

International MOU/MOA Graduate and Undergraduate Non-Resident Tuition Scholarships

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Foundation, process, and criteria for International Graduate and Undergraduate International Non-Resident Tuition Scholarships:

- The Office of the Provost allows a total of $n = 40$ international student non-resident international tuition scholarships per College in any given year. These can be assigned to graduate and/or undergraduate students. Students receiving these non-resident international tuition scholarships would pay in-state tuition and any other required fees.
- For students to be eligible for consideration for one of these non-resident tuition scholarships there must be a current MOU/MOA between Mississippi State University and the home institution for the student. MOU/MOAs should outline student exchanges, document instructional/curriculum agreements, establish cooperative/collaborative research, and/or some other formalized relationship [The current list of approved and active MOU/MOA for CALS are attached in Table 1]. **International partner institution MOU/MOAs must have gone through the MSU approval process.** This process is as follows: Cover letter from Department Head with a summary of the agreement/opportunity, benefits to the Department, College, Division and/or MSU, and any history of past agreements (if it is a continuation/renewal) should accompany the agreement. The MOU/MOA should have signature lines for the International Partner Institution's Academic Representative, CALS Department Head, CALS Dean / MAFES Director (as appropriate), VP-DAFVM, Director of the International Institute, Provost (General Council will review and return to Provost) and, perhaps, the President (as appropriate). Typically, primary agreement signature lines should be for the International Partner Representative and Provost, with the other signatures listed as "Reviewed" or "Approved" below these. The MSU signed agreement is then returned to the International Partner Institution's Academic Representative for any MSU edits or additions to be considered and the agreement signed. Copies of signed agreements should be returned and filed in the Provost office, International Institute and CALS Dean's office. Agreements in languages other than English that are to be signed are required to be verified as identical to the signed English version.
- Selection of applicants for the scholarships will be primarily through the College of Agriculture and Life Science (CALS) Scholarship Application process. Applications will begin to be accepted October 1 of each calendar year through the deadline of February 1. Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the CALS Scholarship Committee. International undergraduate and graduate scholarship applications (which will be considered for these scholarships) will then be transmitted to the CALS Associate Dean for assignment of the scholarships based on: (1) Verification of an MOU/MOA for the home institution of the student; (2) Admission and/or Enrollment verification in a CALS Department and adherence of any requirements (e.g., visa status, ESL testing, etc.) by

MSU International Program offices; (3) Application ranking by the CALS Scholarship Committee; (4) Any prioritization by the Dean/Director regarding international activity strategic initiatives; (5) fair distribution of scholarships among CALS Departments and graduate student/undergraduate student status as determined by the CALS Dean's office; and (6) for graduate students, an identified faculty member willing to serve as their major professor and confirmation by the department of acceptance, or intent of acceptance, of the graduate student into the graduate program. Any unassigned tuition scholarships will be made available out-of-phase with this process at the discretion of the Dean. These unfilled or vacated tuition scholarships can be made available to Departments requesting consideration if opportunities arise for within year or mid-year international applicants that meet the criteria under existing international partner MOU/MOAs. Through this process a letter to the Dean would identify the International partner and MOU, the project or faculty member the student(s) may be affiliated with (i.e., if the applicant is a graduate student), the number of scholarships requested, and the time frame and/or duration the scholarships are needed. As stated above for the CALS Scholarship application process, admissions and academic standing requirements should be upheld to apportion, receive, and maintain scholarships eligibility.

- The majority of scholarships should be awarded at the graduate student level (M.S. or Ph.D.); however in lieu of qualified applicants at the graduate level in a single application cycle, undergraduate scholarships can be awarded. Undergraduates are eligible for scholarships for a maximum of four years of funding, M.S. graduate students are eligible for a maximum of two years of funding, and Ph.D. graduate students are eligible for a maximum of three years of funding. Priority is given to students that are, or will be, MSU degree-seeking students. However, students engaged in academic or research-oriented exchanges, single or multiple-semester study abroad programs, or similar activities, will also be considered. Student academic profiles may be considered including GPA, GRE, TOEFL, reference letters, etc.
- Scholarships are typically awarded each year through the CALS Scholarship process for processing and tracking purposes, therefore students awarded scholarships must apply each year to be eligible for continued scholarships. Commitments can be made for multi-year funding as part of MOU/MOA agreements, however application each year, or request by the Department if a graduate student, is still required to assure student academic performance is in good standing, compliance with MOU/MOA requirements, etc. Otherwise, there is no guarantee of multi-year funding, as the scholarship process is competitive each year depending on the number of applications received and the number of multi-year scholarships allocated or committed at that time. For graduate students funded their initial year, or subsequent years, via this scholarship, it is imperative that scholarship applications indicate the financial need for program continuity, number of years having received a scholarship, and expected completion date (if applicable).
- Scholarships may be revoked at any time due to, but not limited to, the following: Change of major outside of a CALS Department and/or the student's program not following the guidelines, intent, or spirit of the established MOU/MOA, falling out of international immigration status, failing to maintain acceptable academic performance as

per Departmental program and/or University guidelines (allowing for one probationary semester as long as it is in keeping with University guidelines and as approved by the Department), and/or MOU/MOA agreement expiration or termination.

Review, Approved, and Initiated: 1/29/14 by [signed original in CALS Dean's Office]
[Date] Dr. George M. Hopper
Dean – College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Director – Mississippi Agricultural & Forestry Exp. Station

Appendix – Table 1. Existing MOU/MOAs with International Partner Countries and Institutions

Available upon request from the CALS Dean's Office