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**FSM Government & COM-FSM Study Abroad Scholarship**  
**2018-2019 School Year**

**I. PURPOSE:**

The **FSM Government & COM-FSM Study Abroad Scholarship** is designed to assist FSM Students and to encourage students of the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) to complete their baccalaureate (or undergraduate) degrees at Sofia University or at Temple University in Japan.

Specifically, this scholarship provides COM-FSM students who enrolled or are accepted to transfer to Sofia University or Temple University, financial assistance to supplement their cost of attendance, such as, but by no means not limited to the cost of living and other associated costs from the University on an annual basis.

**II. NUMBER of SCHOLARSHIPS, AMOUNT & LIMITATIONS ON AWARDS:**

Number of scholarships given each award year will be based on the total scholarships fund made available by the sponsor for the awarding period. The amount of award to each recipient will be determined by the board based on actual needs of the students but not to exceed USD \$10,000.

Two awards per student will be granted for each award year. Scholarship awards will be made payable to the student and the University on a per semester basis in equal payments. Before a second payment can be released, the student must submit an official transcript to the **COM-FSM Scholarship Board**. Release of the second payment is contingent upon satisfactory academic performance (2.5 GPA) in a full-time course of study.

General Breakdown of Award

- 1) Transportation = \$850
- 2) Room & Board = \$2500
- 3) Tuition & Fees = \$4900
- 4) Health Insurance fee = \$750
- 5) Books & Supplies = \$750
- 6) Miscellaneous expenses = \$250

**III. ELIGIBILITY:**

- Must be a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).
- Must have completed high school with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 or have completed at least one year at COM-FSM with a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of [2.5] (on a 4.0 scale),
- Must have been accepted for admission into an undergraduate program at Sophia University or at Temple University in Japan.

- Must enroll as a full-time student.

#### 4. Qualification and Basis of Selection

##### A. Required, applicant:

- Must affirmatively show or demonstrate the need for financial assistance in pursuing higher education (undergraduate program).
- Must submit a formal application (see **FSM Government & COM-FSM Study Abroad Scholarship Form**, as attached), with all required documentation and letters of recommendation attached thereto. Any application containing false, misleading or incomplete information will be disqualified.
- Must submit three letters of recommendation as part of the application package, preferably from instructors, counselor, or college administrators. Letters from close<sup>1</sup> relatives will not be considered.
- Must not have a family<sup>2</sup> or business relationship with any member of the **COM-FSM Scholarship Board**.

##### B. Recommended, applicant:

- Should show a genuine (or true) desire and ability to further higher education (undergraduate degree) and achieve his or her goals.
- Should be an individual who has impressed fellow students, members of the faculty, and/or members of the community as a person who is deserving a chance to continue higher education (undergraduate degree), with the demonstrated ability, industriousness, dependability and determination to achieve his or her goals.
- Should be an individual who plans ultimately to work and live in the FSM in his or her chosen profession.

#### 5. Application Details and Deadline

The applicant is responsible for gathering and submitting all required (or necessary) information. An application to the **FSM Government & COM-FSM Study Abroad Scholarship** is evaluated on information supplied; therefore, the applicant is required to answer all questions completely. Incomplete application will not be evaluated (or considered). All information received is considered *confidential* and is reviewed by the **COM-FSM Scholarship Board**.

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<sup>2</sup>Consanguinity to the third degree includes father, mother, son or daughter (and spouse), grandparents, grandchildren, aunts and uncles, first cousins, nieces and nephews, brothers and sisters and great grandparents, great grandchildren, great aunts and uncles, second cousins, children of first cousins, and grand nephews and grandnieces. Affinity to the third degree includes spouse, spouse's parents and children, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, first cousins, nephews, nieces, brothers, sisters, great grandparents, great grandchildren, great aunt, great uncle, children of great aunt and uncle, second cousin, children of first cousin, and grandnephew or niece.

- A. The **COM-FSM Scholarship Board** must receive applications including all required documentations and three letters of recommendation *no later than* July 31, 2018 to be considered.
- B. The **FSM Government & COM-FSM Study Abroad Scholarship**, as attached, which must be filled-out completely and accurately.
- C. Proof of enrollment or acceptance at Sophia University or Temple University in Japan.
- D. An original, official transcript of records indicating a minimum 2.50 GPA at the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM). If applicable and/or a requirement before a second payment of the scholarship can be released, a current official transcript indicating all grades earned through previous academic term.
- E. A copy of FSM passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months after the applicant's departure and only a copy of the main page of the passport, containing his or her photo and personal information is sufficient.
- F. Applications including all required documentations and three letters of recommendation to:

**The COM-FSM Scholarship Board**  
College of Micronesia-FSM  
P.O. Box 159  
Kolonias, Pohnpei FSM 96941

## 6. Review and Interview

The **COM-FSM Scholarship Board** will do initial screening of applications. The basic process for evaluating (or reviewing) applicants and awarding scholarships is as follows:

- A. All applicants are evaluated (or reviewed) by at least three judges based on the following three standard criteria:
  - **High academic achievement.** This is primarily based on the applicant's academic transcript of records, and by testimony to his or her scholarly excellence that is provided by letters of recommendation from instructors, counselors, or college administrators.
  - **Financial need.** This is based on the financial information that is furnished in a section of the applicant's **FSM Government & COM-FSM Study Abroad Scholarship Application Form**, by information provided by his or her letters of recommendation, plus any reinforcing narrative he or she provides in his or her essay.
  - **Career plan and objectives.** This based on information presented in the applicant's **FSM Government & COM-FSM Study Abroad Scholarship Form**, by information provided by his or her letters of recommendation, plus any reinforcing narrative he or she provides in his or her essay.

After a comprehensive review and assessment of each applicant's information, finalists will be selected.

When necessary, and in the sole discretion of the board, applicants may be contacted for further information and/or interviews, which may be conducted either in person, via telephone, or in any means practical, prior to final selection.

## 7. Final Selection

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, honors, co- and extra-curricular activities, demonstrated ability, industriousness, dependability and determination to achieve his or her goals, statement of goals and aspirations, unusual personal or family circumstances<sup>3</sup>, and an outside appraisal<sup>4</sup>.

The **COM-FSM Scholarship Board** makes selection of the scholarship recipients. The board shall select scholarship recipients who, in the reasoned view of the members of the board, are the most deserving of scholarship awards based upon the objective criteria. The board shall select scholarship recipients on an objective and non-discriminatory basis, without regard to gender, race, religion, national origin, or personal handicap.

In no instance does *sponsor*<sup>5</sup> play a part in the selection. All applicants agree to accept the decision as final.

Applicants will be notified in August, 2018. Not all applicants to the **FSM Government & COM-FSM Study Abroad Scholarship** will be selected as recipients.

## 8. Conditional Offers of Scholarship and Confirmation of Scholarship

### A. Conditional Offers of the Scholarship

Scholarship recipients will be emailed *conditional* offers of scholarships by August 2018. They will be asked to provide additional information (e.g. validation of enrollment in the academic term, etc.) by a given deadline. Should they respond in a timely way with the requested information, the conditions will be removed and they will be awarded a scholarship.

### B. Confirmation of Scholarship

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<sup>3</sup>Any special personal or family circumstances affecting the applicant's need for financial assistance.

<sup>4</sup>Letters of recommendation

<sup>5</sup>FSM Congress

With all conditions met, scholarship recipients will be officially advised by email of their award. As a courtesy, applicants who are unsuccessful in the scholarship program will be notified by email.

## **9. Obligation**

Scholarship recipients have no obligation to *sponsor*. However, they are required to notify the **COM-FSM Scholarship Board** of any changes in address, school enrollment or other relevant information and to send a complete transcript of records when requested.

## **10. Revision**

*Sponsor* in collaboration with the **COM-FSM Scholarship Board** reserves the rights to review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time including termination of the program.

## **11. Additional Information**

Questions regarding the **FSM Government & COM-FSM Study Abroad Scholarship** should be addressed to:

**The COM-FSM Scholarship Board**  
College of Micronesia-FSM  
P.O. Box 159  
Kolonias, Pohnpei FSM 96941

Phone: (691) 320-2480 ext. 169

IV. Email: [thescholarshipboard@comfsm.fm](mailto:thescholarshipboard@comfsm.fm)