

Ohio International Consortium Donald N. Nelson Scholarship for Study Abroad

As a founding member of the Ohio International Consortium, Donald Nelson retired from Miami University in 2003 as *Administrator Emeritus* after serving that institution for 42 years in the Office of International Programs. Holding a Bachelor's degree from Duke University, he earned his graduate degree in International Affairs at the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University. After a year on the staff at the Institute of International Education (IIE) in New York City, Nelson started his career at Miami University in 1961 as Adviser to Foreign Students, a position that evolved over the years until he became Director of International Education Services, supervising an office responsible for international student advising and admissions, study abroad advising, the administration of student exchanges, and the distribution of funds to support faculty engaged in international travel and research projects.

Active professionally at the national level, Nelson served as President and on the Board of Directors of NAFSA: Association of International Educators. He was a NAFSA Consultant, Chair of the Council of Advisers to Foreign Students and Scholars, and Chair of his NAFSA Region (Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky). He was also a consultant in five countries of the Far East for the National Liaison Committee on Foreign Student Admissions and later served as a consultant for the U.S. Department of State to the Fulbright Foundation in the Philippines. He conducted interviews of scholarship applicants in East Africa for the U.S. Agency for International Development and spent time in Germany on a Fulbright award for international educators. His other positions included service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), the Advisory Committee on International Education to the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB), and Chair of the International Admissions Committee of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO). Upon his retirement from Miami University, NAFSA awarded him Life Membership in recognition of his many years of service in the field of international education.

A strong advocate of education abroad, Nelson was pleased that his children also recognized the value of having international experience. His daughter, Diane, a tenured faculty member at Duke University, studied in Mexico and Spain, ultimately doing her doctoral research in Guatemala before earning her Ph.D. at Stanford University. His second daughter, Erika, studied for a full year in each of the countries of South Africa and Kenya before completing her degree at Indiana University with a certificate in African Studies. She has been employed by the AFS high school exchange program and returned for a brief time to South Africa where she lived until the summer of 2005. His son, Brian, studied in Venezuela and Australia. He has recently returned from spending almost two years in Venezuela where he held a Fulbright grant in his first year after earning the M.F.A. degree at the University of Arizona.

The Ohio International Consortium has established this scholarship in honor of Donald N. Nelson's many contributions to international education. The first presentation was made in 2005.

Ohio International Consortium Member Schools:

Bowling Green State University, Central State University, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Miami University, Ohio University, The Ohio State University, Shawnee State University, University of Akron, University of Cincinnati, University of Toledo, Youngstown State University, Wright State University

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Eligibility

An Applicant must:

1. Be an Ohio resident who is a full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate from an Ohio International Consortium member school.
2. Be at least a rising sophomore with a minimum 3.0 GPA. The selected student must return to the home campus for at least one semester during which the follow-on project will be completed.
3. Be accepted into an accredited study abroad program that has been approved by the home school. Programs must be at least one semester in duration.

Preference is given to first-time study abroad applicants studying in a non-English-speaking country and taking courses in the native language of the host country.

Previous Donald N. Nelson and George C. Burke scholarship recipients will not be considered for the award.

Grant Amount:

\$1500 for Fall Semester

\$1500 for Spring Semester

Deadlines:

Your study abroad office must submit your application to the Nelson scholarship committee no later than 5:00 p.m. on:

February 15 (Fall semester programs)

October 15 (Spring semester programs)

Selection Criteria:

1. Completed Donald N. Nelson Scholarship for Study Abroad Application.
2. 500-word essay explaining how your study abroad experience fits into your degree and career plans and what concrete steps you will take upon your return to campus to share your experience with others on your campus and encourage participation in study abroad.
3. Academic performance.
4. Previous study abroad experience (preference given to applicants studying abroad for the first time).
5. Study abroad advisor certification of application and study abroad program.

If yes, please list the courses and language of instruction. _____

Will you be returning to your home university before graduating? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, for how many terms? _____

Have you had a previous credit-bearing study abroad experience? Yes _____ No _____

If so, where and for how long? _____

I certify that all statements made on this application are true and accurate.

Signed _____ Date _____

Study Abroad Advisor Certification (to be completed by your study abroad advisor)

Is the above student a full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate at your institution?

Yes _____ No _____

Is s/he an Ohio resident? Yes _____ No _____

Is the academic information (i.e. rank and GPA) provided above accurate? If no, please explain:

To your knowledge, has this student ever studied abroad before? Yes _____ No _____

If so, when and where? _____

I certify that all statements made by the student on the application above are true and accurate.

Name and Title (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____