

Funding Your Master's Degree

FutureGenerations Graduate School

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Congratulations

Again Congratulations on being accepted into the Future Generations Graduate School's Master's Degree in Applied Community Change and Conservation. As an accepted student we are now ready to work with you to make this educational opportunity affordable. We look at this as a partnership with our students, where we both work together to find the funding you need to complete the degree. Working together we will succeed.

First we have to reframe the problem into an opportunity. Through the process of looking for funding, you may widen your network, making important contacts that will continue to serve you throughout your career. Approach the fund-raising and scholarship-seeking process as part of your participation in the Master's degree, not as the insurmountable obstacle in the way of your final goal of graduate school. With this perspective in mind, following are some steps to take in search for funds.

Please check (✓) and date each step as you accomplish or attempt it, and make notes on your success and challenges. Don't hesitate to use additional paper for your notes.

I. Approach Your Employer

Date:



- Their support of your Master's degree should be indicated in their letter of recommendation, particularly so you are sure they will give you one month off per term for the residentials.
- Ask also if there is money available for professional development which could help towards your tuition or residential airfare
- Emphasize that this degree is U.S. accredited, will increase your knowledge and skill capacity, and will strengthen your community ties

Notes

II. Approach Local Businesses and Professional Organizations/Associations

Date:



- Emphasize that the degree is U.S. accredited, but that it builds links to the local community rather than drawing allegiance away (addresses problem of brain drain)
- Ask about contacts in the diaspora – professionals who have moved abroad but still want to support their home country

Notes

III. Approach Community and Family Members

Date:



- Help them to understand what you are undertaking and its value
- Make sure they are supportive of your desire to conduct an applied research project (your practicum) in the community.
- Ask if there is a community fund available to help with education or professional development pursuits

Notes

IV. Go to the United States Embassy/Consulate in Your Country

Date:



- They will be aware of scholarships and grant opportunities for citizens of your country studying at a U.S. institution. The obstacle is that many of these scholarships require the student to be resident in the U.S. for a minimum of several months to a year. If you explain the nature of the degree, though, they may be able to make an exception.

Notes

V. Search for Scholarships Online

Date:



- Go to www.iie.org, the website for the Institute of International Education. In the box on the right side, click on Gateways for Students. Click on Browse Programs on the right side. The best way to narrow this down is by Participant Country/Territory of Origin.
- Look especially for scholarships available through local foundations and organizations.
- Look for other online scholarships.

Notes