



The Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History

The Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship (UISF) supports international travel and study for students in good standing and enrolled full-time at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Second term freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are eligible to apply for Fellowships awarded each year.

The program is open to all students, but is intended to provide support for those who do not otherwise have the financial resources to participate in study-abroad programs, and who are members of underrepresented groups in undergraduate international study.

Students who have demonstrated academic excellence, extracurricular and civic engagement, are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and have plans to engage in a substantive study-abroad experience are encouraged to apply.

Description

THE UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES FELLOWSHIP provides travel awards for select students pursuing academic research or study in an international setting. In choosing recipients, the Selection Committee bases its awards on: 1) financial need, 2) evidence of satisfactory academic progress toward completion of an undergraduate degree, 3) and the Stone Center's interest in encouraging international study by underrepresented students. The selection shall also be based upon an application essay that includes a description of a concrete academic project with clear objectives and goals for a student's study-abroad experience. The applicant must also present a plan for sharing the results in a venue associated with the Stone Center upon the recipient's return.

Applications will be available early in the term before the student is scheduled to study abroad, although students will be eligible to apply up to a year before they intend to travel. If necessary, additional support is provided when students return to help them prepare for and present their project.

Each travel award shall be in an amount up to \$2,500 and shall not be renewable.

Disbursement of funds will be made by the Director of the Stone Center.

Basic Criteria

The Fellowship Committee is interested in supporting viable study-abroad experiences, therefore applicants should be planning to participate in a University approved or recognized program although proposals for other University-related programs will be considered. The study-abroad experience must be at least one academic term in length. Priority is given to programs in areas of the African Diaspora although all program proposals will be considered and may receive awards.

Although it may be combined with other funds, the fellowship is intended to fund the travel program expenses of the awardee/individual student who studies abroad as part of a group, or who engages in an independent experience.

Fellowship awardees will be selected on the basis of an application that includes an essay outlining (1) goals and objectives of the intended study-abroad experience, (2) its relationship to their vocational, experiential or academic plans, and (3) the specific way they intend to use fellowship funds. In addition, the essay should describe the financial resources available to the applicant.

Upon return from the study-abroad experience, recipients will be expected to report back to the University community through a venue provided by the Stone Center. Report back activities may take a number of forms including written reports, travel essays, web-pages, multi-media projects, or other formats. The committee encourages recipients to be creative and imaginative when choosing their report back formats. The report back should occur in the first academic term of the recipient's return.

Eligibility Criteria

In addition to requirements of the Trust Agreement, the following criteria must be met: Student applicants must be available for interview by the UISF Committee.

Student applicants must be enrolled in a full-time program of undergraduate study in the College of Arts and Sciences of UNC-Chapel Hill (if pursuing a double major, one must be through an academic department of the College of Arts and Sciences during the semester immediately before beginning travel).

Application Procedures

Students interested in applying for an UISF must complete an application form and provide additional documentation as required in the application. Applications for the UISF are available at the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History (Suite 215). For current deadlines, call the Stone Center at 962-9001.

Awardees Rules

Students awarded an UISF take full responsibility for the funds and for their disposition according to their stated plans. In the event an award recipient's plans change, students must contact the Director of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History to petition for any adjustments.

Awardees should be aware that fellowship funds may be subject to taxation and the student is responsible for any tax liability, and for reporting the grant on the appropriate tax forms and for paying any taxes due. All arrangements for travel and other expenditures incidental to travel are the sole responsibility of the student.

The UISF committee is responsible for recommending recipients in accordance with the trust agreement and the criteria established for the fellowship. The Director of the Stone Center is responsible for administering the fellowship following the recommendation of the committee.

Students receiving the UISF will be required to sign a Release and Indemnity Agreement.

Application Checklist

Please verify that your application includes the following materials:

_____ The Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship Application Form

_____ The Application Essay

_____ Two letters of recommendation

_____ Documentation of Academic Standing

_____ Signed Release (Media)

_____ Signed Honor Pledge

The Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship
Application Form

Full Name _____

Last

First

Middle

Personal Identification Number (PID) _____

Local Telephone _____

Local Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Permanent/Home Tel. (____) _____

Permanent Address _____

Preferred Method of Contact _____ e-mail _____ letter

Date of Birth _____

Are you a U.S. citizen? _____ Yes _____ No Ethnicity _____

Current Academic Information

Year in school (rank Fr., Soph., Jr.) _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average _____

College or School _____

Full time? _____ Yes _____ No

Major _____

Second Major (if any) _____

Expected Graduation Date _____

Name of Departmental Advisor _____

Transcript

Please submit the most recent transcript of your academic work

Previous College Attendance

If you previously attended schools other than UNC-CH, list each school and dates of attendance. For each entry, please stipulate whether or not you were eligible to continue enrollment at the time you left the school.

| School | Enrollment Dates | Eligible for Enrollment |
|--------|------------------|-------------------------|
|--------|------------------|-------------------------|

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

References

Include reference letters from two (2) persons with your application. At least one must be a faculty member at UNC-Chapel Hill who can comment on your overall ability to successfully complete a study-abroad program. These reference letters should be signed by the referee, sealed in an envelope, and included with your application packet.

Faculty Recommendation

Name: _____

Title: _____

Academic Department: _____

Second Recommendation

Name: _____

Title: _____

Department: _____

Employment

List any employment where your activities and experiences illustrate leadership roles, are relevant to your academic and career goals, or reflect aspects of your proposed study-abroad activities.

| Employer | Dates of Employment | Position/Responsibilities |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
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| | | |

Stone Center Programs

List your current or previous interaction with the Stone Center including participation in programs and volunteerism.

International Travel

If applicable, list any prior international travel experience and provide dates and purpose of travel.

UISF Proposal

What countries do you propose to visit if you receive the Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship?

Beginning date of Proposed Travel _____

Ending Date _____

(Note: Your proposed travel is expected to be for at least one academic term.)

Application Essay

Please attach an essay, no more than five (5) typed, double-spaced pages about the study-abroad program for which you seek support. Describe your academic and non-academic achievements and honors and provide insight as to why you were chosen for such recognition. Include in your essay a discussion of the leadership roles and extracurricular activities in which you are involved and how those experiences may have contributed to your interest in international travel. This may include community service activities that may have contributed to, or reflect, your academic and career goals as well. If you do not have significant extracurricular activity you may choose to provide a brief statement in your essay describing why there is minimal activity. The essay should also identify your academic, experiential and personal goals, and discuss how the study-abroad experience will contribute to achieving them. Indicate your proposed itinerary, travel schedules, and other particulars about your planned experience. Lastly, explain how the funds will help you overcome any financial difficulties.

Note: Your Application Essay is a key element in the committee’s decision. Applicants are encouraged to produce a carefully crafted document.

Passport Issuance and Travel Abroad

Most countries will require a valid passport for entry and travel throughout their regions. If you do not currently possess a valid passport, do you foresee any obstacles to obtaining one? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please explain. Note: Obstacles might include felony convictions or pending charges.

Release

By signing this section, the applicant hereby grants the Stone Center permission to use the applicant’s name and image in all media including photography, biography, and excerpts of this application in connection with public relations and publicity about the program including information listed in Stone Center newsletters, news releases, brochures, and on its website. **Note: It is not mandatory for an applicant to sign this release as criteria for consideration for a UISF.**

Signature _____ Date _____

Honor Pledge

By signing this application form, the applicant hereby agrees to conform to the codes of conduct, both within and outside of the classroom environment, as stipulated in The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Honor Code, and as detailed in the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*. Additionally, by signing this application form, the applicant hereby attest that all information provided is true and accurate to the best of the applicant's ability.

Signature

Date