

# **2012-2013 A. I. JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP**

## ***(APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 9, 2012)***

**A. I. Johnson** was the Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives and later a Regent of the University of Minnesota. This scholarship was created for undergraduate students who show a strong interest in public affairs with an intent to pursue a career or activities serving the public. Such careers and activities may include community volunteer activities, organizing to affect public policy, service on government advisory committees, and appointive or elective office.

### **Who is eligible to apply for this scholarship?**

- University of Minnesota--Twin Cities Campus students who are degree-seeking undergraduates and who possess a strong interest in public affairs and an intention to pursue a career or activities serving the public are eligible and encouraged to apply.

### **Is there a public service component to this scholarship?**

- Recipients of the A. I. Johnson Scholarship must complete a total of 400 internship hours during the fall and/or spring semester. Students may do one 400-hour internship in one semester or two different internships (200-hours each semester).
- The internship may be with a legislator, government agency, congressional office, international organization, or agency or an interest group concerned with public affairs.
- Applicants are not required to have an internship arranged at the time of application.

### **Can I receive credit for the internship?**

- Scholarship recipients must register in the Department of Political Science for a minimum of four internship credits under POL 3080 during the semester that they intern. Recipients may register for up to 13 internship credits for full-time internships. (*The Department of Political Science allows a maximum of 13 political science internship credits throughout the student's college career.*)
- Academic work such as readings, journals, informational interviews and research papers are required to earn internship credit through POL 3080.

### **What is the amount of the scholarship?**

- In 2011-2012, two recipients received a total of \$23,000 through the A. I. Johnson Scholarship. Scholarship amounts vary from year to year based upon the number of students selected to receive the scholarships and the availability of funds. Additional costs associated with out-of-state or international internships will be considered. Scholarships are paid in two equal payments in the fall 2012 and spring 2013 semesters.

### **How will scholarship recipients be selected?**

- A selection committee in the Department of Political Science will review all applications. The committee chooses the recipients and decides on the scholarship amount for each recipient.

### **When will I find out if I was selected to receive this scholarship?**

- The selection committee should make its decisions in April. All applicants for this scholarship will be notified of the committee's decisions.

### **Who can I call if I have more questions?**

- Contact the Undergraduate Advising Office in the Department of Political Science in 1482 Social Sciences or call (612) 624-8517.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

- Recipients of this scholarship must be enrolled in both the fall semester 2012 and spring semester 2013.
- Students who complete their 400-hour internship during one term must register for a minimum of 4 internship credits under POL 3080 and be full-time students (at least 13 credits) during the other term.
- Students who choose to complete their 400-hour internships over two terms must be full-time students (at least 13 credits) both terms. Students must register for at least 4 internship credits under POL 3080 both terms and do two different types of internships. Students may not receive internship credit for the same type of internship for more than one term.
- The recipient is responsible for directly contacting departments, organizations or individuals in order to arrange the internship(s).

## **Selection Criteria**

Recipients of the A. I. Johnson Scholarship will be chosen on the following:

- Demonstrated interest in public service
- Academic strengths and transcripts
- Well-written personal statement
- Past work and volunteer experience
- Strong supporting letters of recommendation from professors, former teachers, employers or community members with whom you've worked or volunteered,

## **Application Checklist**

A complete application includes all of the following:

- A completed and signed the application form
- An essay expanding upon the information you supply in Sections 3 AND 4 of the application as well as your interests and future plans in the public service (maximum 2 pages)
- Two letters of recommendation from people with knowledge of the applicant's academic abilities and/or knowledge of the applicant's interest in public service
- A short writing sample (3 to 5 pages)
- A current, complete transcript listing all college coursework (unofficial transcripts and APAS reports are acceptable and they are free)

**Application materials must be received by March 9, 2012. Do not fax or e-mail any part of the application. Please hand deliver or mail your application materials to:**

University of Minnesota  
Department of Political Science  
1414 Social Sciences Building  
267 19th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
ATTN: Rose Miskowiec

# 2012-2013 A. I. Johnson Scholarship Application

Application deadline: March 9, 2012

## SECTION 1—STUDENT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (      ) \_\_\_\_\_ U of M e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

I am a (check one) \_\_\_ U.S. Citizen \_\_\_ International Student \_\_\_ Other (please specify \_\_\_\_\_)

## SECTION 2—ACADEMIC INFORMATION

College of Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_ Major(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Minor(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Status:    Freshman \_\_\_\_\_    Sophomore \_\_\_\_\_    Junior \_\_\_\_\_    Senior \_\_\_\_\_  
                          (0-30 credits)            (31-60 credits)            (61- 90 credits)            (90+ credits)

Number of credits completed at the end of fall semester 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

*(If you have completed 90 or more credits by the end of fall semester 2011, please explain why you plan to attend both the fall 2012 and spring 2013 semesters to complete your degree.)*

Do you currently have a Bachelor's Degree (B.A., B.S.)?    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If yes, when and where did you receive this degree?)*

Anticipated graduation date from U of M: \_\_\_\_\_ semester \_\_\_\_\_ year

## SECTION 3—INTERNSHIP INTERESTS/PLANS

During which semester(s) do you expect to complete your internship? \_\_\_\_\_ fall 2012 \_\_\_\_\_ spring 2013

**Internship Interests:** The A. I. Johnson Scholarship requires a 400-hour public service internship. List possible internships that would be of interest to you and why.

## **SECTION 4—ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Academic Background:** List college courses taken that contributed to your interests and skills in public service and public affairs.

**Volunteer/Work/Extra Curricular Activities:** List your volunteer, work, and extra curricular activities as well as other relevant experience in which you have demonstrated a commitment to public service.

## **SECTION 5—CERTIFICATION**

I certify that I meet the eligibility requirements for the A. I. Johnson Scholarship as explained in this application. I understand that if I am selected as a recipient of this scholarship I must complete a 400-hour, public service internship during the fall semester 2012 or the spring semester 2013. I also understand that I am required to register for a minimum of four internship credits through the Department of Political Science during the semester in which I participate in the internship and a minimum of 13 credits the other semester. If I participate in two 200-hour public service internships during both the fall semester 2012 and spring semester 2013, I understand that I must be registered for a minimum of 13 credits each semester including the four internship credits through the Department of Political Science. I understand that if I fail to maintain my registration or do not satisfactorily complete my courses or my internship, my scholarship amount may be revised or cancelled or I may be asked to repay any funds I have already received.

All of the information provided on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. My signature indicates I understand the terms and conditions associated with this scholarship and my agreement to abide by those terms and conditions.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_



## Writing Your Personal Statement for the Scholarship Application

In addition to having a transcript that reflects your strong academic abilities, the personal statement is extremely important in the scholarship committee's decision-making process. Your personal statement should be clear, concise, grammatically correct, and free of all spelling errors. The personal statement should also demonstrate, in your own words and in an interesting and informative way, why you are the best candidate for the scholarship.

When writing your personal statement, make sure that you carefully read the scholarship application and highlight your qualifications as they relate to the scholarship. Your personal statement, no matter how well written it is, will not impress the scholarship committee if the information you provide does not address the selection criteria for the scholarship for which you are applying. For the A. I. Johnson Scholarship, you should highlight your past public service experience such as previous volunteer work you have done. You may also want to highlight your leadership skills, your ability to work independently, as well as other experiences you may have had that demonstrate your maturity and readiness for a future internship.

Don't expect to write your personal statement the night before the application is due. You should plan on writing several drafts of your personal statement so start writing your initial draft early. Think about the scholarship selection criteria. List your specific plan for using the scholarship funds. Give examples of things you have done in the past that have prepared you for the internship you are proposing to do. Explain why you are proposing this particular internship. Answer these questions: How will this internship enhance your academic experience? How will this experience prepare you for your future career or academic goals?

After you have devoted a sufficient amount of time to writing the best draft possible, share your personal statement with others and ask for their feedback. Ask people who have expertise in an area related to your internship to review your personal statement. Seek the advice of your professors and other professionals. This will reassure you, and the committee, that the internship you are proposing to do is something that is realistic for someone with your background and experience.

Although resumes are not required, it is strongly recommended that you submit a copy of your resume. The resume can help the selection committee gain a broader perspective of your past achievements and your other life experiences.

## Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are also useful resources for members of the scholarship committee. When asking for letters of recommendation, make sure that you give your recommender a copy of the scholarship application so s/he can tailor the letter of recommendation to the A. I. Johnson Scholarship. The best letters of recommendation come from people who know you very well (but don't get letters of recommendation from relatives) and can attest to your academic skills, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to the internship that you are proposing to do. You should ask your recommender at least one month in advance for a letter of recommendation. When you talk to your recommender, give him/her a copy of the application and the final draft of your personal statement. This will assist the recommender in writing a recommendation that complements your personal statement and confirms your readiness for your internship.

