Undergraduate Grant for Dire Needs Overseas University-Wide

Application Deadline: February 25th

The purpose of the Undergraduate Grant for Dire Needs Overseas is to identify and fund the most outstanding projects which will serve dire human needs in countries other than the U.S. The grant must be used within a 12-month period to make an impact that will help alleviate dire human needs. The amount awarded depends on available funds and project scope. Typical grant funding is $1,200 for a Level I award and $1,800 for a Level II award.¹ Students from any college are eligible to apply (membership in the Honors College is not a requirement).

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The award recipient must be an MSU student in good academic standing.

2. The award winning projects will identify and address a dire human need in a country other than the U.S. Examples of dire needs include, but are not limited to clean water, food, shelter, medical care and other commensurate needs. International travel is not a requirement of the grant.

   Level I Award: Proposed projects should focus on program support, service or creative innovations.

   Level II Award: Proposed projects should focus on making a real difference in the lives of people; and must actually implement a model of addressing a dire human need in at least two different locations. Research projects are not eligible for this award. Proposed projects that build on or relate to previously funded Undergraduate Grant projects may be of interest. For a list of such projects, see http://honorscollege.msu.edu/schoenl.

3. The award recipients will have demonstrated exceptional character, leadership and interest in improving the lives of others, particularly in international contexts. A commitment to community service and/or using the scholarship to improve human conditions should be evident.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

There is no application form. The application should include the items noted below.

- A Cover Page with the project title and location(s), award type (Level I or Level II, not both), word count, student’s college, name, address, telephone number, and MSU email address.
- An Essay written by the student that includes an introduction, implementation strategy, projected results, discussion and project significance. [Level I: 1,000 word limit, Level II: 1,500 word limit]
- A Resume, Project Abstract, Budget (travel is not an eligible expense) and Bibliography should be attached as appendices.
- One Letter of Nomination from a Michigan State University faculty member who will supervise the project. Although not required, an additional letter of support can be submitted as well.

The student essay, faculty nomination letter and any supporting materials should address how the proposed project can help improve dire conditions of people outside of the U.S., the potential for the student to carry out the project, and the feasibility of the project being completed in 12 months.

Applications should be submitted to the Dean of the Honors College by email to hcglobal@msu.edu by February 25th. Applications will be reviewed by a committee designated by the Dean of the Honors College and the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Undergraduate Studies. The recipients of the Undergraduate Grant for Dire Needs Overseas will be announced at the annual University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) held in April. For questions or additional information, contact the Honors College (hcglobal@msu.edu, 355-2326) or Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore (jacks174@msu.edu).

¹ Receipt of this grant may change the composition of a student’s financial aid package.