

SEARCHING FOR EXTERNAL, NATIONALLY COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

From: James Duban, Director
Office for Nationally Competitive Scholarships

Dear UNT Students (undergraduate and graduate):

Many nationally competitive scholarships can help fund your educations and bring added distinction to you, your résumés, and UNT. Thanks to the Internet and to the sharing of websites, highly advanced search engines are at your disposal. But finding an opportunity is just the beginning.

The UNT Office for Nationally Competitive Scholarships stands ready to work with you and your faculty mentors by offering feedback on style, tone, and organization on any essay you plan to submit for competition. You will enhance your writing skills and arrive at a better sense of your future plans and commitments. Moreover, undergraduates will find that they can adapt national-scholarship narratives to graduate-school admissions essays, with better chances of garnering internal fellowship support. Graduate students, in turn, end up transforming their scholarship proposals into the theoretical introductions to their masters' theses or doctoral dissertations. Stated otherwise, the process of applying for a nationally competitive scholarship is a "no lose" scenario, relative to the intrinsic and applied value of "the process."

Here's how to proceed in a way that will let you know what's "out there," and how my office can assist you in this process. You can start by visiting the home page of the National Association of Fellowships Advisors <http://www.nafadvisors.org/scholarships.htm> to see some of the higher-profile opportunities. There are, however, many more external scholarships and fellowships than these, and here's a quick way of accessing those through multiple Internet sites. (While you are at liberty to visit these sites, including those of other universities, kindly address any questions you have about these awards to me, at jduban@unt.edu. Other universities must attend to their own students.) This search may well take several days; don't let that deter you. In days before the Internet, the search would have taken several months or years).

1—Visit my home page (www.opgf.unt.edu) for an overview of high-profile scholarships.

2—The following website (U. Maryland) allows you to search by multiple categories, with hypertext links to the scholarship sponsors: <http://www.scholarships.umd.edu/minoritiesgradus.html>. Regardless of what is on the right side of the screen, click on the categories to the left, and then click on the optimal sub-category. Study those opportunities, scholarship-by-scholarship, before moving on to any of the sites below. If you try to do too much at once, the search will appear overwhelming.

3—Then visit <http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu/fellowships>

- a. Search by field of study, etc., clicking on the hypertext of each fellowship
- b. Click on each hypertext to summon up a description of the award, amount of award, and deadlines.
- c. Cut and paste the title of the award
- d. Google that title to obtain application forms or upload instructions.
- e. If applicable, also search, in the category box, for scholarships for "International Students," "Scholarships for Women"—or "Scholarships for Minorities."

For even more scholarships for women and minorities, please check:

<http://scholarships.fatomei.com/scholarships-for-minorities.html>

<http://www.awis.org/> (awards for women in science)

An additional resource for **International Students** is the following:

<http://www.grinnell.edu/files/downloads/Scholarships%20for%20International%20Students%202011.pdf>.

4. Visit, as well, the following links, where you can search for opportunities under multiple categories:

Kansas State www.k-state.edu/artsci/scholarship

U. Arkansas <http://fellowships.uark.edu/634.php>

Vanderbilt <http://ohs.vanderbilt.edu/complete-honor-scholarships.php>

U. Illinois, Chicago <http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/ssp/award.htm>
Williamette. <http://www.willamette.edu/dept/saga/national/index.html>

5. Note, as well (on my web page www.opgf.unt.edu), the link "UNT Scholarships and Financial Aid Resources." It will lead you to numerous hard-copy and many more Internet library resources that will prove helpful in searching for scholarships.

6. For graduate students applying for a highly specific grant (to fund a special project) rather than for a general scholarship or fellowship: SPIN (Sponsored Programs Information Network):
http://irservices.library.unt.edu/resource.cfm?ai_id=628
COS Funding Opportunities - Grants, fellowships, prizes, and other types of funding in multiple disciplines
http://irservices.library.unt.edu/resource.cfm?ai_id=504

For assistance with either of these two grant sites, please contact Ms. Jo Monahan, UNT Reference Librarian.

7. Make sure, as well, to check out the following:

<http://www.nd.edu/~fellows/GeneralStudies.html>
<http://www.fastweb.com>
<http://www.Brokescholar.com>
<http://fundingopps.cos.com>
http://irservices.library.unt.edu/resource.cfm?ai_id=35.
<http://www.library.unt.edu/research-tools/guides/financial-aid-scholarships>
<http://www.library.unt.edu/research-tools/guides/assets/financial-aid-and-scholarships-subject-guide-print-version/finaidsubjguideprint.pdf>

For graduate students in psychology:
<http://www.apa.org/about/awards/index.aspx>
<http://psychologicalscience.org/apssc/ofd.cfm>

If you access UNT sites off campus, you will need to use your EUID. If you have any problems with this procedure, please contact Ms. Jo Monahan at the Willis Library Reserve Desk.

ONCE YOU HAVE AN APPLICATION FORM IN HAND:

--determine the word or "character" limit for each entry;
--fill out that response in a Word document, adhering to the word or "character" limit;
--place that response beneath a cut-and-paste of the essay prompt (that is, the instructions for that essay), and run that response by your faculty mentor for thematic and stylistic feedback;
--incorporate that feedback into your Word document;
--cut and paste that revised Word document into an email to jduban@unt.edu. I will provide additional feedback in the areas of style and tone.

--When you, your mentor, and I are satisfied with that Word document, you will undertake the same process for each subsequent entry or essay.

--After completing each entry this way, you will cut and paste those entries into the appropriate boxes or columns of the formal application. I advise you never to work on the Internet site until you have completed the essay(s) in Word.

--Students should complete the application at least three weeks prior to the deadline and show a copy of the completed application to any person from whom they expect a letter of recommendation. The completed application will give recommenders more to say about you and will also allow them to place their recommendations in the context of the specific scholarship and its expectations. Professors will also interpret the three-week buffer as a welcome gesture of courtesy.

I look forward to working with you on these opportunities.

As publicized in my prior Eagle Connect messages, several scholarships require UNT endorsement. To compete for those opportunities, UNT students must complete the application in hard copy and secure hard-copy letters of recommendation before uploading anything online. Students who bypass the hard-copy submission deadlines (for the seven scholarships below) will forego UNT nomination. If you plan to complete for any of the following scholarships, you must, by the specified campus-level deadline (below), deliver all application materials to me, in hard copy. Please arrange an appointment by emailing jduban@unt.edu. Please do not begin working on these applications unless we have met in advance to discuss your eligibility (nearly all require 3.8-4.0 GPA, along with extensive records of research and leadership):

ENDORSEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND UNT CAMPUS DEADLINES (REGARDLESS OF NATIONAL DEADLINES):

Rhodes, Marshall, and Mitchell Scholarships: August 6 (<http://www.rhodesscholar.org/>; <http://www.marshallscholarship.org/>; <http://www.us-irelandalliance.org/content/3/en/George%20Mitchell%20Scholarship%20Program%20%7C%20US-Ireland%20Alliance.html>)

Goldwater Scholarship: October 6 (<http://www.act.org/goldwater/>)

Truman Scholarship: Nov. 15 (www.truman.gov)

Morris K. Udall Scholarship: January 18 (www.udall.gov)

Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship in the Arts and Creative Writing: January 18
<http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/graduate-scholarships/jack-kent-cooke-graduate-arts-award/>

Please let me know which scholarships you deem appropriate for you. When you send an email to me, kindly place the name of the scholarship at the front of the "subject" line, with the added words, "will apply, need feedback." For example, your subject line might read as follows: "Rotary Scholarship, will apply."

I look forward to working with you on these opportunities.

James Duban
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