The Committee on General Scholarships is pleased to announce the internal Harvard University competition for the Luce Scholars Program. The program is an enterprise of The Henry Luce Foundation, which has invited Harvard to nominate three students (Harvard College seniors, graduate students, and/or recent alumni) as part of its national search for fifteen to eighteen Luce Scholars for the 2019-2020 academic year.

The goal of the Luce Scholars Program is to enhance the understanding of Asia among potential leaders in American society. The program is aimed at a group of highly qualified young Americans in a variety of professional fields who have limited experience in Asia and who might not otherwise have an opportunity in the normal course of their careers to come to know Asia. The Luce Scholar Year is a cultural and experiential opportunity rather than an academic one. Students are not enrolled in colleges or universities and no academic credit is extended for the program. Luce Scholars gain new perspectives and cultural insights through immersive living and working experiences in Asia. A professional placement is individually arranged for each scholar on the basis of his or her professional interest, background, and qualifications.

Presently, the Luce Foundation can place its Scholars in the following countries or regions: Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The program begins in late June with an orientation in New York and San Francisco. Luce Scholars engage in intensive language study in Asia in July and August. Placements begin in September, and conclude with a wrap-up meeting in July of the following year. Scholars receive a monthly stipend from the Foundation sufficient to meet normal expenses in the country of their placement. Travel expenses, a onetime freight shipment, and medical and travel insurance are provided for scholars and their spouses.

The Henry Luce Foundation maintains a detailed website describing the program, criteria for selection, and guidelines for the application; http://www.hluce.org/lsprogram.aspx
APPLICATION TO THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY COMPETITION

Persons who wish to be nominated by Harvard to the Luce Foundation must apply through the Committee on General Scholarships. The internal competition at Harvard uses the same criteria for selection as the Luce Foundation.

Eligibility

- The competition is open to Harvard College seniors who expect to graduate by May 2019, current graduate students, or recent graduates of the College or Harvard’s graduate and professional schools. Nominees need not be present on campus to apply.

- Candidates must be U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents who have not reached their 30th birthday by June 20th of the year they enter the program.

- Candidates must be in physical health that will not restrict them from working in a foreign environment.

- Candidates should demonstrate an outstanding capacity for leadership and have a record of high achievement. They should have mature and clearly defined career interests with evidence of potential for professional accomplishments. Personal qualities such as flexibility, adaptability, creativity, humility, openness to new ideas, and sensitivity to cultural differences are as important as academic achievement.

- The intent of the program is to provide an immersion experience in Asia. Those who already have significant experience in Asia or Asian Studies are not eligible for the Luce Scholars Program. Candidates may have taken Asian language or Asia-focused courses on a U.S. campus without majoring in Asian Studies. They may have spent up to a total of eighteen (18) weeks, or have participated in a university-organized summer program, in one or more countries where Luce Scholars are placed.

Application Requirements

The Luce Foundation is in the process of migrating their application to a new online platform. They expect the new system to go live in mid-September. You will be required to enter your application materials into the new system once it is open. In the meantime, you may get a sense of the application requirements by downloading a copy from the Luce Foundation website at: http://www.hluce.org/lsapply.aspx.

The application requires the following:

- Contact Information Form.

- Application Form – this is a detailed form which requires information about academics, employment experience, non-academic activities, achievements, and other general questions.
Personal Statement – please use this space to discuss (a) your long-range career interests, and how they developed; (b) your understanding of leadership; and (c) your reasons for applying to the Luce Scholars Program.

Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work.

TWO letters of recommendation written specifically for the Luce Scholars application. Copies of letters written for Fulbright or other fellowship applications will not be accepted. Please be aware that candidates who are nominated by Harvard for the Luce national competition will be required to provide two additional letters of recommendation. The Luce Foundation requires four letters from all nominees, but the Harvard competition requires only two letters. If you are selected by Harvard for the nomination, we will work with you to add these additional letters to your application.

Deadlines

Your application must be completed in full before midnight on October 11, 2018, and you must send an email to Paul Govoni [pgovoni@fas.harvard.edu] at the Committee on General Scholarships indicating that you have done so by midnight that day. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered for Harvard’s nomination.

Interviews of finalists will be held on October 29. Applicants selected for interviews will be contacted during the week of October 22.

Contact Information

All interested candidates for the Luce Scholars Program are encouraged to reach out to Paul Govoni at CGS at pgovoni@fas.harvard.edu with questions or concerns.

Because the Luce Foundation is launching the new online platform so close to the deadline, we are prepared for potential changes and we are here to support you through the process. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with us at any point.