

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) International Services and Global Issues Division Scholarship Application

The Global Issues Division is now accepting applications for the 2018 Scholarship

AER's Global Issues Division is offering an inaugural scholarship competition for students originating from areas outside of mainland United States and Canada that is obtaining post-secondary education to serve students with visual impairments in their region. Therefore, this scholarship is open to cultural and geographical locations around the world; however, it is not open to American or Canadian students studying in or outside of their home country.

One scholarship of \$500 will be awarded to a student studying to work with people that are blind and/or visually impaired. The scholarship is an restricted award and needs to be used to further the students education in the field of blindness and visual impairments.

The deadline for the application is Monday April 2nd, 2018

Eligibility

Applicants for the scholarship must be accepted for full, unrestricted enrollment (*not probationary status*) or must be enrolled (*part-time or full-time*) at an institution of higher education.

If the applicant is accepted for enrollment, but has not yet begun classes, the award will be made when the student can show proof of completion of one term of study and two related courses. Individuals who have been accepted for enrollment but have not yet completed one term of study must do so within one year of the date that the Global Issues Scholarship application was awarded or the recipient will forfeit the award.

In every case, students must show proof of two related courses.

How to apply

An application form must be completed in full and signed by the applicant. Application submission is as follows:

- ***Only electronic submissions are accepted.*** These should be emailed to Lisa Johnson at lmjohnson1025@gmail.com
- ***Incomplete applications or applications that are not received by Monday April 2nd, 2018 will not be considered.***

Selection

Applications for the AER Global Issues Scholarship will be judged by the Division Chair and Division Scholarship Committee. Individuals will be evaluated for the scholarship based only on the information included in the application packet. The award decision date will be no later than May 15th, 2018.

Selection will be based on the applicants' commitment and/or passion for working with the blind and visually impaired in his/her region in any capacity, the need for professionals working with this population in your region, along with the extent of experience (paid or unpaid) in human service endeavors as reflected in the responses, the essay, and in the letters of recommendation. Financial need will also be taken into consideration.

All eligible students are encouraged to apply for the scholarship.

Other information about the scholarship

Upon awarding the scholarship, a brief biography of the recipient will be announced in a division blast email update, newsletter, and on the Facebook site.

Permission for Media Release

Media: In accepting the AER International Services and Global Issues Division Scholarship, I am specifically granting permission for use of the name, voice or words, and any image created digitally in television, radio, films, newspaper, printed materials or websites in any form. This includes 35mm photos, videos, digital photos or any other form of image reproduction. Photos will be used in an educationally professional manner and may appear in print, on the AER International Services and Global Issues Division website, or as design elements in public displays and presentations.

(Print)

(Signature)

The Scholarship Committee chairperson will notify the award winner by phone or email on or before May 15th, 2018. Individuals who apply and are not selected will be notified by the Scholarship Committee Chairperson via email.

The award will be presented to the winner upon verification that the proposed awardee meets the eligibility requirement described above.

AERBVI International Services and Global Issues Division
Scholarship Application Form - 2018 Edition

Please type or neatly print all information in English.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (please include your country code): _____

Email Address: _____

Are you a member of AER? YES NO

Are you currently enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an institution of higher education where you intend to receive education for the purpose of working with people with visual impairments in some capacity?

YES NO

Which institution of higher education do you attend/plan to attend?

.....

The need for professionals working with the blind and visually impaired population in your region will be considered. Briefly describe the need for professionals working in your area of study, in the region of your choosing as it relates to the field of blindness. Provide your response in the given area.

Selection will be based on the applicants' commitment and/or passion for working with the blind and visually impaired in his/her home region in any capacity. Please briefly describe your paid and/or volunteer experiences related to health, human services, education and related fields, include clubs and organizations, and include positions held in blindness related organizations. Explain courses that you have taken and how they relate to working in the field of blindness and low vision. Provide your response in the given area.

Briefly describe your educational background, academic achievements, and school activities (such as clubs, organizations, and interests outside of the classroom). Include awards, citations, and scholarships. Additionally, list any positions of responsibility or employment that you have had. *Please do not repeat information listed in the previous question.* Provide your response in the given area.

The scholarship is a restricted award and needs to be used to further the students' education in the field of blindness and visual impairments. Financial need will also be taken into consideration. Please describe how this award would help you advance your education and how you plan to use the funds (such as books, supplies, or tuition).

All materials received by the scholarship chairperson will become the property of the committee and will not be returned to the applicant. All information will be kept confidential.

In addition to the signed application form (pages 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this document), each applicant must include the following items to complete the application process:

- **Essay** – answering the question, “Why have I chosen to enter the field of working with people who have visual impairments or are blind?” The essay should be no longer than 200 words and should provide evidence of your commitment to the field.
- **Two letters of recommendation** – that includes at least one from a current academic mentor or advisor that documents your enrollment or acceptance for enrollment in the course of study. The second letter can be from an individual in the field working with people who are blind and visually impaired, a coach, a club adviser, or an employer. Please be sure they are dated letters with a signature. Avoid letters written by an individual that is related to you. *Letters of recommendation should mention the applicant’s commitment to the field.*
- Proof of completion of previous terms - with proof of two related courses (or copy of acceptance letter)
If the applicant is accepted for enrollment, but has not yet begun courses, the award will be made when the student can show proof of completion of one term of study and two related courses. This proof should be emailed to Lisa Johnson at lmjohnson1025@gmail.com
- If possible, proof of course schedule for the following term
 - *If not possible - be sure that the academic mentor or advisor documents your enrollment and plan for continued study in the letter of recommendation.*

I hereby apply for the AER International Services and Global Issues Division Scholarship. I agree to abide by the decision of the scholarship committee.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Printed Name of Applicant: _____

Date: _____

Application forms must be completed in full and signed by each applicant.

Application submission is as follows:

Only electronic submissions are accepted. These should be emailed to Lisa Johnson at lmjohnson1025@gmail.com Applications for the scholarship must be received by Monday **April 2nd, 2018.**

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