

MOUNT HOLYOKE
CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Phone 413-538-2080 / Fax 413-538-2081

LUCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

(Luce Scholars Program web site: <http://www.hluce.org>)

(on-line Luce Scholars application: <http://www.hluce.org/lisapp.html>)

We encourage all applicants to visit this website for more detailed information about the program

Application forms for the Luce Scholars Program are available online or from Kimberly Parent, the Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School in the Career Development Center. If you wish to apply, please contact the Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School to discuss your plans.

TYPE: Nomination by Mount Holyoke College required. Mount Holyoke may nominate two candidates for this award this year. Apply as Senior or Alum.

PURPOSE: The intent of the Luce Scholars Program is to provide an intensive experience in Asia for an outstanding group of young Americans (**from fields other than Asian Affairs/Studies including medicine, the arts, business, law, science, environmental studies, and journalism**) who would not otherwise expect, during the normal course of their careers, to have such an opportunity. Despite its name, the Luce Scholars Program is experiential rather than academic in nature: at its core are internships and job placements that are arranged for each participating Scholar on the basis of his or her professional interests and background. The program is based on the belief that the United States lacks a nucleus of national leaders who, without being experts, are familiar with the ways of the East and responsive to them.

ELIGIBILITY: Basic eligibility requirements are:

- U.S. citizenship
- No more than 29 years old as of September 1, 2009 and in good physical health
- Must have completed a bachelor's degree prior to September 1st of the year entering the program
- Must not be a specialist in Asian studies or have had significant exposure to any Asian language or culture

SELECTION CRITERIA: Nominees should have a strong, mature, and clearly defined career interest in a specific field (excluding Asian Studies); strong motivation and potential for accomplishment within that career interest; a record of outstanding academic achievement, particularly in the field of specialty; evidence of an outstanding capacity for leadership; and a more than usual openness to new ideas and a sensitivity to their fellow human beings. (Note that one or two courses on East or Southeast Asia or a brief visit to Asia will not disqualify an individual, but extensive travel or residence in Asia will.) Nominees may be current seniors, current or recent graduate students, or current junior faculty members. Scholars are chosen without regard to gender, race, religion, ethnic background, marital status, or financial need. **Candidates do not need to (nor should they) propose a specific project or placement, nor do they need prior facility in an Asian language.** Once selected, Luce Scholars are encouraged to begin intensive language study.

SPECIAL NOTES: The geographic range of placements extends, where feasible, through East and Southeast Asia; placements currently can be made in Brunei, Cambodia, China and Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Indian subcontinent and the Middle East are not included. The Asia Foundation administers all Asian aspects of the Luce Scholars Program, under a cooperative agreement with the Henry Luce Foundation.

AWARDS: Mount Holyoke is one of 67 colleges and universities invited to submit nominees for the Luce Scholars Program this year, and 18 Scholars will be chosen. The Asia Foundation negotiates each Scholar's placement on the basis of his or her interests, background, qualifications, and experience, keeping in mind language limitations. Scholars receive a significant stipend, plus travel expenses and medical and travel insurance. The term of the Scholarship begins with orientation sessions in the US. After several months in Asia, the Scholars come together for further orientation in Hong Kong. At the end of the program in July, they present final reports at a wrap-up session.

PREVIOUS LUCE SCHOLARS: Five Mount Holyoke nominees have been named Luce Scholars since the program began in 1969, including one each in 1994 and 1999 (and we have had nominees chosen as finalists in each of the years 1994-1998 and in the year 2006). The academic/professional backgrounds of the Mount Holyoke nominees chosen as Scholars include architecture, dance, law, economic planning, and physics.

APPLICATION PROCESS: The Committee on Fellowships selects the nominee(s) on the basis of their written applications and an interview. Alumnae are selected based on written application only. In early February, the Luce Foundation conducts a preliminary interview with each nominee, and then invites 45 finalists for more extensive interviews.

PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE, LAMINATE OR BIND ANY PART OF THE APPLICATION FORM OR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, AS THEY WILL BE COPIED FOR REVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE ON FELLOWSHIPS!

NOMINATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES:

Friday, October 31, 2008

Submit the following documents to the Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School in the Career Development Center:

- **Biographic information** form (use form provided and do not attach separate resume)
- **Address Information Card**
- **Personal statement** - A **signed**, type-written or computer generated document of no more than 1,000 words outlining: your long-range career interests, how they have developed, and how you plan to pursue them in the future; and the reasons for your interest in the Luce Scholars Program.
- **Academic transcripts** - An **official transcript** from Mount Holyoke, and **official transcripts** from all other colleges and universities attended
- **Two recent passport-size photographs** (black and white preferred with name printed on back of each photograph)
- **Four letters of recommendation** - Letters should be typewritten on letterhead stationery and represent a range of academic, professional, and personal references. You should give your recommenders a copy of this handout and emphasize that the qualities most sought are: (a) a strong, mature, and clearly defined career interest in a specific field; (b) strong motivation and potential for accomplishment within that field; (c) outstanding academic achievement, particularly in your specialty; and (d) evidence of an outstanding capacity for leadership. Recommenders are to forward their letters directly to the Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School in the Career Development Center.

Wednesday, November 5 - Wednesday, November 12, 2008

The Committee on Fellowships reviews applications and interviews candidates.

Monday, November 24, 2008

Final application, including photographs and official transcripts, are due in the Career Development Center.

Monday, December 1, 2008

Applications are due at the Luce Foundation in New York. The Career Development Center will mail applications. An initial screening of the nominees is made during December and January. Following interviews with the Foundation's staff, finalists meet with one of the three selection panels who choose the eighteen Luce Scholars by mid-March. The program begins in August and concludes the following July.

Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that each portion of the application, including letters of recommendation, is received by the appropriate deadline. If you will be requesting transcripts from other institutions or letters of recommendation from outside the College (particularly outside the U.S.), please do so immediately, as these materials can take several weeks to reach us. If you anticipate a problem meeting a particular deadline or have any questions concerning your application, please contact the Interim Coordinator & Advisor for Scholarships, Fellowships, Pre-Law, and Graduate School at (413) 538-2080.