

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

College of Forest Resources

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 the College of Forest Resources (CFR) 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, CFR Department Head, CFR Dean / FWRC or 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 in the CFR will be as follows: Applications will be accepted October 1 through February 1. Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the International Non-Resident Tuition Scholarship Review Committee (INRTS), consisting of the Associate Dean (chair) and the Graduate Coordinators of the CFR departments. Scholarship applications will then be transmitted to the CFR 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 CFR Department and adherence of any requirements (e.g., visa status, ESL testing, etc.) by MSU International Program offices; (3) Any prioritization by the Dean/Director

regarding international activity strategic initiatives; (4) Application ranking by the INRTS Committee; (5) Distribution of scholarships among CFR Departments; 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. Departments may apply for these tuition scholarships by submitting a letter to the Dean identifying the international partner and MOU, the number of scholarships requested, and the time frame and/or duration the scholarships are needed. Assignment of tuition scholarships to these out-of-phase applicants will then follow steps 1 through 6 listed above.

- 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 may 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.
- 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 is still required to assure student academic performance is in good standing, compliance with MOU/MOA requirements, etc. 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 CFR department, failure to meet 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
[Date]

by


[signed original in CFR Dean's Office]
Dr. George M. Hopper
Dean – College of Forest Resources
Director – Forest and Wildlife Research Center

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

Available upon request from the CALS Dean's Office