Class of 2010 Dr. Robert M. Gates Inspiration Award

Nominations due: March 9, 2007, 5:00 pm
To Suzanne Sealey, Pavilion Room 210
Nomination form is available online at https://financialaid.tamu.edu/regents/review.

During the Regents' Scholars Spring Banquet on April 10, 2007, the Regents' Scholars Program will recognize one outstanding Texas A&M University faculty, staff, advisor, or mentor for their participation and contributions to the program. Please take a few minutes to complete the form and show your appreciation for someone who has inspired you during your first year at Texas A&M.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
Regents’ Scholars Spring Banquet, April 10, 2007

WANTED
Regents’ Scholars Program Peer Mentors

Help welcome the Class of 2011!
Apply now to be a Regents’ Scholars Program Peer Mentor for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Benefits of becoming a peer mentor:
- Leadership opportunities
- Participate in training and the Regents' Scholars Program Orientation on August 20, 2007
- Meet fellow Regents’ Scholars
- Regents’ Scholars Program Student Organization
- Mentor Freshman throughout the academic year
- Must have a 2.0 GPR or better

Applications due to the Regents’ Scholars Staff by February 16, 2007.
Download the application online at https://financialaid.tamu.edu/regents/review.

Please share the opportunity with your friends!

FAFSA Renewal Workshop

Does the FAFSA renewal process have you seeing double?! Find answers to all of your FAFSA renewal questions at the FAFSA Renewal Workshops hosted by the Department of Student Financial Aid. Counselors will be available for one-on-one assistance with applications to answer your individual questions. Space is limited, so sign up now!

March 5, 2007  2:00-3:00 pm
March 6, 2007  10:00-11:00 am
March 8, 2007  2:00-3:00 pm
March 9, 2007  10:30-11:30 am

To register, please visit us online at https://financialaid.tamu.edu/workshops.
As many of you know, it’s time to begin applying for 2007-2008 financial aid. You can begin completing the 2007-2008 FAFSA online at http://www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you qualified for state aid during 2006-2007 and were not able to complete the FAFSA, please visit financialaid.tamu.edu and complete the 2007-2008 Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA). For both the FAFSA and the State Aid for Foreign Students form, you may need some or all of the documents listed below.

- Social Security Number (can be found on Social Security card)
- Driver’s license (if any)
- W-2 Forms and other records of money earned
- The student’s (and his/her spouse’s, if he/she is married) 2006 federal income tax return - IRS Form 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, foreign tax return, or tax return for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau
- Parent’s 2006 federal income tax return (if you are a dependent student)
- 2006 untaxed income records - Social Security, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, welfare, or veterans benefits records
- 2006 bank statements
- 2006 business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond, and other investment records
- Permanent resident card (if the student is not a U.S. citizen)
- Any additional information needed is listed on the type of form you are completing.

If you have any questions on the requirements for the 2007-2008 FAFSA or TASFA, please call our office at 979-845-3236 or email us at financialaid@tamu.edu.

Rosa A. Hernandez ‘09
Regents’ Scholars Program Student
Planning Board (Academic Liaison) and Regents’ Scholars Program Student Organization (RSO) Executive Board Member (Finance Executive)

This past summer I joined Suzanne Sealey and Cheryl Rode in their journey to expand the Regents’ Scholars Program and break ground to initiate a student organization here at Texas A&M University. I’m pleased to say that we have accomplished many and great things. I currently serve on the Regents’ Scholars Program Student Planning Board, in which I assist with the planning and implementation of the Regents’ Scholars Orientation and Peer Mentor Program. I also form part of the Executive Board of the new Regents’ Scholars Program Student Organization as the Finance Executive.

Through this program I have been able to accomplish many of my dreams and goals. This past weekend I fulfilled yet again another dream of mine, to fly! I had never flown before and for the first time I did, and traveled to Seattle. I was so excited when I was informed that the student planning board would be attending the National Conference on Student Leadership Certified Student Leader for a weekend retreat in Seattle, WA. I was flying for the first time as well traveling out of Texas and up north of the U.S. I finally grasped the idea that I was going to fly when Suzanne asked me to check-in my luggage and get my boarding pass. Words are not enough to explain my feelings as I boarded the plane. I didn’t know what to expect, all I knew was that I was going to be 37,000 feet up in the air! It was an amazing experience, I saw the sunrise as I left College Station to Houston and sunset on my way back. The four hour flight to Seattle from Houston was amazing. I didn’t get a window seat on my way to Seattle, but I got one on our way back. They view was amazingly beautiful. I absolutely loved it, so much that the four hours seemed short.

The conference was great! We had a chance to share ideas with other colleges and universities. We had the opportunity to enrich our quality in leadership and organizational management with some of the workshops and training that we obtained. We discussed current topics and issues that we as students deal with on-campus and shared possible solutions. The conference was not just for students, we had faculty and staff from other universities and colleges present too. It’s important to share ideas among fellow students, but it’s also important to discuss with faculty and staff. I met many amazing leaders and learned from their success.

The Regents’ Scholars Program has granted me numerous opportunities to fulfill my most desired dreams. I want to thank the program and all the people that make it possible. This is the main reason I now assist the program, to show my gratitude, but most importantly to help it grow so that the program may help other students’ dreams come true.
**Study Abroad**

Deanna Holder, Financial Aid Advisor
Cheryl Rode, Financial Aid Advisor

So…why should I study abroad?

Getting an education is more than getting a degree. It is knowing, understanding, and contributing to your world, a world of increasing complexity and interdependence, which requires its workforce to interact with people from other countries and cultures. To succeed in this global interdependent world, it is critical that students gain an informed perspective about it. Few things can provide that perspective like a study abroad experience. Study abroad offers you the chance to live in and come to know another culture rather than just read about or visit it. In addition, study abroad provides you with the chance to understand, evaluate, and appreciate your own culture and values.

How would this impact the financial aid package?

One of biggest myths about study abroad is that it is unaffordable. Students who are already receiving financial aid from Texas A&M can usually apply all of this aid toward their study abroad experience. Most importantly, the financial aid package can be increased to offset the difference in cost when studying abroad.

Getting Started…

Various study abroad program options exist to aid students in finding the program that meets their needs and wishes. Information on getting started can be found on the Texas A&M Study Abroad Programs web site, http://studyabroad.tamu.edu. However, planning well ahead, at least a semester to a year before the study abroad program is highly recommended to ensure a quality and enjoyable study abroad experience.

You will need to:

- Attend an information session and/or visit the Study Abroad Office where advisors and student peer counselors are available to assist students.
- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss any academic issues such as application of study abroad coursework to the student’s degree plan
- Decide which program you want to participate in and apply for the program at (http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/how_to_apply.asp)
- Make preparations according to upcoming funding and program deadlines

Eligibility

Eligibility requirements vary between programs. Eligibility requirements for each program type can be found at: http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/eligibility.asp

Deadlines

Faculty Led Programs
- Each program will have its own specific deadline. Please check with the program for the deadlines.

Reciprocal Educational Exchange Programs (REEP)
- March 1st for fall semester and year long exchanges
- September 15th for spring semester exchanges

Independent Study Abroad and other non-TAMU Programs
- Each program will have its own specific deadline. Please check with the program for the deadlines.


The Department of Student Financial Aid can help make your trip a reality. With this excellent opportunity to study abroad you need to make sure that everything is carefully planned prior to leaving for your experience. You need to be aware that coming to the financial aid department is a must, and not just for one visit. You need to be diligent in the planning and conscious of important dates with regards to the program you choose.

The Department of Student Financial Aid awards students for a regular academic year if a FAFSA has been filled out, but for summer study abroad you must fill out a summer form to receive financial aid. If you have not already filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), then you must do so at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The 2007-2008 FAFSA will be available beginning January 1, 2007.

In addition to the above necessary steps for any semester/term, you will need the following in order to study abroad and receive financial aid funds:

- You will need to have the Study Abroad Programs Office complete a Study Abroad Budget Request Form for your program.
- Once you have been awarded financial aid, you should set an appointment with a counselor in the Department of Student Financial Aid to discuss the options for obtaining funds to study abroad. If you have not already submitted a budget request form at this time, you should do so, if possible, during the meeting. It is still a good idea to speak with a financial aid counselor as soon as you are awarded in order to stay on top of the situation.
- Two weeks before departure, you should meet with your financial aid counselor in the Department of Student Financial Aid for one final check of your financial aid funds. You will discuss disbursement dates, academic standing and any other questions you may have in regards to the funding sources.

Studying abroad is meant to be a fun and exciting educational experience, but again, you must be diligent in their preparations. Sufficient planning is the key to a successful and pleasant trip! Bon Voyage!