**Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) International Services and Global Issues Division Scholarship Application**

***The Global Issues Division is now accepting applications for the 2024 Scholarship***

AER’s Global Issues Division is offering a scholarship competition for students originating from areas outside of the United States and Canada who are obtaining post-secondary education to serve students with visual impairments in their region. Therefore, this scholarship is open to cultural and geographical locations around the world; however, it is not open to American or Canadian students studying in or outside of their home country.

Two (2) scholarships of $1000 will be awarded to students studying to work with people who are blind and/or low vision. The scholarship is a restricted award and needs to be used to further the student’s education in the field of blindness.

**The deadline for the application is June 30, 2024**

**Eligibility**

Applicants for the scholarship must be accepted for full, unrestricted enrollment (*not probationary status*) or currently enrolled (*part-time or full-time*) at an institution of higher education.

If the applicant is accepted for enrollment, but has not yet begun classes, the award will be made when the student can show proof of completion of one term of study and two related courses. Individuals who have been accepted for enrollment but have not yet completed one term of study must do so within one year of the date that the Global Issues Scholarship application was awarded, or the recipient will forfeit the award.

In every case, students must show proof of two related courses.

If an applicant has applied for the scholarship previously, they are invited to do so again. However, those who have not applied previously, and those who have applied but have not been funded will be given first consideration.

**How to apply**

An application form must be completed in full and signed by the applicant.  Application submission is as follows:

* ***Only electronic submissions are accepted***.  These should be emailed to Katie Ericson at aer.global.division@gmail.com
* *Incomplete applications or applications that are not received by* ***Sunday, June 30, 2024*** *will not be considered.*

**Selection**

Applications for the AER Global Issues Scholarship will be evaluated by the Division Scholarship Committee. Individuals will be evaluated for the scholarship based only on the information included in the application packet.  The award decision date will be no later than July 20, 2024.

Selection will be based on the applicants’ commitment and/or passion for working with the blind in his/her region in any capacity, the need for professionals working with this population in your region, along with the extent of experience (paid or unpaid) in human service endeavors as reflected in the responses, the essay, and in the letters of recommendation. Financial need will also be taken into consideration.

All eligible students are encouraged to apply for the scholarship.

**Other information about the scholarship**

The scholarship winners will be notified via email. They will also be announced at the upcoming AER International Conference in Charlotte, NC, July 24-28, 2024. Upon awarding the scholarship, a brief biography of the recipient will be announced in a division blast email update, newsletter, and on the Facebook site.

**Recipients must be able to receive scholarship payment in the form of a check in United States dollars (USD).**

**Permission for Media Release**

**Media:** In accepting the AER International Services and Global Issues Division Scholarship, I am specifically granting permission for use of the name, voice or words, and any image created digitally in television, radio, films, newspaper, printed materials or websites in any form.  This includes 35mm photos, videos, digital photos or any other form of image reproduction. Photos will be used in an educationally professional manner and may appear in print, on the AER International Services and Global Issues Division website, or as design elements in public displays and presentations.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Print)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Signature)

The Scholarship Committee chairperson will notify the award winner by phone or email on or before July 20. 2024. Individuals who apply and are not selected will be notified by the Scholarship Committee Chairperson via email.

The award will be presented to the winner upon verification that the proposed awardee meets the eligibility requirement described above.

**AERBVI International Services and Global Issues Division**

Scholarship Application Form - 2024 Edition

*Please type or neatly print all information in English.*

*(You may complete the application in a language other than English, but the committee will use Google Translate to review the application.)*

Name:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (please include your country code):  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of AER? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Are you currently enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an institution of higher education where you intend to receive education for the purpose of working with people with visual impairments in some capacity?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Which institution of higher education do you attend/plan to attend?

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*Please feel free to write your responses on a separate page and attach to this application as needed.*

1. The need for professionals working with people who are blind or have low vision in your region will be considered.  Briefly describe the need for professionals working in your area of study, in your region as it relates to the field of blindness.

2. Selection will be based on the applicants’ commitment and/or passion for working with the blind and those with low vision in his/her home region in any capacity.  Please briefly describe your paid and/or volunteer experiences working with the blind.

3. Briefly describe your educational background, academic achievements, and school activities (such as clubs, organizations, and interests outside of the classroom).  Include awards, citations, and scholarships.

All materials received by the scholarship chairperson will become the property of the committee and will not be returned to the applicant.  All information will be kept confidential.

In addition to the signed application form, each applicant must include the following items to complete the application process:

* **Essay** – answering the question, “Why have I chosen to enter the field of working with people who have low vision or are blind?”  The essay should be no longer than 200 words and should provide evidence of your commitment to the field.
* **Two letters of recommendation** – that includes at least one from a current academic mentor or advisor that documents your enrollment or acceptance for enrollment in the course of study.  The second letter can be from an individual in the field working with people who are blind or have low vision, a coach, a club adviser, or an employer. Please be sure they are dated letters with a signature. Avoid letters written by an individual that is related to you.   *Letters of recommendation should mention the applicant’s commitment to the field.*
* **Proof of completion of previous terms** - with proof of two related courses (or copy of acceptance letter)

*If the applicant is accepted for enrollment, but has not yet begun courses, the award will be made when the student can show proof of completion of one term of study and two related courses.* This proof should be emailed to Katie Ericson at aer.global.division@gmail.com.

* **If possible, proof of course schedule for the following term**
* *If not possible - be sure that the academic mentor or advisor documents your enrollment and plan for continued study in the letter of recommendation.*

I hereby apply for the AER International Services and Global Issues Division Scholarship.  I agree to abide by the decision of the scholarship committee.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Application forms must be completed in full and signed by each applicant.

Application submission is as follows:

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***Incomplete applications or applications that are not received by Sunday, June 30, 2024,******will not be considered.***