

ASLE International Membership Grants

ASLE is pleased to announce an International Membership Grants Initiative. The Initiative provides ASLE-US membership grants to literature and environment scholars outside the US and Canada. The grants are designed to help a more diverse, international community of scholars gain access to educational and scholarly opportunities in our field, as well as to advance educational and professional opportunities beyond the US and Canada.

The International Membership Grants Initiative began in January, 2013. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and awarded to those who meet the eligibility criteria below.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

International Membership Grants provide assistance to scholars who, through higher education, are seeking to advance their knowledge of the field of literature and environment. Membership benefits include contact with other scholars through our membership database, access to the scholarly and creative writing in the field through a subscription to our journal *ISLE*, and access to the resources and information about the field and our organization in our e-newsletter *ASLE News*, among others.

ELIGIBILITY

International Membership Grants are open to scholars who are not current or past officers of ASLE-US and/or other international ASLE affiliates and:

- are not previous recipients of ASLE membership grants;
- are NOT citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. or Canada;
- are affiliated as a student or teacher (part or full time) at an institution of accredited higher education in their country of residence as of the time of application;
- study, teach, and/or write actively in the field of literature and environment;
- can demonstrate that they do not have access to professional or personal funding to pay the \$30 USD necessary to become a member of ASLE;
- can demonstrate specific benefits of ASLE membership for their own study, teaching and/or writing.

AWARD INFORMATION

International Membership Grants are one-time awards. To ensure a fair and objective review process, it is the policy of ASLE not to comment on the deliberations of the awards panels. Thus, ASLE is unable to provide written or oral evaluations of applications after the decisions are made by the panel. No provisions exist for reconsideration of grant proposals after the Board has acted upon the panel recommendations. Applications become the sole property of ASLE and will neither be returned nor held for another year.

Each award grants full ASLE membership from the time of the award for two years and includes all international postage fees. It also waives the conference registration fee for those wishing to attend the biennial ASLE conference during the two-year cycle. ASLE memberships are not transferable, nor redeemable for cash value.

Memberships will be activated within one week of receiving the award. Recipients will receive email notification of both the award and of activation.

Any tax liability associated with the receipt of an International Membership Grant is the sole responsibility of the applicant. ASLE is a nonprofit, tax exempt 501(c) (3) public charity founded in the USA for educational purposes.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing and rolling basis as long as the program remains in effect. Application materials must be submitted by email as attachments to ASLE International Co-Liaison Chia-ju Chang at chiajuc@gmail.com. Paper applications will not be accepted. Notification of awards will be made to all applicants within 30 days of submitting the application.

Grantees names and institutions will be posted on the ASLE website at <http://www.asle.org/site/resources/international-scholarship/memberships/>. Applicants are also encouraged to apply for biennial conference travel awards when they are announced in the winter prior to the upcoming conference.

Only completed applications will be reviewed by the selection panel.

REQUIRED COMPONENTS

1. **Personal statement**: In no more than 600 words, describe your ecocritical interests, the specific benefits you hope that membership will provide you, and the reasons why an International Membership Grant is financially necessary. Personal statements will be judged according the following criteria:
 - Demonstrated commitment to education and scholarship in the field of literature and environment
 - Demonstrated benefits of membership in ASLE
 - Degree to which membership is consistent with study or career plans
 - Demonstrated financial need
2. **CV**: Provide educational and professional experience, publications, research interests, and areas of teaching.
3. **References**: Provide the name and email address of one reference with whom the review committee may communicate and who can provide a character reference and confirmation of professional interests and financial need.

In principle and practice, ASLE values and seeks diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, nationality, creed, age, sexual orientation, disability, class or language.