



## EducationUSA Weekly Update

No. 76 April 7, 2008

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## I. Scholarships and Fellowships

### Undergraduate: St. Olaf College Scholarships

#### Program Description

St. Olaf College is a private liberal arts and science college offering programs leading to a bachelor's degree (Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Music). Graduate programs are not available at St. Olaf. Located in the safe surroundings of a small town in southern Minnesota (70 km from the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport), St. Olaf offers a secure community in which to pursue a degree of higher learning. We typically enroll 20-30 international students each year. You will find the college small enough to be a caring community, yet large enough to be diverse.

#### St. Olaf Scholarships

St. Olaf scholarships can pay up to \$22,000 per year, based on financial need. Scholarships are available to students with interest in any field of study who have demonstrated financial need. Once need has been established, scholarships are awarded according to scholastic standing, activity record, test scores, and recommendations. The College offers special scholarships for Norwegian students.

#### St. Olaf Grants

St. Olaf grants are need-based and range up to as much as \$22,000 per year. Funds are awarded to students whose need is not otherwise reasonably met with government grants, student loans, student work and St. Olaf scholarships.

**Award Deadline:** December 1

#### Eligibility Requirements

St. Olaf is seeking students who will:

- thrive at St. Olaf, both academically and personally.
- contribute to the community, inside and outside of the classroom.

#### International Application Requirements

Unless noted, the following items are required for admission. You are encouraged to complete the online Common Application and St. Olaf Supplement. (Note: For Norwegian students some special requirements apply, check website (<http://www.stolaf.edu/admissions/applying/international/norwegian.html>) for details.)

1. Common Application and St. Olaf Supplement (also found online or downloadable online at <http://www.stolaf.edu/admissions/applying/CommonAppSup.pdf>).
2. \$40 application fee (Fee is waived ONLY for those who submit an online application.)
3. TOEFL (minimum score 80, 213, or 550) or Academic IELTS (minimum band 6.0)
4. SAT-I or ACT
5. Two (2) teacher evaluations (or academic recommendations)
6. Secondary school transcripts or reports with progress grades (the last four years of schooling)
7. Official college/university transcripts (if applicable)
8. Official external examination results and/or diploma (if applicable)
9. International Student Certification of Finances form (required for student visa certification)
10. International Student Financial Aid Application (if applicable)

For items number 5 and 6, you need to download these PDF forms from Common Application. Because these items cannot be submitted electronically, **you must print and mail the paper copies**. If you have started your application, please review the letter mailed to you to see what we have already received.

### English Proficiency Requirement

All international applicants whose native language is not English are required to take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System). Reports of other tests are **not** acceptable. The English proficiency requirement applies also to students whose courses may have been taught in English (in India, Pakistan, Philippines, Hong Kong, Tanzania, etc.), but whose native language is not English. Exceptions will be granted only to applicants who have studied for at least two years in a U.S. secondary school or college or in a school in a country where English is the official language (England or Australia, for example) or where English is the main language of instruction, such as IB & AP programs. Minimum TOEFL score is 80 (IBT), 213 (CBT), or 550 (PBT). Scores must be sent directly to St. Olaf College from ETS; the code assigned to St. Olaf is 6638. Academic IELTS minimum band is 6.0.

### Further Information

<http://www.stolaf.edu/admissions/applying/international.html>

### Contact

St. Olaf College  
Office of Admissions  
1520 St. Olaf Avenue  
Northfield, MN 55057-1098 USA  
TEL: +1-507-786-3025  
FAX: +1-507-786-3832  
[admissions@stolaf.edu](mailto:admissions@stolaf.edu)

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**Graduate: Adelle and Erwin Tomash Fellowship In The History of Information Technology**  
Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota

### Program Description

The Charles Babbage Institute is accepting applications for the Adelle and Erwin Tomash Graduate Fellowship. The fellowship will be awarded to a graduate student for doctoral dissertation research in the history of computing.

The fellowship may be held at the recipient's home academic institution, the Charles Babbage Institute, or any other location with appropriate research facilities. The stipend is \$14,000. It is intended for students who have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree except the research and writing of the dissertation.

Preference will be given to applicants indicating a need to use CBI materials, planning research in residence at CBI, and willing to make a brief presentation of their research findings to CBI staff.

Tomash Fellowship recipients must remain students in good standing throughout the term of their fellowship, but there is no restriction on holding other fellowships, scholarships, or awards concurrent to the Tomash Fellowship.

### Eligibility Requirements

Graduate students are eligible who make doctoral dissertation research in the history of computing. The fellowship is intended for students who have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree except the research and writing of the dissertation. Applicants should send to CBI a curriculum vitae and a five-page (single-spaced) statement and justification of the research program including a discussion of methods, research materials, evidence of faculty support for the project, and bibliography (bibliography does not count toward page count).

Applicants should also arrange for three letters of reference and certified copies of graduate school transcripts to be sent directly to CBI.

Areas of study: computer science  
Open to students from: any region  
Award amount: \$14,000

### Further Information

<http://www.cbi.umn.edu/research/TFellowship.html>

### Contact

Charles Babbage Institute: Tomash Fellowship  
Jeffrey Yost, CBI Associate Director  
211 Andersen Library  
University of Minnesota  
222 - 21st Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
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## Post Doctorate: Parker B. Francis Fellowship in Pulmonary Research

### Program Description

The Parker B. Francis Fellowship in Pulmonary Research is intended to support the development of outstanding investigators who plan careers in pulmonary research. We seek to help them as they make the transition to independent, self-supporting, faculty members.

Parker B. Francis Fellowship grants are awarded to institutions for the purpose of providing stipends, fringe benefits, and modest travel expenses in support of qualified post-doctoral fellows or newly appointed assistant professors. Award recipients will thereby be enabled to devote the major part of their professional effort to research related to pulmonary disease and lung biology.

Grants are made for three years of support. It is permissible to maintain support for the awardee as he or she moves from fellowship to faculty status. Awards are made to institutions on behalf of the fellows and can be transferred to other institutions only under special circumstances with prior approval from the Director of the Fellowship Program.

Fellows supported by a Parker B. Francis Fellowship must be assured of having at least 75 percent of their time available for research. This means that a total of no more than three months per year may be spent in clinical or other non-research activities.

Areas of study: Medicine

Open to students from: any region

Average award amount: \$108,000

Number of awards: 15

Award coverage: stipend and fringe benefits plus travel max. \$2,000/year

Award duration: 3 years

Award deadline: October 15

### Eligibility Requirements

Institutions may have only two Parker B. Francis Fellows in the same department at a given time. Therefore, a department with a current Parker B. Francis Fellow may submit one application for an additional award this funding cycle. In addition, a department may submit no more than one application annually.

Most successful candidates have 2-5 years of research experience at the time of fellowship application. Candidates with fewer years of research experience are usually not competitive. Candidates with greater than seven years of research experience are discouraged from applying unless specific circumstances (such as a change of field) justify additional training at the fellowship level.

Candidates are expected to have participated as an author on a minimum of two or three research publications.

Candidates from under-represented groups are particularly encouraged to apply.

Applications for Fellowships will not be considered for funding if either the mentor or the Fellow has a relationship with the tobacco industry as described in the American Thoracic Society (ATS) guidelines.

If a current PBF Fellow or his/her mentor enters into a relationship with the tobacco industry, the PBF Fellowship support will be immediately ended.

The application includes the following:

a) Biographical sketch and brief statement of career goals of the candidate. Fellowships are restricted to US, Canadian and Mexican citizens or permanent residents. However, foreign nationals who document their initial steps toward permanent residence in the USA, Canada or Mexico will also be considered. Documentation should include a description of steps already taken toward application for long-term residency or citizenship.

b) A statement from the mentor evaluating the applicant's qualifications and indicating his or her career goals in the field of pulmonary research. Three additional letters are required from individuals who know the candidate well and, if possible, who have direct knowledge of the applicant's research capabilities.

c) Summary of past-training record of the primary mentor, including names of former trainees and their current positions. A brief description of the research and training activity of the sponsoring unit (department) may also be provided. The relevant qualifications of secondary mentors should be summarized.

d) The sources and level of annual support (including grants pending) and the adequacy of equipment and space for research training available to the primary mentor and trainee.

e) Outline of the research project to be undertaken. Projects must relate specifically to lung disease or respiratory biology or respiratory disease.

f) On the s page, signatures of the primary mentor, department or division head and fiscal officer responsible for administering the grant.

Contact an EducationUSA adviser near you for guidance on finding and applying to an accredited U.S. college or university 3  
<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/>

Three letters of recommendation are essential and are a *required* part of all application submissions. Letters of recommendation should address:

- demonstrated potential for establishing an independent pulmonary research career
- evidence of originality
- adequacy of scientific background and evidence of superior performance
- quality of research publications

The letters, with signatures, should be mailed directly the Fellowship office at Harvard. The letters *must* be sent in sealed envelopes labeled with the applicant's name and signed by the individual providing the letter across the rear flap. Letters must meet the submission deadline of October 15.

The candidate's three strongest publication reprints should be submitted electronically as part of the application.

**Further Information**

<http://www.francisfellowships.org/apply.htm>

**Contact**

Joseph D. Brain, Director  
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 Parker B. Francis Fellowship Program  
 Department of Environmental Health  
 Harvard School of Public Health  
 665 Huntington Avenue, Building I-1411  
 Boston, Massachusetts 02115  
 617-432-4099  
 FAX: 617-277-2382  
 OR  
 Nancy Long Sieber, Ph.D., Program Administrator  
 781-391-1118  
 E-mail: [nlong@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:nlong@hsph.harvard.edu)

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**Post Doctorate: ETS Research Postdoctoral Fellowship Award**

**Program Description**

Individuals selected for fellowships conduct independent research in ETS's offices in Princeton, N.J. A wide-variety of research is acceptable including: measurement theory, validity, natural language processing and computational linguistics, cognitive psychology, learning theory, linguistics, speech recognition and processing, teaching and classroom research, and statistics.

The goals of the program are to

- provide research opportunities to individuals who hold a doctorate in the fields indicated above
- increase the number of women and underrepresented minority professionals conducting research in educational measurement and related fields

Areas of study: computer science, psychology

Open to students from: any region

Average award amount: \$50,000

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Doctorate in a relevant discipline
- Evidence of prior research
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The main criteria for selection are the candidate's scholarship and the technical strength of the proposed topic of research. Another key factor is the explicit objective of the research and its relationship to ETS research goals and priorities. ETS affirmative action objectives are considered.

**Further Information**

<http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.1488512ecfd5b8849a77b13bc3921509/?vgnnextoid=a7d6d635e06ed010VgnVCM1000022f95190RCRD&vgnnextchannel=0d03d635e06ed010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD>

**Contact**

Educational Testing Service  
 Research and Development Division  
 Rosedale Road, Mail Stop 09-R  
 Princeton, NJ  
 08541-0001  
 Tel: 1-609-734-5543  
 Email: [internfellowships@ets.org](mailto:internfellowships@ets.org)

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**Pre-College Program Highlight: Summer in New York City, Barnard College, Columbia University**

Contact an EducationUSA adviser near you for guidance on finding and applying to an accredited U.S. college or university

<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/>

Summer in New York City is a great way for high school students to get a taste of college life, interact with students from all around the country and all over the world, and explore one of the most exciting cities in the world.

Summer in New York City offers motivated tenth or eleventh grade students an array of opportunities, such as:

- **Challenging college-level courses:** Students can choose from a variety of courses such as Filmmaking: From Script to Screen, Poetry in New York, Pediatric and Adolescent Health Psychology, Introduction to Fiction Writing and Acting: Process and Performance. Many of the classes use Manhattan as the ideal laboratory for exploring ideas and experiencing history.
- **Experiencing college life:** Students reside in air-conditioned dorms located on a beautiful, four-acre, residential campus on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. They will meet new students who hail from such places as California, Illinois, and Massachusetts, and even Italy, England or Hong Kong.
- **Exploring New York City:** Beyond the classroom, students will have opportunities to visit Greenwich Village, Central Park, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Statue of Liberty and a myriad of other exciting destinations.

Programs allow students to experience college life and explore all that New York City has to offer. To find out more about the programs, visit [www.barnard.edu/pcp](http://www.barnard.edu/pcp).

#### Contact

Alexandra Nestoras

Director

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Tel: (212) 854 8866

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#### Institute of American Language and Culture, Fordham University

Fordham University's Institute of American Language and Culture (IALC) provides courses in English as a second Language (ESL) to students at all levels of proficiency.

The IALC's specializes in preparing non-native English speakers for study in American university classrooms. Many IALC students apply to and enroll in Fordham's undergraduate and graduate programs.

American culture is essential component of each IALC course. For students at the advanced level, the curriculum features a variety of content courses.

The IALC offers New York's international community an academically challenging and competitively priced American English curriculum. The full-time intensive program and part-time courses enable motivated students to improve their English language skills in a limited amount of time. Fordham University provides F-1 visa sponsorship for qualified applicants.

IALC students have opportunities to experience a variety of cultural activities, to participate in a language exchange program with native-English-speaking Fordham students, and to attend grammar and pronunciation workshops-all at no additional cost.

#### Further Information

[http://www.fordham.edu/academics/office\\_of\\_the\\_senior/office\\_of\\_internatio/institute\\_of\\_america/](http://www.fordham.edu/academics/office_of_the_senior/office_of_internatio/institute_of_america/)

#### Contact

Irene Badaracco, Director

Email: [esl@fordham.edu](mailto:esl@fordham.edu)

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Phone (212) 636-6353

Fax (212) 636-7045

## II. News you can use

### 17-Month Extension of Optional Practical Training for Certain Highly Skilled Foreign Students

Release Date: April 4, 2008

For Immediate Release

Office of the Press Secretary

Contact: 202-282-8010

Optional Practical Training Interim Final Rule (PDF, 48 pages - 2.9 MB)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security released today an interim final rule extending the period of Optional Practical Training (OPT) from 12 to 29 months for qualified F-1 non-immigrant students.

Contact an EducationUSA adviser near you for guidance on finding and applying to an accredited U.S. college or university

<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/>

The extension will be available to F-1 students with a degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics who are employed by businesses enrolled in the E-Verify program.

"This rule will enable businesses to attract and retain highly skilled foreign workers, giving U.S. companies a competitive advantage in the world economy," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "By extending the training period by an additional 17 months to students who are employed by businesses enrolled in E-Verify, we are further ensuring a legal workforce in the U.S. and aiding good corporate citizens."

Another aspect of the rule responds to the situation in which an F-1 student's status and work authorization expires before he or she can begin employment under the H-1B visa program. The interim final rule addresses this problem by automatically extending the period of stay and work authorization for all F-1 students with pending H-1B petitions. The rule will also implement certain programmatic changes, including allowing students to apply for OPT within 60 days of graduation.

To be eligible for an OPT extension, an F-1 non-immigrant student must:

- Currently be participating in a 12-month period of approved post-completion OPT;
- Have successfully completed a degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) included in the DHS STEM Designated Degree Program List from a college or university certified by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Student and Exchange Visitor Program;
- Be working for a U.S. employer in a job directly related to the student's major area of study;
- Be working for, or accepted employment with, an employer enrolled in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' E-Verify program. E-Verify is a free, internet-based system operated in partnership with the Social Security Administration that helps employers to determine the employment eligibility of newly-hired employees; and
- Properly maintain F-1 status.

The interim final rule and additional information on the H-1B program is available at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).

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**Presentations from "Education Abroad at Community Colleges" Now Available Online**

On Friday, March 14th, representatives from community college campuses nationwide met at IIE's Headquarters in New York to discuss effective study abroad strategies specifically geared to the community college context. Topics included strategies to engage the administration, involving faculty in education abroad, increasing diversity in education abroad, and resources available to students for financing study abroad.

PowerPoint files for each of the presentations at this IIE/AACC Workshop are now available on the conference website: [www.iienetwork.org/?p=IIE\\_AACC\\_2008](http://www.iienetwork.org/?p=IIE_AACC_2008).

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