PRESIDENT’S AWARD AND PRESIDENT’S SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY ABROAD IN FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS

DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
Western Michigan University

Applications available: Departmental Office - 410 Sprau Tower
www.wmich.edu/languages/scholarships

Completed applications due: Oct. 15 (for spring programs)
                       Feb. 16 (for fall and academic year programs)

I. Description

A. The President’s Award is a grant of $1250 for study abroad. One is given each fall and spring semester. The President’s Scholarships consist of twelve scholarships of $1000 each for study abroad: 6 awarded during fall semester and 6 awarded during spring semester. The awards and scholarships must be used within one year of award.

B. The awards and the scholarships are to be used for an approved program of foreign language study at a foreign university or in a study abroad program sponsored by an American university. The purpose of the study is to improve foreign language skills.

C. The recipient of the awards or the scholarship must study abroad for at least one full semester. Preference will be given to those who enroll in WMU sponsored programs. In the case of students applying for non-WMU sponsored programs, other factors being equal, preference will be given to those who intend to study in a full-year program. The award or scholarship may not be used for programs during summer I or summer II sessions.

D. Preference will be given to language intensive programs outside of the North-American continent, and to students who have studied within their particular language section for at least two semesters at WMU.

II. Eligibility

A. Students must be currently enrolled full-time at WMU. Students of French, German, Japanese and Latin must have a declared major in their language; students of Arabic, Chinese and Russian must have a declared minor in their language.

B. Students must demonstrate that they have, at the time of application, the proficiency level required by the study abroad program in which they wish to participate. For proficiency level requirements, please see the faculty director of the specific program in which you are interested. Please note that in cases of equal merit, the scholarship committee will favor students with a longer proven record of foreign language study within their particular language section.

C. Applications for the President’s Award and President’s Scholarships must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 and a 3.50 in a foreign language major or minor.

D. The applicant must enroll in a study abroad program whose credits are transferable to WMU and which is approved by the Travel/Study Abroad advisor of the relevant language section.
E. Students may receive only one President’s Award or President’s Scholarship for Study Abroad during their career at Western Michigan University. The recipient of the scholarship will not be eligible to receive the Travel/Study Abroad Award of the Department of World Languages & Literatures.

III. Selection criteria:

A. Demonstrated academic achievement in foreign language major/minor.
B. Demonstrated overall academic achievement.
C. A typed essay in English of 300-500 words on the applicant’s reasons for wishing to study abroad.
D. Three letters of recommendation, two of which must come from faculty within the Department of World Languages & Literatures. These must be actual letters of recommendation, not forms. They should be sent directly by the recommenders to the Department of World Languages & Literatures, Western Michigan University, Attn: Jennifer Morrow, 410 Sprau Tower, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5338.
E. An interview with the award committee may be required. If needed, the interviews will be held in the fourth floor conference room, Sprau Tower, time and date to be announced. Any student selected for interview will be contacted by the department via phone and/or WMU email.

IV. Application process:

A. Application forms are available in the Department of World Languages & Literatures, 410 Sprau Tower, and on the departmental website: www.wmich.edu/languages/scholarships.
B. Completed applications, to include three letters of recommendation and a complete transcript (unofficial is acceptable), are due in the office of the Department of World Languages & Literatures by Oct. 15 (for spring programs) or Feb. 16 (for fall and academic year programs).
C. Results of the competition will be announced by the Department of World Languages & Literatures as soon as possible after the interviews are held. Funds will be made available to the recipient upon final acceptance into the previously approved study abroad program. Any funds accepted by the student which are not subsequently used for study abroad in an approved program must be returned to the Department of World Languages & Literatures, Western Michigan University.

President’s Grant – Office of Study Abroad (OSA)

The President’s Scholarships are administered by the Department of World Languages & Literatures. They should not be confused with The President’s Grant for Study Abroad which is administered by the Office of Study Abroad. A separate application for the OSA President’s Grant is necessary and can be found at: international.wmich.edu.