

Spring 2021 News from the Fellowships & Postgraduate Scholarships Program

May 10, 2021

Celebration of 2020-2021 Fellowship Applicants

(April 28, 2021) More than 90 current students and recent alumnae have completed applications for competitive fellowship awards and scholarships this year. We want to celebrate their achievements and warmly thank all who supported them with mentorship, letters of recommendation, and other support.

Fulbright US Student Program News!

(April 28, 2021) 23 Smithies completed applications last October and 19 were recognized as semi-finalists. 10 have been offered awards for next fall and 3 alternates may, too, be offered awards. Kudos to all applicants and their advisers. 2020-2021 was a challenging year in which to plan a Fulbright! The pandemic created uncertainty about the numbers of opportunities that would be available in award year 2021-2022 at the same time as applications increased 12% nationwide.

Clara Henderson ’20 (Art History), Sanna Muhammad ’20 (Biochemistry), and Vivian Nguyen ’20 (Government, Middle East Studies) were among the Smithies offered Fulbright ETA awards last year for 2020-2021. Their programs were disrupted by the pandemic and did not proceed. They reapplied and were recognized as semi-finalists. At virtually the same time, they were given the option to defer their previous awards to 2021-2022 for ETAs to Germany, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia respectively.

Six Fulbright research applicants have proceeded past semi-finalist stage. Sakina Ali ’21 (Biochemistry, Computer Science) has been offered an award in Delhi to study genome editing techniques while affiliated with the Indian Institute of Technology. Camryn McCartney ’20 (Biological Sciences) will study research Cape fur seal entanglement with marine debris while affiliated with the Namibian Dolphin Project. Giovanna Sabini-Leite ’21 (Biological Sciences, Latin American Studies) has been offered an award to study coral reefs in Brazil while affiliated with the Federal University of Recife. Iver Warburton ’21 (Physics, Astronomy) has been offered an award in Paris to study astrophysics affiliated with L’Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris. Adena Collens ‘21 (Biological Sciences, Jewish Studies) is an alternate for a research award in Sweden. Madeline Turner (Anthropology) is an alternate for a research award in Morocco and was also recognized as a semi-finalist for a National Geographic Storytelling Award.

Three Fulbright ETA applicants have been offered awards: Halle Duckworth ’21J (Government) in Taiwan; Erin Hanley ’19 (Government, American Studies) in Thailand; and Lydia Quevedo ’21 (Linguistics, Spanish) in Spain. Martha Slaymaker ’21 (Geosciences) is an alternate for an ETA placement in Germany.

Talia Preis, ’21 (Dance) is a Fulbright semi-finalist for a Fulbright study award in the UK. Outside the Fulbright program, she has accepted a two-year Choreomundus Partner Country Scholarship to pursue her chosen program.

DAAD Trio of Awardees

(March 30, 2021) Clara Henderson ’20 (Art History) and Kerry Walker ’21 (East Asian Studies, Comparative World Literature) were awarded DAAD Study Scholarships to fund two-year master’s programs in Germany. Ken Komu ’19 (Engineering) has been awarded a DAAD Leadership for Africa scholarship for a two-year master’s program in Germany.
Ahlenne Abreu Selected as 2021 Goldwater Scholar

(March 26, 2021) Ahlenne Abreu ‘22 (Biochemistry) was awarded the Goldwater Scholarship in recognition of her academic achievements and progress toward her natural science research goals. A Posse Scholar, Ahlenne has been part of the Scordilis research lab since her first year.

Rangel Fellow Plans Graduate Study at Harvard’s Kennedy School

(March 24, 2021) Smith Alumna Idia Irele ‘16 (Government, Spanish) was selected as a 2021 Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellow following a highly competitive nationwide selection process. The Rangel Fellowship, funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Howard University, supports extraordinary individuals who want to pursue a career in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of State. The fellowship will support Idia through a two-year master’s degree in an area of relevance to the Foreign Service. As part of the Rangel Program, Idia will intern with a Member of Congress on issues related to foreign affairs in summer 2021. In summer 2022, the U.S. Department of State will send her overseas to intern in a U.S. Embassy or Consulate to get hands-on experience in U.S. foreign policy and the work of the Foreign Service. Idia was a Fulbright ETA in Andorra in 2016-2017 and completed her Ed.M in International Education Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2018.

Three NSF Graduate Research Fellowships for Smithies

(March 23, 2021) Senior Marva Tariq ‘21 (Chemistry, Goldwater Scholar 2020) and two alumnae were selected as 2021 NSF Graduate Research Fellows. Each fellow is recognized for their achievements and potential in research and receives funding for three years of graduate school.

Critical Language Scholarship Opportunities

(March 3, 2021) The CLS is a competitive summer award offering overseas intensive language study and cultural immersion in 15 languages. Twenty-three Smith College students, from first years to seniors, applied for the award. Emily Paule ‘22 (Government) has been offered an award for an in-person program in Taiwan. Bea Weinand ‘23 (Linguistics) has been offered an award for a virtual program in Arabic. Gabrielle Klema ‘24 and Courtney Lo ‘22 (Government, East Asian Studies) were recognized as alternates for Russian and Chinese respectively.

Smith Has a Yenching Scholar

(January 26, 2021) Bella Tseeva ‘21 (Chinese Language and Literature, Education) has been selected as a Yenching Scholar at Peking University’s Yenching Academy. Bella will pursue a master’s degree in Chinese Studies and will focus on how the identities and perspectives of selected modern Chinese writers were shaped by study abroad.

Margaret Lamb, Director
Smith College Fellowships & Postgraduate Scholarships Program