

The Frances Kaneene Study Abroad Scholarship



About the Award

The purpose of the Frances N. Kaneene Study Abroad Scholarship is to allow motivated and curious undergraduate students in the Department of Community Sustainability (majoring in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education, Environmental Studies and Sustainability, or Sustainable Parks, Recreation and Tourism) to study abroad. In doing so, the scholarship will be a living memorial to the work ethic, values, and inspiration that Frances Kaneene embodied during her 30+ year career guiding hundreds of students as an academic advisor at Michigan State University.

Frances N. Kaneene

Travel and international study shaped Frances' life. It helped form her multidimensional global perspective by exposing her to diverse ideas, people, and experiences. She was raised and educated in Jinja, Uganda through high school, lived in Paris, France, and then received her undergraduate and graduate education at the University of Wisconsin in the United States. Over her adult life she visited dozens of countries. She particularly enjoyed the trips she took with MSU student groups to places like Thailand and Costa Rica.

Participating in these trips, as well as working with other students after their return from study abroad, demonstrated to Frances how edifying and irreplaceable the international study experience can be for students. She strongly believed that students sharing their study abroad experience with other students, staff, and faculty would contribute to a greater understanding of and appreciation for world we live in.

Frances cared deeply about students and was a much beloved colleague in her department. This scholarship is established to honor her kindness, her dedication to students, and the way in which she so naturally made everyone around her better.

Eligibility and Criteria

Each year, at least one undergraduate student in the Department of Community Sustainability (majoring in ESS, AFNRE, or SPRT) will be awarded the Frances Kaneene Study Abroad Scholarship for an approved education abroad program. Good academic standing, with a minimum 2.5 GPA in the major at the time of application, is required. Criteria to be considered during the selection process include:

- What motivates the student to study abroad?
- In what ways does study abroad relate to the student's personal values?
- Which skills and competencies does the student hope to bring back to the Michigan State University community because of the experience abroad?
- How will study abroad contribute to the student's goals post-graduation?

Study abroad programs that feature longer periods of immersion are preferred, but shorter programs are also supported if students explain the particular fit or relevance to their future goals. Upon completion of the study abroad program, each scholarship recipient will be strongly encouraged to give a presentation to a student group about their experience or publicize it in some other way, emphasizing what they learned that can be applied to making the world a better place. They also must write to the Kaneene family to express their thanks and share their experiences.

Application materials

Students will submit an essay of no more than 750 words addressing the criteria listed above. See the evaluation criteria below to understand how your application essay will be evaluated.

Details of the Scholarship

Students apply for the scholarship by October 15 of each academic year. Apply [here](#). Potential applicants are encouraged to attend MSU's Global Learning Expo, which is held in early October most years (find this year's date [here](#)).

The awardee will be selected by a committee of faculty and/or student advisors in the Department of Community Sustainability and will be notified by early November. Applications will be reviewed anonymously. The award is intended for use in the winter, spring, or summer of the same academic year, or fall of the following academic year. Applicants are encouraged to consider semester-long study abroad programs. Funds will be awarded after the student has been accepted into a study abroad program, prior to their departure. Funds must be returned if not used for study abroad. Students may contact the Financial Aid office to inquire about augmenting the funds from the scholarship with funds from other scholarships.

A student may defer the award until the following academic year, but if so they **must** notify Prof. John Kerr (jkerr@msu.edu) in the Department of Community Sustainability in writing no later than June 1 of the same academic year in which they received the award. *Otherwise the designated funds will be no longer be available to the student.*

The dollar amount of the award will vary by year, depending on the size of the endowment that funds the scholarship. In 2023-24 the amount awarded was around \$6,000. *Please note that for students on financial aid, receiving a scholarship can affect other components of your financial aid package.*

How your application essay will be evaluated:

A committee of CSUS faculty members/advisors will assess the application essays, which they will read without knowing the applicant's name. They will assess the essays according to the following criteria:

- Demonstrates a passionate interest in studying abroad.
- Clearly states personal values and how they relate to studying abroad.
- Clearly and specifically states what skills and competencies are expected to be gained from studying abroad
- Demonstrates clear vision for the future (e.g., plans, goals, or aspirations) and the role of studying abroad in attaining that vision.
- Tells a compelling story about why the applicant is a worthy recipient of the Frances Kaneene Scholarship.

Remember that education abroad programs that feature longer periods of immersion are preferred, but shorter programs are also supported if students explain the particular fit or relevance to their future goals. Students seeking their first experience abroad are preferred, but their applications are not automatically selected over those from students who have previous experience abroad.

Your application information and essay may be shared beyond the selection committee, for example to share the award-winning essay with the Kaneene family.

Further information

For questions about the scholarship and application process contact Prof. John Kerr at jkerr@msu.edu

For information on education abroad programs visit the Office for Education Abroad website: <http://educationabroad.msu.edu>

For information about additional scholarships for education abroad visit: <https://educationabroad.isp.msu.edu/plan/funding-options/>