Freeman-ASIA Scholarship Checklist

1. Read all instructions listed online at www.iie.org/programs/Freeman-ASIA to make sure you are eligible for this award.

2. Select a certifying Freeman-ASIA adviser. Only select from the Learning Abroad Center advisers listed below. Meet with the certifying adviser if you wish to discuss how your study abroad program may meet the scholarship criteria, your personal statement, or your service project proposal. Have your adviser’s information on hand when you begin the online application.

3. Attend a Study Abroad Financial Aid Preview meeting with a financial aid counselor. The preview meeting will require you to obtain a detailed cost of participation for your program abroad. More information on the preview meeting is available online: www.UMabroad.umn.edu/students/finances/abroad. Regardless of which financial aid counselor you meet with, only list Cathy Schuster as your financial aid adviser on your Freeman-ASIA application (see Certifying Financial Aid Advisers below). (The Freeman scholarship is partially need-based: make sure you have a current FAFSA on file before your Preview meeting.)

4. Complete the online application. The application will require: financial information about your program, including a full cost of participation estimate, a Statement of Financial Need, a personal essay, a service project proposal, and academic/transcript information. You can start the application, save your work, and come back later if you do not finish in one sitting.

5. Follow up with your study abroad and financial aid advisers to let them know you completed the application, and to verify they received certification instructions. Due to the lengthy application and certification process, and strict deadlines, Freeman recommends applicants submit their application well ahead of the deadline. Allow your advisers sufficient time to follow up on your application; do not expect them to certify your application the same day it is submitted.

Preference is given to students:

- Participating in language study that will enhance their ability to engage with the host culture. A language intensive program may fit this criteria.
- Studying an East or Southeast Asian language, culture, and history on their program abroad.
- Enrolling in courses taught by host country faculty.
- Demonstrating a sincere interest in East Asian culture, and incorporating that interest into future academic/professional goals.
- With demonstrated financial need.
- With a strong service proposal and essay.

Most of these traits will not be asked about anywhere on the application. It will be up to you to work them into your essay.

Other key tips:

Your essay may be the most important part of your application. Students who meet the preference factors listed above, but write poor essays rarely receive an award. Conversely, students who meet no preference factors, but write strong essays are successful on a regular basis. Be thorough when defining your Follow-on Project. Mentioning specifics about how you will carry out your project, why you chose to target this population, why you chose this approach, and who you plan to work with shows much more initiative than vague details and unclear concepts.

Resources:

- University of Minnesota Center for Writing: 15 Nicholson Hall & 9 Appleby Hall, writing.umn.edu
- National and International Scholarship Advising: 20 Nicholson Hall. Their staff can assist with revising scholarship essays and their website provides tips for writing effective personal statements: www.honors.umn.edu/scholarships/advising-resources
- Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence (MCASE) Instructional Center, 140 Appleby Hall, 612.624.5494 (You do not need to be a multicultural student to access their services)
- The Freeman-ASIA website offers tips for successful applications, detailed instructions, deadlines, and other resources: www.iie.org/Programs/Freeman-ASIA
- The Learning Abroad Center Freeman-ASIA contact: Thuy Doan thuydoan@umn.edu

Certifying Freeman-ASIA Advisers at the Learning Abroad Center:

- Thuy M. Doan thuydoan@umn.edu
- Angela Koenig ford0174@umn.edu
- Ashley Metz armetz@umn.edu
- Eric Leinen lein0032@umn.edu

Certifying Financial Aid Adviser for all UMTC Freeman-ASIA Applicants:

- Cathy Schuster heuer001@umn.edu

Freeman-ASIA Scholarship Recent Statistics

- In summer 2016, UMTC had 4 applicants and 1 winner (25% award rate).
- In fall 2016, UMTC had 3 applicants and 1 winner (33% award rate).