizens.

NSEP Grad U.S. citizens enrolled in or applying to a graduate program. May include domestic language and cultural study or all overseas study in a non-western country. Funding for 1 to 6 semesters.

About Our Office

We assist you through the prestigious international fellowship application process in your quest for greater knowledge, personal growth, and professional development.

*As an additional benefit, you just might win a scholarship.

Although many nationally or internationally competitive scholarships and fellowships are available for graduate and undergraduate study and/or research around the world, competition is steep. The Office of Scholarships for International Study administers several prestigious international scholarships and offers counseling on many others for University of Illinois students and alumni, including the Churchill, Gates Cambridge, George

Mitchell, Luce, Marshall, National Security Education Program, Rhodes, and U.K. Fulbright. Throughout the application process, we provide advice and feedback for applicants.

Despite the highly competitive nature of these programs, University of Illinois applicants have competed successfully over the years.

We can help you unlock your potential, learn about yourself, and become more competitive for international scholarships. Interested persons -- from freshmen, to Ph.D. candidates, to recent alum -- are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss these opportunities.

For more information about scholarships for study outside the U.S. contact: David Schug

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We're on the Web!

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