

2009 HONORS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

APPLICATION

The NMSU Honors College Scholarship provides outstanding sophomore and junior Honors College-eligible students with an unusual opportunity for a foreign travel/research experience. The experience, designed by the student as part of the application process, must offer the opportunity to refine a world view or philosophy of life that will complement and bring a higher level of understanding to his or her undergraduate education. It must go beyond a simple addition to his or her disciplinary studies or a traditional study-abroad experience.

This year's application process will begin in the fall and the selection of a Scholar will be announced in April. Each Scholar will receive the following benefits:

- A stipend/scholarship totaling \$5,000.00 paid during the student's Junior year or during the summer prior to the Junior year (Junior class applicants must use the scholarship during the summer after their Junior year), to cover the student's expenses for a special travel/research experience, as designated in the student's scholarship proposal.
- Designation as an Honors College Scholar.
- A faculty mentor to oversee the student's development.

Application is made through the development of a portfolio collection of the work and ideas of the student. The selection committees, composed of NMSU faculty, administrators, and members of the public, will seek to gauge the extent of the applicant's knowledge, leadership skills, the manner in which the applicant makes decisions, and the motivation of the applicant to improve his/her intellectual life, as shown by both written work and through an interview.

To apply, students must have at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA and Crimson Scholar status, and be of sophomore or junior standing. Applicants from all colleges are encouraged to apply. Students at branch campuses may apply but must enroll at the main NMSU campus by the time of the award.

PURPOSE

The quality of a student's education is greatly enhanced by combining the formal instruction of the classroom with experience that enriches the meaning of knowledge. The Honors College Scholarship asks that students reflect on the nature of such an experience as an integral component of the educational process. Indeed, the selection of the Honors College Scholar depends primarily on the ability of the applicants to define an experience that will complement and bring a higher level of understanding to their undergraduate education. Unlike many scholarship programs, the experience sought by Honors College Scholar applicants must go far beyond a simple addition to their disciplinary studies and the familiar surroundings of NMSU. The experience must offer them the opportunity to refine a world view and philosophy of life, and develop a stronger personal character.

Such experiences might, for example, take the form of a research experience in a lab overseas, a creative project in a foreign country, or a unique international study proposal. Whatever the student

chooses, the project should be creative and student generated. ***The scholarship is not intended to fund regular study abroad programs.***

While proposals to fund domestic projects will be considered, the selection committees will give priority to projects that will take place outside the United States. In no case may a project be undertaken in Doña Ana County.

Further, this experience is intended to help prepare student applicants for participation in the prestigious British Marshall and Rhodes scholarship programs during their senior year. As is true for applicants for these scholarships, the Honors College Scholar will be selected, in large part, on the basis of the student's ability to define such an experience and the evaluation of two committees concerning the ability of the student to use these opportunities to make significant contributions to society. Even those students who are not selected as the Honors College Scholar will benefit through the preparatory application process as they develop materials for other scholarship competitions, bolster their interview skills, and unlock other opportunities.

SELECTION PROCESS

Characteristics of Honors College Scholars

The Honors College Scholarship Program seeks to identify deserving students with outstanding abilities who through the opportunity provided by this Program may develop greater capacity to make a difference in the world. Given the unique opportunities afforded the Honors College Scholar, the selection process is rigorous. Students who seek participation in the Program should demonstrate previous – as well as the potential for – significant personal development in the following five qualities:

- Intellectual curiosity and achievement
- Mental agility to handle the unexpected and to solve problems
- Questing spirit, the will to pursue the greater challenge and to take risks
- Moral character, i.e., exceptional standards of personal and public ideals, expectations, and performance
- Leadership, the ability to serve, lead, and receive the recognition of their peers

The Application Process

Prior to making an application, the student must gain the agreement of a member of the faculty to act as the student's Mentor. The duties of the Mentor include acting as academic advisor to the student, assisting the student in developing the proposal for the educational experience and serving as a proponent during the selection process. This Mentor may possibly go on to supervise the student's honors thesis project. In addition to this academic Mentor, Honors College staff are available to assist you in the development of your project and for periodic consultation. If you need help in finding a Mentor, let the Honors College staff know.

Application is made through the development of a portfolio. Applicants must be Crimson Scholars, but academic standing will only be considered in the initial evaluation phase of the selection process. Grade reports will be explicitly excluded from the applicant's final portfolio.

A kickoff meeting for all potential applicants and their faculty mentors will be held in the Conroy Honors Center at 4:00 PM on November 5, 2008.

Students wishing to apply must then set up a brief meeting to discuss the scholarship with Honors College staff. They must do so between the period of November 6-21, 2008 or December 1-4, 2008. To do so, students should contact Valerie Torres (vatorres@nmsu.edu) or 646-2005.

Students should next notify the Associate Dean of the Honors College of their intention to apply for the scholarship no later than 5:00 PM on December 5, 2008.

The Application Portfolio

The portfolio is a collection of the work and ideas of the student which should provide the selection committees with a portrait of the applicant. The portfolio, limited to no less than 10 pages and no more than 20 pages (front only), must contain the following:

1. Completed application cover sheet.
2. A brief cover letter written by the student summarizing why the student is applying and a statement of long range goals and plans.
3. Curriculum vitae (resume).
4. Personal statement (500 – 1000 words).
5. Detailed proposal for the travel/research experience. Please be as detailed as possible, including specifics on travel, a timeline, the academic/research institutions and/or scholars with whom you will work or be affiliated, projects you will undertake, etc.
6. A detailed budget for the travel/research experience.
7. An endorsement from the faculty Mentor and a letter of recommendation from one other faculty member.
8. A statement signed by the applicant that all of the work in the portfolio is the work of the applicant.

The portfolio should showcase student work of the highest quality and provide insight into the student's character and beliefs, documented through work completed by the student.

Preliminary application portfolios must be submitted to the Honors College no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, February 20, 2009.

Final application portfolios must be submitted to the Honors College no later than 5:00 PM, on Friday, March 20, 2009.

The selection of the Honors College Scholar will be a two-stage process: 1) initial evaluation of the portfolios, and 2) student interviews. Through this process, the selection committees will seek to gauge the extent of the applicant's knowledge, the manner in which the applicant makes decisions, and the motivation of the applicant to improve his/her intellectual life. The Honors College Scholar will be the applicant whose portfolio reflects the highest quality of work and most demonstrates significant personal development in the five specified qualities enumerated earlier in this document.

Initial Evaluation of the Application

When the applicants have submitted their preliminary portfolios, the Honors College staff reviews them. The review is for the purpose of checking the quality and completeness of the portfolio. Applicants will be notified of problems and will be permitted to correct the portfolio and submit the final application approximately four weeks later. Once this process is complete, the applicant may make no further changes. Should the applicant's record of accomplishment change, the Dean of the Honors College should be notified.

The Campus Committee

A Campus Committee composed of, administrators, Honors College Circle for Excellence members, and former Honors College Scholars appointed by the Dean of the Honors College will perform the initial evaluation of the portfolios. The Campus Committee will make its decisions on the following bases:

- Does the applicant demonstrate the qualities specified previously for an Honors College Scholar?
- Does the applicant propose a significant educational travel/research experience, ideally outside the United States?
- In the judgment of the committee, will the applicant complete the experience in a manner appropriate to be designated an Honors College Scholar?
- Does the applicant provide evidence of the promise of a life of accomplishment and service?

On the basis of their judgments, the Campus Committee will select finalists to be interviewed by the Honors College Award Committee.

The Honors College Award Committee

Those applicants put forward by the Campus Committee will undergo one interview to determine the Honors College Scholar appointed each year. This Award Committee will consist of citizens from outside the University community, Honors College Circle for Excellence Members, prior Honors College Scholars, and faculty members selected by the Honors College Dean. The finalist interviews will be held on Friday, April 10, 2009. No alternative interview dates are available. Following the interviews with the applicants, the Award Committee will select the Honors College Scholar. The decision of the Award Committee will be final and will be announced to the applicants assembled at the Conroy Honors Center within an hour after the last interview is held.

OBLIGATIONS OF HONORS COLLEGE SCHOLARS

The Honors College Scholarship is intended for those students who wish, based on their talent and leadership, to make a significant contribution to society. They are expected to seek ways of improving the lives of others and make the following commitments:

- During their Junior and Senior years, Honors College Scholars will participate in the selection process for new Honors College Scholars.

- Each Honors College Scholar will give a presentation, during the semester immediately following when their experience took place, to the campus community at the Conroy Honors Center concerning the educational gains of his/her experience.

NMSU Honors College Scholarship Application Deadlines for 2008-2009

November 5, 2008 (4pm)	Kickoff meeting for potential applicants and mentors at Conroy Honors Center.
Nov. 6-21, Dec. 1-4, 2008	Schedule a brief meeting to discuss the scholarship with the Honors College Staff. To do so, please contact Valerie Torres (vatorres@nmsu.edu) or 646-2005.
December 5, 2008	Deadline for students to notify the Associate Dean of their intent to apply. To declare, send an email to tomlin@nmsu.edu with the subject line HCS. Include your name, student number, major, email address, phone number, and the name of your Mentor.
February 20, 2009	Preliminary application portfolios due by 5:00 PM.
March 20, 2009	Final application portfolios due by 5:00 PM.
March 20 – April 3, 2009	Campus Committee reviews applications and selects finalists.
April 10, 2009	Finalist interviews. Honors College Scholar announced.
May 2009-August 2010	Scholarship tenable. Awards will be processed through the Honors College. Juniors may only use the scholarship in summer 2009.

2009 HONORS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Application Cover Sheet

This application *MUST BE TYPED*.

PART I: BASIC INFORMATION

Full Name

E-mail

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Permanent Telephone (include area code)

Local Telephone

Expected Graduation Date

Cumulative GPA

Academic Major(s)

Are you taking honors courses with the intent to graduate with University Honors?

Yes

No

PART II: ABSTRACT

Please provide a concise, 50-75 word abstract of your project in the box below.