



James B. Pearson Fellowship for Graduate Studies Abroad

“Today, and in the decades ahead, one of our great challenges will be to avoid being so overwhelmed by the day to day crises that we lose sight of the broad sweep of world events and our objectives as world leaders. With this in mind, we can recognize that one of the most significant developments in recent years has been the emergence of a global community. And this community is coming into being in spite of, rather than because of, foreign policies pursued by most nations. The United States can play a creative role in helping that global community develop if we avoid the isolation which our wealth and power might encourage, and I know it is in our interest to do so.”

- Senator James B. Pearson, March 1974

Senator James B. Pearson represented Kansas in the U.S. Senate from 1962 to 1978. He served on several committees, including the Foreign Relations Committee. His attention was often focused on the conflict and unrest in the Middle East, Far East, Central America, Africa, and Europe. Senator Pearson believed that the United States needed to stay involved in the global community. With this in mind, the James B. Pearson Fellowship Fund was established in 1979 to assist graduate students in pursuing studies abroad.

Eligibility

Applicants for the Pearson Fellowship must:

- Be a permanent Kansas resident for a minimum of five years prior to start of study abroad program.
- Be accepted to a graduate program at an eligible Kansas college or university and plan to pursue a program of study related to foreign affairs.
- Appropriate fields of study include, but are not limited to, anthropology, economics, geography, history, international relations, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, and sociology. Straight-forward language studies are typically not approved for the fellowship.

Selection Criteria

Pearson Fellows are selected at the sole discretion of the selection board and may be based on the applicant's character, plan of study, and financial need. The members of the Pearson Board are appointed by the governor. Please note that the board prioritizes research projects that link to the core objectives of the Pearson Fellowship Fund, which are to further scholarly study to promote a global community.

Examples of past programs approved for the fellowship include:

- West Germany; energy politics in the German Democratic Republic
- Tohoku University in Japan; exploration of urban design
- International Institute of Human Rights in France; considering the law of human rights
- Erdgenossische Technische Hochschule in Switzerland; energy conservation practices of major industries
- Jordan; archaeology
- Ireland; investigate similarities of dialect in Irish English and Black American English
- University of Stockholm; administration of Swedish social services



Award Amount

The average stipend provided by the fellowship fund is \$3,000, though the award amount may vary depending on the length of the program and the applicant's financial need. The Pearson Selection Board will determine the award amount based on the application materials provided by the applicant.

Application Procedure

1. Submit the completed application (available online at kansasregents.org in the Students > Scholarships and Grants section, or email scholars@ksbor.org to request a copy).
2. Provide a statement of your educational plans, not to exceed three double-spaced pages. Include information about your program of study, the nature and purpose of the foreign study, and how the program is linked to the furtherance of a global community.
3. Provide a financial summary of your proposed study abroad program which includes estimated expenses and available financial resources. Clearly indicate the sum you are requesting from the Pearson Fellowship Fund. The average stipend awarded is \$3,000, though more funding may be available.
4. Attach official transcripts for all of your collegiate credits, undergrad and graduate to date.
5. Provide a total of three reference letters:
 - Two reference letters from professors who are familiar with your academic work
 - One letter of endorsement for your Pearson Fellowship project from your graduate advisor

The completed application and all supporting materials may be emailed to the Kansas Board of Regents at scholars@ksbor.org. Or, you may mail your application materials to the Kansas Board of Regents office at 1000 SW Jackson St, Suite 520, Topeka, KS 66612.

The deadline to apply for the Pearson Fellowship is April 1, 2025.

This is for study abroad programs with **begin** no earlier than May 2025 and no later than April 2026.

Applicants who are selected for an interview with the board will receive an email or letter to schedule the interview in early May. The final decision will be made by the end of May, unless the applicant's program of study requires an earlier notification.