



UNIVERSITY OF
**SOUTH
CAROLINA**
UPSTATE

The John C. Stockwell and Diane C. Vecchio International Award

Established April 27, 2002

The John C. Stockwell and Diane C. Vecchio International Award is designed to provide a funded summer of international travel and study to a full-time, academically well-qualified, in-state student at USC Upstate. The Award is intended for a student for whom travel has been a rare but intensely desired opportunity and for whom the experience will enhance leadership potential.

The Award makes \$6,000 available for the purpose of spending six weeks or more abroad outside the North American continent preferably unaccompanied, engaging in travel and in a faculty-advised independent study project worthy of three to six semester hours of undergraduate credit. Though the travel must be documented extensively and an independent study project must be completed, the award recipient is not accountable for detailed expenditure reports. The cash award is intended to assist in covering the costs of travel, expenses incurred while living abroad, paying credit hour costs for independent study enrollment in summer school, and offsetting some lost summer earning potential.

The Award is designed for use during the summer between the junior and senior year. Applications must be prepared during the Fall Semester of the junior year with the recipient announced by December 15th, allowing time to plan extensively during the Spring Semester preceding summer travel.

Purpose

The purpose of The John C. Stockwell and Diane C. Vecchio International Award is to enhance a recipient's leadership potential by addressing a personal challenge through independent travel and study.

More specifically, the Award offers an intense and independent international experience to a full-time, in-state student for whom such an opportunity is difficult to gain. Most important, such an experience is likely to make a significant impact on the recipient's capacity for leadership in his or her field of endeavor.

The Award is designed to offer this opportunity to an academically well-qualified student while encouraging full-time matriculation leading to graduation in four years. The criteria for consideration are broad to allow for maximum participation of applicants. The clarity, candor and persuasiveness of the proposal are of the utmost importance in the determination of Award recipients.

Criteria

Applicants for The John C. Stockwell and Diane C. Vecchio International Award are to have met the following criteria:

- Applicants are to be full-time, in-state students at USC Upstate in the fall semester of the Junior year with a grade point average of 3.0 or above.
- Applicants are to have matriculated as full-time students at USC Upstate through the Freshman or Sophomore years with plans to complete the Junior and Senior years as full-time students, graduating in four years.
- Applicants may major in any discipline, but must have selected a major by the time of application and demonstrated a capacity for success in their field of study.
- Applicants may or may not have foreign language proficiency. (In fact, at least some travel is encouraged in countries where award recipients have little or no language ability).
- Preference will be given to applicants with no independent international travel experience.

**Under special circumstances, minor exceptions to the above criteria could be considered after consultation with and approval by the Director of International Studies.

Application

The application is to be filed with the Director of the Office of International Studies by November 1st of the applicant's Junior year. The application form may be picked up from the Office of International Studies, room 101 of the Administration Building, or downloaded from http://www.uscupstate.edu/enrollment_services/scholarships/files/stockwell_vecchio_app.pdf.

The application has four components.

First, the criteria outlined above are addressed.

Second, the application requests the preparation of a three to five page essay that addresses three interrelated questions.

1. What is the most significant "personal challenge" you believe you face in developing your capacity for success and leadership in your anticipated field of professional endeavor?
 - The challenge may be intellectual, experiential, social, spiritual, physical, emotional, or a combination of one or another. The challenge must be stated persuasively, with candor and clarity. It must be framed in terms of the professional goals you seek to reach and the hurdles you must clear in reaching those goals. The evaluators of your proposal will attach considerable weight to the authenticity of your "personal challenge" statement.
2. What "plan of study" will you pursue in your international experience?
 - Your summer of travel must have an academic focus, a focus worthy of university independent study credit. Your program may keep you in one place for a detailed study, or move you from place to place in pursuit of a thematic agenda. The "plan of study" should address issues related to your baccalaureate major and your likely field of professional endeavor. Though the "plan of study" need not represent original research, the evaluators will attach considerable weight to its substance.
3. How will your international experience and plan of study assist you in addressing the personal challenge you have identified?
 - Keep in mind that the *purpose* of the Award is *to enhance your leadership potential by addressing a personal challenge through independent travel and study*. You must analyze persuasively the relationship between your "personal challenge" statement, your travel and study plan, and their likely impact on your future leadership potential. Evaluators of your proposal will place considerable weight on your analysis of these relationships.

Third, the application requires the development of a projected schedule of dates and places for the international travel and a budget prepared in sufficient detail to provide assurance that the schedule can be carried out with the funds provided.

Fourth, the application requires the signature of a faculty sponsor for the independent study component of the proposal, and the signature of the Director of International Studies affirming the feasibility of the agenda and the budget. Two letters of recommendation are also required. One recommendation letter should come from a faculty member in the applicant's chosen major field of study. (The same faculty member sponsoring the independent study may write the letter. The letter of recommendation should

address, at minimum, the student's potential for significant accomplishment in his or her chosen major field of study, and the potential importance of the travel and study plan to the emergence of leadership potential.) Additionally, a letter of personal reference, which addresses the candidate's leadership potential, is also required.

Review Process

A preliminary proposal must be delivered to the Director of International Studies for approval of the feasibility of the agenda and the budget by October 15th. (Candidates are encouraged to discuss their project with the Director of International Studies before this deadline.)

Final applications, due on November 1st, will be reviewed by the John C. Stockwell and Diane C. Vecchio International Award Committee, and a committee selected by the Director of International Studies from the International Advisory Board. The committee will recommend no more than three finalists for consideration to the Chancellor (or designee) by December 1st. The Chancellor will announce the Award winner by December 15th. Interviews may be part of the review process.

Obligations of the Recipient

In addition to planning the travel and the independent study, and successfully undertaking both, the Award winner is responsible for making a brief public presentation in the Spring Semester prior to departure to present plans and to outline the purposes of the travel. The Director of International Studies will host this event and invite appropriate attendees.

Upon return in the Fall Semester of the senior year, the Award recipient will conduct a seminar, hosted by the Director of International Studies, with invited attendees and open to the public, to review the travel and the academic and personal accomplishments of the traveler. Other public appearances may also be requested of the Award recipient during his or her senior year.