

RC STUDENT TRAVEL FUNDING

RC students or LSA students who have declared an RC major are welcome to apply

Since 2008, the Residential College has distributed roughly **\$150,000** to nearly **225 students** pursuing study abroad or special projects in a variety of settings, including the London School of Economics, the University of Ghana, the Quito Project, the Intensive Chinese Language Program in Beijing, Junior Year in Munich, class trips to Berlin, creative projects inside prisons in Brazil with Prison Creative Arts Project, the U-M New England Literature Program (NELP), and the RC's own Semester in Detroit Program. Study abroad and intensive special project opportunities continue to be a top priority for the RC, and stipends range in amount from \$500 to \$2,000, depending on the project, number of applicants, and demonstration of need.



The Donald & June Brown Fund

Study Away

Although we are unable to provide substantial support for a student's study away experience, we have in the past been able to provide \$500-\$2000 each year for several students who submitted a thoughtful and well-written application essay and who demonstrated financial need. Students may receive funding whether or not the study away program is through University of Michigan, but the programs must be 'for-credit' and the credit must be eligible to transfer to the student's Michigan record. Examples of study away locations are quite diverse and include: The London School of Economics, University of Ghana, Intensive Chinese Language Program in Beijing, Junior Year in Munich, and the U-M New England Literature Program (NELP). *Applications for this funding include a thoughtful and well written essay as well as a realistic budget.*

Internships and Projects Away

Students who pursue an internship abroad, or domestically, or who design their own research project also receive aid from the Brown Fund. These internships and projects may or may not be for University credit, and preference is given to unpaid or lower-paying internships/projects that "give back" to the world. Examples of recent student internships include: overseas student intern with the U.S. Department of State with the Bureau of European and Eurasian affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria; the Quito Project; the Ottawa Political Internship with the House of Commons in Canadian Parliament; and artist's assistant/apprenticeship through the Berlin, Germany art collective.

Examples of recent student-designed projects abroad include: research in the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, London, on classical Shakespearean acting conventions so that a comparison may be made with Improvisational acting (this student later mounted a performance in the Keene Theater); a student-designed internship with the Documentation and Cultural Center of German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg; and research for Honors Thesis with Sepp Holzer, a leader in permaculture design.

The Amy Rose Silverman International Education/ Engaged Learning Fund

This award is used to support international travel for an RC student who proposes the most compelling project abroad. Project proposals must be clearly related to a student's academic program and must take the student into the world in some meaningful way, for example an internship, senior project or thesis in the student's field of study. The award of \$3000 is not given annually, but as student proposals merit consideration. ***When completing the application for RC funding, make sure to check either the "studying away" or "an internship or academic project" option to be considered for this award.***

An example of a recent Silverman Award winner: *A student proposed a case study of the regional language – Breton – of Brittany, France. The student, who pursued a dual degree in LSA RC and also in the Stamps School of Art and Design, saw this project as an interdisciplinary venture to understand the importance of language and culture to identity, and proposed a thesis on the project that resulted in data visualization portraying the roots of the subject language and tracing its cultural renaissance.*

The recipient of the Fund is expected to live, spend time, and engage with communities and groups who are socially, economically and/or politically excluded and marginalized. Through this engagement, it is thought, the recipient would gain a better understanding of the local and global socio-economic dynamics shaping the day-to-day lives of individuals in these communities and groups. The recipient is expected to spend time with the individuals in this community or group and collect material – visual, audio, or any other medium that suits the project - that can then be used to give their lives and concerns a voice in the US and particularly at U-M. In the year following the experience, the recipient is expected to exhibit, screen, and/or install (as is appropriate to the medium) the final production at the RC, and if possible at other venues on campus and beyond.

The Honeli Fund

To be considered for this award, make sure to check off "An internship or academic project" on your application for RC funding. The student travel funding administrator refers possible recipients to the donors, who want to be involved in the vetting process, and who telephone, email and/or video-chat with the student who proposes a project that seems within the framework of the award.

An example of a recent Honeli Award winner's application: *At present, I am working on a senior/honors thesis relating to ethnomusicology. I am studying a form of sung liturgical poetry in the Jewish tradition, which is known as piyyut. Being a very diasporic people, the Jews have absorbed multicultural influences everywhere they have lived, and continue to do so. This cultural melding is reflected in its musical traditions, and piyyutim are a great example of this. Each community (i.e. Persian, Turkish, Syrian, Jerusalemite, Moroccan, and others) has its own renditions of particular piyyutim, sung and performed instrumentally according to whatever classical styles are unique to that particular locale. I want to share my research findings, and perform some of these piyyutim for my family, friends, and others in the RC and university community as a whole. My performance will be greatly enhanced by the accompaniment of Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and other classical musicians.* -- The student recipient of the Honeli fund did, in fact, present a performance of *piyyutim* in the Residential College Keene Theater.

Got a Question?

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