

Scholarships for International Study Newsletter

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Office of Scholarships for International Study

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International Studies
Building

The Results Are In

We congratulate the following University of Illinois applicants who advanced in last year's competitions for prestigious international scholarships.

U.K. Fulbright Award

Tessa Oberg: *Sussex (English Literature)*

U.K. Fulbright Finalist

Andrew Johnston: *Cambridge (Anc. History)*

Gates Cambridge Scholarship Award

Jonathan Hollander: *Physics Ph.D.*

Gates Cambridge Scholarship Finalists

Andrew Johnston: *Ancient History*

Morgan Polikoff: *International Perspectives
on Mathematics Education*

Marshall Scholarship Alternate

Tessa Oberg: *Sussex (English Literature)*

Rhodes Scholarship Finalist

Tessa Oberg: *Oxford (English Literature)*

National Security Education Program Boren Undergraduate Scholarship

Kyle Arnold: *Japan (Physics and Mathematics)*

Sara Hislop: *Egypt (International Studies)*

Rachel Sauer: *Senegal (International Studies
and Political Science)*

Alyssa Walsh: *Egypt (International Studies)*

Sarah Carsey: *Russia alternate (Russian
Language and Literature)*

National Security Education Program Boren Graduate Scholarship

Eliza Johannes: *(Education Policy)*

Scholarships Office Expands

The Office of Scholarships for International Study is growing in multiple ways. First, the administration of the U.S. Student Fulbright program for University of Illinois students and alumni is now under the purview of the Office of Scholarships for International Study.

Over the next few years, it is our goal to double the number of Fulbright applicants. In order to facilitate the anticipated increase in applicant numbers, we have instituted a priority deadline. Graduating seniors, graduate students, and recent

alumni wishing to study, teach English, or conduct research abroad in 2007-08 under a Fulbright grant are encouraged to submit materials by July 5, 2006. Faculty and staff will provide feedback on these applications. Applicants and recommendation writers may then revise their work before officially submitting materials by the required campus deadline of September 6. Those who missed the Fulbright priority deadline are still encouraged to put forward applications before the September deadline.

Also, the office is pleased to welcome Marianne Kolter as a half-time coordinator. An IT-expert, Marianne will automate some of our daily processes, thus creating more time for the direct assistance of students. She assumes responsibility for our website and outreach efforts and will be the primary office contact for those seeking general information on undergraduate study abroad scholarships. Marianne also will be heavily involved with the administration of the Fulbright program. She may be contacted at kolter@uiuc.edu

Perseverance Pays Off

Coming off of a debilitating surgery in the summer of 2004, Tessa Oberg (BA May 2005 in English and Rhetoric) submitted a Fulbright application for study in the United Kingdom. She was named a finalist, but did not receive the award. Unphased, last summer Tessa significantly revised her proposal and cast a wider net, ultimately applying for the Marshall, Rhodes, and UK Fulbright scholarships. The results? She was designated an alternate for the Marshall and advanced as a national finalist for the Rhodes. Gamely, she continued to await the results of the Fulbright... and in May, she was named a recipient.

Tessa Oberg is one of 12 U.S. citizens (out of a candidate pool of nearly 500 applicants) to receive a Fulbright Grant to support advanced study in the United Kingdom. The award will cover the full cost of her academic studies at the University of Sussex in England.

The Fulbright rates candidates based on their academic or professional qualifications; the validity and feasibility of the applicant's proposed

project; evidence of maturity, motivation and adaptability to a different cultural environment; and the impression a candidate will make abroad as a citizen representing the United States.

Tessa will begin a one-year taught Master's program in English Literature at Sussex this fall where she will use the work of Virginia Woolf to explore the division society imposes between madness and sanity. She is particularly enthused about accessing Sussex's collection of unpublished Woolf papers, the Monks House Papers. Tessa frames her Fulbright work as a combination of literature, history, and health.

As a student at Illinois, Tessa published several critical works and received university awards for her fiction. Fittingly, she spent a significant amount of time working in various book and record stores to put herself through school. Tessa was engaged for three years as a sexual assault prevention workshop facilitator and initiated an anti-rape student

organization. She also finds time to nourish her artistic talents by dancing swing, salsa and tango and shooting freelance photography.

Upon her return to the U.S., Tessa plans to pursue a Ph. D. in English Literature, specializing in modernism, while also continuing her own creative writing. Ultimately, she looks forward to sharing her Sussex and UK experience both in teaching at the university level and in her fiction.



Tessa Oberg

Reflections and Advice from Illinois Scholarship Alumni

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

How was the experience of being a scholarship winner different than you thought it might be?

Going to Oxford was a life altering experience for me. I didn't know what I expected, but for a kid from a blue collar neighborhood in Chicago to be plunked down into a college that was about to celebrate its 700th anniversary was really something. It opened my eyes to the existence of a long line of scholars, stretching back into the Middle Ages, and made me realize that I could be a part of it.

It was more difficult to carry out my research than I imagined it would be--this is probably true of most proposals to do field research abroad.

What tips do you have for those awarded a scholarship?

I would encourage recipients to travel overseas with no preconceived notions of what the scholarship should or should not be.

Study the language before you get where you're going, and especially pay attention to vocabulary. Being able to communicate well takes the edge off of culture shock, and it's more important that you know what to say than how to say it (i.e. being able to provide the infinitive of numerous verbs is better than knowing how to conjugate a small number of verbs).

Make the most of the experience! Also don't forget an important part is meeting people and developing a new group of friends.

Committee Members make it Happen

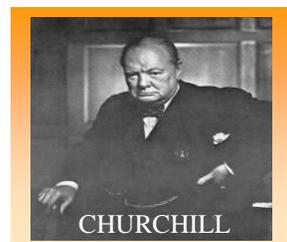
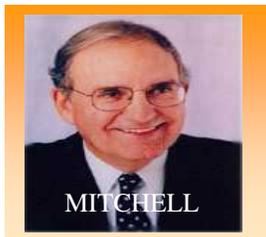
Students at the University of Illinois are fortunate to have a number of exceptional faculty and staff devoted to the scholarships process. Those who serve on our committees spend numerous hours reviewing applications, engaging with candidates in selection and mock interviews, and providing insightful feedback to assist applicants in their revision processes. We greatly appreciate the work of those who served on prestigious international scholarship committees in the last six months.

2006 National Security Education Program Campus Review Committee

Sonia Carringer	Associate Director of the Campus Honors Program
Fiona Griswold	Coordinator of International Education
Barbara Hancin-Bhatt	Assistant Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Veronica Kann	Assistant Director of La Casa Cultural Latina
Matt Rosenstein	Assistant Director of ACDIS

2006 Gates Mock Interview Committee

Marilyn Booth	Associate Professor of Comparative and World Literature
Jon Higdon	Professor of Chemical Engineering
Tony Leggett	Professor of Physics
Stuart Swetland	Adjunct Associate Professor of Religious Studies



RHODES

Scholarships Administered

Fulbright (deadline: September 6, 2006)

One year of study or research in any country where there is a Fulbright Commission. Some English teaching programs available. U.S. citizen seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply.

Gates Cambridge (deadline: August 31, 2006)

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

George Mitchell (deadline: August 31, 2006)

One year of postgraduate study in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. Must be under the age of 30 and a U.S. citizen.

Marshall (deadline: August 31, 2006)

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

Rhodes (deadline: August 31, 2006)

One to three years of study leading to a degree at Oxford University, England. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and graduates are eligible to apply. Must be under the age of

24 and a U.S. citizen. Some non-U.S. citizens are eligible to apply from their home countries on the basis of degrees from U.S. universities.

Churchill (deadline: October 23, 2006)

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

Luce (deadline: October 30, 2006)

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 not eligible. Seniors, graduate/professional students, and young professionals are eligible to apply. Must be under the age of 30 and a U.S. citizen.

NSEP Undergrad (deadline: January 18, 2007)

Open to freshmen through seniors for summer, semester, or year long study in a non-western country. U.S. citizens only.

NSEP Grad (deadline: January 30, 2007)

U.S. citizens enrolled in or applying to a graduate degree program. May include domestic language and cultural study with overseas study or all overseas study in a non-western country. Funding for 1 to 6 academic 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, Fulbright, Gates

Cambridge, George Mitchell, Luce, Marshall, National Security Education Program, and Rhodes. 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 information about scholarships for study outside the U.S., contact David Schug, Program Director

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.ips.uiuc.edu/scholarship

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