

Valentour Intercultural Learning Fellowship

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has received a generous endowment from Mr. Louis Valentour enabling a full-time or part-time student who has completed the equivalent of at least one academic year to travel for seven to twelve weeks during a summer dedicated to intercultural learning. The endowment requires that the fellowship be used for learning, rather than for “missionary work”. The travel fellowship is to cover all expenses. Students are expected to share their experience with the Seminary community in the following fall semester. The deadline for applications is February 1st before the summer of travel.

The award is based on a proposal 3-5 pages in length that outlines the purpose and the plan for travel, which must include at least one culture/society in the non-Western world.

Proposals should include:

- Purpose for travel including theme or topic to study and hope to learn or experience as a result of the Valentour Scholarship
- Plan for travel including list of countries and how they will contribute to the research and learning, and
- A tentative itinerary for travel

Proposal should be developed in collaboration with the WMI director.

The award is made by a committee composed of the Dean of Faculty, the Dean of Students, two members of the Faculty, and the Director of World Mission Initiative (chair). The committee will make a recommendation for the award to the President, who will make the final selection by March 1st.

Students should speak with the World Mission Initiative Director or another member of the award committee before making application. Applications should be submitted electronically to wmi@pts.edu.

Once a recipient/s was selected, round-trip, economy class travel arrangements should be developed in collaboration with the WMI Office and the local countries contacts. Once finalized WMI office will book for all flights tickets. The student receiving the award receives a timely cash pay-out of the full award in order to pay in advance for any expenses like vaccination, housing, etc. Students with the help of WMI office are responsible for coming up with a budget proposal which needs approval by the WMI director. Any expenses that exceed the amount of the award must be paid by the student. It is advisable that a certain amount of the award be held in reserve for unforeseen emergencies. In the interest of accountability, the award recipient must submit travel expenses to the Seminary Business Office and must inquire of the Business Office as to the items required for documentation before travel.

WMI will advise the student about real or potential problem areas in the plan, including health and security issues. Travel is never without risk, and the final responsibility for safe travel rests with the student herself/himself/themself.

Revised and approved: December 2022