

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE 2012-2013 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION for POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS

The department is able to offer these scholarships to officially declared political science majors thanks to the generosity of our donors who created the *Charles Backstrom Undergraduate Scholarship*, the *Asher Christensen Fund*, the *Judge Earl and Mrs. Cecill Larson Scholarship*, the *Michelle E. Roberts and Jonathan E. Smaby Scholarship*, and the *William Schaper Memorial Fund*. The purpose of these scholarships is to provide financial support for talented political science majors so they may dedicate themselves to their studies and attain the best possible liberal arts education.

Students may use this one application to apply for all of five of these scholarships. Scholarship recipients are expected to complete a University or community service project, a research project or honors thesis, an internship, or participate in a study abroad program. Students are encouraged to be creative and propose other types of projects, too. Students must register for credit for their project through the Department of Political Science during the fall semester 2012 or the spring semester 2013. Most students register for POL 3080 Internships, POL 3110H or POL 4900V Honors Thesis Credits, or POL 4970 Directed Study. Students whose special project is a study abroad program are usually exempt from registering for additional credit through the Department. Only students who have officially declared a major in political science are eligible to apply. The application deadline is **March 9, 2012**.

Who are Charles Backstrom, Asher Christensen, Judge Earl and Mrs. Cecill Larson, William Schaper, and Jonathan Smaby and Michelle Roberts?

- ***Professor Charles Backstrom Undergraduate Scholarship in Political Science:*** This scholarship was created by Dr. Len Robins in honor of his former teacher and friend, Emeritus Professor Charles Backstrom. Professor Backstrom taught American government courses at the University from 1959 to 1997. He started the department's Paid Congressional Internship Program which has given hundreds of undergraduates the opportunity to intern for members of the U.S. Senate and House. Recipients will be asked to write thank you letters to Mrs. Barbara Backstrom and provide some details about themselves, their future academic and personal goals. ***Recipients must be full-time students (13 credits).***
- ***Asher Christensen Fund:*** Professor Asher Christensen (1904-1961), a native of Little Falls, Minnesota, graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1924. He continued his education at the graduate level at the University of Minnesota, the University of Chicago, and the Universidad de Madrid in Spain. He taught introductory- and advanced-level American government courses and Latin American politics. This scholarship fund was created by the family and friends of Professor Christensen. ***Recipients must be full-time students (13 credits).***
- ***Judge Earl and Mrs. Cecill Larson Scholarship:*** Judge Larson received his bachelor's degree and his law degree from the University. Mrs. Larson is also a CLA graduate. Judge Larson served as a U.S. District Court Judge, President of the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, and State Chairman for the Minnesota Human Rights Commission. Selected recipients will be asked to write a thank you letter to Mrs. Cecill Larson and provide some details about their research interests, future academic and personal goals. ***Recipients must be full-time students (13 credits).***
- ***William Schaper Memorial Fund:*** Professor William Schaper was an instructor at the University of Minnesota in 1900. He taught courses in American and comparative government. This scholarship fund was created by Harriet E. Schaper in 1957. ***Recipients must be full-time students (13 credits).***
- ***Jonathan E. Smaby and Michelle E. Roberts Scholarship in Political Science:*** Jonathan graduated in 1985 from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in political science. He and Michelle Roberts received their law degrees from the University of Michigan and practice law in Dallas, Texas. Selected recipients will be asked to write a thank you letter to Mr. Smaby and provide some details about their research interests, future academic and personal goals. ***Recipients must be enrolled for 15 credits.***

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the scholarship descriptions and eligibility criteria listed on the reverse side.

Include the following items in your application:

- 1)** Complete the attached scholarship application and detail any additional expenses you expect to incur related to your project. Sign the certification at the end of the application.
- 2)** Provide a one-page typed statement detailing your University or community service project, research project or thesis, internship or study abroad plans and goals for the 2012-2013 school year. Try to be as specific as possible about the project you propose. You may wish to include your responses to the following questions: Why did you select this project? How will this project help you pursue your academic goals? If applicable, which political science professor will supervise your research project?
- 3)** Write a one- or two-page typed statement detailing your academic, career, and personal goals.
- 4)** Attach a current, complete University of Minnesota transcript. Transfer students should also include transcripts from all previous colleges. (Unofficial transcripts are acceptable and so are APAS reports which also list courses taken and grades received).
- 5)** Include any other relevant information about yourself (such as a resume, honors/awards received) that you believe will provide the selection committee with more detailed information about you and your interests.

All application materials must be received no later than March 9, 2012.

Applications must be submitted in hard copy.

E-mail applications are not acceptable. Faxes are discouraged.

Application materials should be hand delivered or mailed to:

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

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Name _____ ID# _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ U of M e-mail address _____

Citizenship Status (check one)

U.S. Citizen _____ International Student _____ Other (please specify) _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION:

Major(s) _____

Minor(s) _____

Are you enrolled in the Honors Program? Yes _____ No _____

Do you currently have a Bachelor's Degree (B.A., B.S.)? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, when and where did you receive this degree?

Year: _____ Institution: _____

Student Status:

Freshman _____ Sophomore _____ Junior _____ Senior _____
(0-30 credits) (31-60 credits) (61- 90 credits) (90+ credits)

How many credits do you plan to take each semester?

Fall Semester 2012 _____ Spring Semester 2013 _____

Expected graduation date: _____ (semester) _____ (year)

During which term will you pursue the project you have proposed:

Fall Semester 2012 _____ Spring Semester 2103 _____ Fall and Spring _____

EXPENSE ESTIMATE (if applicable)

List any expenses you expect to incur while completing your University or community service project, research or honors project, internship or study abroad program:

Type of Expense	Amount
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
Total Amount of Expenses	\$ _____

CERTIFICATION

These scholarships are only available to undergraduate political science majors. Once a student has received a bachelor's degree or ceases to be a political science major, s/he is no longer eligible for these scholarships. I understand that I must register for credit for my project through the Department of Political Science in order to maintain my eligibility for these scholarships. I understand that if I fail to maintain my registration at the level I have indicated or do not satisfactorily complete my courses, or change my major, then 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 these scholarships and my agreement to abide by those terms and conditions.

Student's signature

Date

Writing Your Personal Statement for the Scholarship Application

In addition to having an impressive transcript, 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.

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 project you are proposing. Explain why you are proposing this particular project. Answer these questions: How will this project 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 project to review your personal statement. Seek the advice of your professors and other professionals. This will reassure you, and the committee, that the project you are proposing is something that can reasonably be accomplished by 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.

Examples of projects that have received funding in past years:

Research Projects/Honors Theses

Students who propose research projects may arrange to register for a Directed Studies or an Honors Thesis. Research projects require a student to write an original research paper under the supervision of a political science faculty member. Most research projects are completed within one semester (except for the Summa Cum Laude honors thesis which is generally completed in two semesters). When proposing to do a research project, students should clearly detail the project the student wishes to pursue, how the research will be conducted, the rationale for selecting the topic, what the expected findings will be, and which political science faculty member will be supervising the project. If the research project requires the student to incur out-of-pocket costs, those costs should be noted in the application.

Study Abroad Programs

Students wishing to use a study abroad experience as their special project should consult with the Learning Abroad Center in 230 Heller Hall to determine which programs are available through the U of M. Scholarship applicants should clearly explain why a particular program has been selected, indicate that the student meets all prerequisites for the program (foreign language proficiency, minimum GPA requirements, or class standing). For students who propose studying abroad, it is helpful to discuss why this particular program was selected and a list of proposed courses that are available. The length of the program should be specified (one semester, full year) as well as all of the costs involved (room and board, tuition, passport fees, airfare, visa). In addition to study abroad programs, National Student Exchange (NSE) is an alternative for students who wish to attend classes at other universities in the U.S. or Canada. Students may obtain more information about NSE at the Off-Campus Study Programs Office in 240 Appleby Hall .

Community Service Projects

Do you have an important project you'd like to pursue that will improve the quality of your community? Creative projects that benefit the community are excellent special projects for scholarship proposals. Students who are proposing to do such projects should clearly explain the nature of the project, what is currently lacking in the community, and how the student will go about making a positive change in the community. For a community service project, it is especially important that the student connect with a political science faculty member early in the proposal stage to ensure that the project can be accomplished within the confines of the academic school year. Community service projects also require the student to make contacts outside of the University and students should allow ample time to establish these community contacts.

Internship Experiences

If an internship is the student's proposal for a special project, start investigating internship options at the same time you are applying for the scholarships. Some internships are easier to obtain than others. Internships with political campaigns, congressional offices, and the Minnesota State Legislature are plentiful. Some internships such as State Department internships or internships at the United Nations are extremely competitive and have very early deadline dates because of security and background checks. You may also need to relocate and find housing so allow yourself ample time to do this. Apply for a few internships rather than put all of your efforts into just one option. By applying for multiple positions early, you are likely to receive at least one of the internships for which you've applied. You do not have to have an internship secured at the time of application for these scholarships. If you are selected as a scholarship recipient, you will be expected to follow through on your internship plans and arrange an internship for the upcoming school year.

Application Deadline: March 9, 2012

Questions?

Contact the Department of Political Science

Undergraduate Advising Office

1482 Social Sciences

(612) 624-8517, r-misk@umn.edu