Finding and Applying for Nationally-Competitive Scholarships
A little about us.....

Paul Fogleman – Associate Director, Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Competitive Awards, Research and Engagement (IUCARE)
Hutton Honors College
pfoglema@indiana.edu

Anthony Koliha - Director, International Programs
College of Arts and Sciences
School of Global and International Studies
akoliha@indiana.edu
Outline

- Finding Awards
- Application Components
The Career Reference section of the library has a number of extensive indexes.
Other Campus Locations and Offices – Specific to IU

**Office of Scholarships:** [http://scholarships.indiana.edu/](http://scholarships.indiana.edu/)
A great starting place for undergrads that lists a number of scholarship opportunities and provides resources for funding your education at IU.

Overseas Study awards over $225,000 in scholarships annually on the basis of financial need and academic merit.
Resources on the paged linked above include program specific scholarships; 21st Century Scholars; Internship Incentive grants and links to other campus funding for international awards such as the Hutton International Experiences Program (HIEP) and the Kelley School of Business Overseas Study Scholarships.

(Note – you do not have to be in the Hutton Honors College to apply for the HIEP award.)

**UCARE (Competitive Awards, Research and Engagement):** Website currently under construction. Excel list of awards currently available here: [http://ucare.indiana.edu/list-competitive-awards/](http://ucare.indiana.edu/list-competitive-awards/)

**University Graduate School:** [http://graduate.indiana.edu/admissions/financial-support/fellowships-awards/](http://graduate.indiana.edu/admissions/financial-support/fellowships-awards/)
Provides a list of internally and externally funded awards for graduate students.

**Grad Grants Center:** [http://www.indiana.edu/~gradgrnt/](http://www.indiana.edu/~gradgrnt/)
Good starting place for graduate students to receive guidance on applying for awards and grants.

**Departmental Awards:** Explore your department(s) for funding.
Here is an example from the Biology Department: [http://www.bio.indiana.edu/undergraduate/awards/index.shtml](http://www.bio.indiana.edu/undergraduate/awards/index.shtml)

Here is an example from the East Asian Studies Center: [http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/funding/index.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/funding/index.shtml)
Some Online Databases

PIVOT:
Requires a valid username to register. Once you've created an account, click on "Funding" in the top left corner and then on the next screen click on "Advanced Search" to open up the fields to guide your search. You can register if your institution subscribes to the service. https://pivot.cos.com/register

Grant Forward:
Similar to PIVOT and you can access from a computer as long as your institution subscribes to it. https://www.grantforward.com/index

Foundation Center Grants to Individuals:
Of particular interest for students seeking to work for an NGO. Access to it is more restricted though likely available at your campus or city library. Foundation Center URL:
http://foundationcenter.org/findfunders/fundingsources/gtio.html

ProFellow:
Has a beta version of a fellowship database. Currently, you can access it for free. http://www.profellow.com/
Other Advice

- Subscribe to **department newsletters and listservs** to see awards others have applied for and contact them for advice. See student news on pages 8 & 9 of this example from the Russian and East European Institute (REEI):

- Talk to your **professors**.
  - Visit them during office hours. Make appointments to discuss topics of interest and inquiry and how to explore them beyond the reading lists and assignments.
  - Discuss proposing an independent readings course.
  - Talk to them about being an honors thesis advisor.
  - Read their bios and attend their lectures and events outside of class.

- Colleagues at Penn State provide a extensive and well-organized list of resources:
  https://sites.google.com/site/psuufo/resources
Application Components

- Statement of Purpose
- Personal Statement
- Reference Letters
- Transcripts
- Letter of Affiliation
Statement of Purpose

- Generally required by funding organizations.

- Usually restricted to a limited number of words or pages. It is important to be concise.

- If you are having trouble getting started, start with the basics:
  - Why me? – Draw a thread through your life experiences highlighting what you have accomplished in the past that qualifies you for the award.
  - Why here? – Provide reasons why you should be given the award to go to the place (or stay at the place) where the award activity will be conducted.
  - Why now? – Describe what stage you are at in your life and professional and academic aspirations and how the award moves you toward those goals.
The Fulbright website provides a series of helpful prompts on their website with application tips. Though they are aimed at academic activities abroad, they address the core requirements of a good statement.

http://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-tips/academic

For those seeking English teaching opportunities abroad, see Fulbright’s prompts here:

http://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-tips/eta

Last but not least.....you award agencies provide guidance about what you are expected to address in your statement of purpose. Follow their guide.
Personal Statement

Differs from the statement of purpose in that you are expected to describe your personal motivations and inspirations for pursuing the line of inquiry or study you are in.

The University of Illinois’ Center for Writing Studies has published guidance and advice for students writing personal statements:
http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/tips/personalstatement/

We also recommend Joe Schall’s website “Writing Personal Statements Online”:
https://www.e-education.psu.edu/writingpersonalstatementsonline/
After your statement of purpose and personal statement, the reference letters (aka recommendation letters) are arguably the next most weighted component. Good letters address your abilities to carry out your proposal in your host country; the relevance of your topic or activity to your field; and tie these to your academic and professional goals.

It is never too early to start developing relationships with professors, administrators and supervisors (see slide number 7 for more ideas about developing relationships with professors).

Give your references plenty of notice and offer to assist by providing information about you that you want the reference to highlight and about the award you are applying for.
Transcripts

- Carry more weight in academically focused activities.
- Take care of incompletes.
- Address incompletes or other “blips” in your academic records. Don’t expect reviewers (especially academics) won’t look at your grades.
Several funding agencies require applicants to affiliate with universities, research institutes, NGOs or government ministries. Good letters of affiliation establish the following:

1. They show that you have taken the initiative in making contacts in the host country and that guidance is available to you.

2. They describe how your presence in the country and your work with the affiliate will benefit them and, ideally, lead toward a longer-term relationship.

The letter should come from an individual at the affiliate in the host country with whom you are proposing to work and letters will vary by award program and country. For example, some award agencies specify that email correspondence is not an accepted as an affiliation letter while this is entirely appropriate for others.
Timothy Burke is a professor in the Department of History at Swarthmore who wrote a blog entry about judging proposals and made notes for *undergraduates* in his blog entry on January 5, 2010 titled Disposed to Propose: 
https://blogs.swarthmore.edu/burke/blog/2010/01/05/disposed-to-propose/

*Graduate students* are advised to read “On the Art of Writing Proposals: Some Candid Suggestions for Applicants to Social Science Research Council Competitions” by Adam Przeworski and Frank Salomon:

http://www.ssrc.org/publications/view/7A9CB4F4-815F-DE11-BD80-001CC477EC70/