

East-West Center

DEGREE FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION HANDBOOK

For

- Graduate Degree Fellowship
- Obuchi Student Scholarship

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EAST-WEST
CENTER

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I. ABOUT OUR FELLOWSHIP

The East-West Center

The East-West Center (EWC) promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options. The Center is an independent, public, non-profit organization with funding from the U.S. government, and additional support provided by private agencies, individuals, foundations, corporations, and governments in the region.

The need for regional cooperation and community building among nations has never been greater. This is an era of increasing social, economic, and technological interdependence in which leaders in every arena must possess regional literacy, knowledge based on multi-cultural perspectives, and a shared sense of community.

The thread of cooperative study runs through all of the Center's programs, whether conducted on campus or off, in the classroom or in the field, for students or for professionals. At the Center, learning is a collaborative process in which each person contributes knowledge, experience, and perspective to benefit all participants. The Center recognizes the importance of establishing a basis for the comfortable exchange of ideas by building an environment of openness, trust, and shared community.

The EWC is unique among international institutions in its focus on community building at the campus level as a stepping-stone to community building in the Asia Pacific region. While at the Center, participants learn, work and live together, and extend helping hands to the local community. The East-West Center experience is one of grassroots relationship building, cultural exchange, shared experiences, and communal preparation for future leadership roles throughout the region.

The University Of Hawai'i

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) is the flagship campus of the state university system. It was founded in 1907 and is located on 320 acres of land in Mānoa Valley, close to the center of metropolitan Honolulu. It is a comprehensive research university offering bachelor's degrees in 99 fields of study, master's degrees in 85, and professional and doctoral degrees in 58 fields. It enrolls about 19,000 full-time students each semester, of whom more than 5,000 are graduate students.

UHM and the EWC are separate organizations but maintain close institutional ties through a variety of programs, such as the Graduate Degree Fellowship Program. All reference in this handbook to the University of Hawai'i refers to the Mānoa campus. Visit the [UHM Office of Graduate Education website](#) for more extensive information on Mānoa and its graduate programs.

The East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellowship

The EWC Graduate Degree Fellowship provides master's and doctoral funding for graduate students from Asia, the Pacific, and the United States to participate in educational, cultural, residential community building, and leadership development programs at the EWC while pursuing graduate study at UHM. Undertaking degree studies at the UHM through an EWC fellowship is not merely about receiving a financial aid scholarship. Since the basic purpose of the EWC is to build a sense of Asia-Pacific community and prepare for future leadership roles, EWC graduate student fellows live together and interact with each other in both intellectual and social activities. They are from the very outset an identifiable group committed to the notion of building an Asia-Pacific community. Through team-building activities, leadership development projects and internships, learning about the Asia Pacific region, cultural exchange, educational enrichment gatherings, community service and service

learning projects, EWC graduate degree fellows establish friendships and lifelong ties to a network of people committed to positive change in the Asia Pacific region.

The graduate degree fellowship covers the cost of tuition and fees, books, housing in an EWC dormitory, and partial funding toward meals, health insurance, and incidental expenses. Additional funding for field study and conference presentations is offered on a competitive basis during the fellow's period of study.

The EWC Graduate Degree Fellowship invites applications from:

- Citizens or permanent residents of the United States
- Citizens of countries in the Pacific and Asia, including Russia ([click here for a complete list](#))

Priority in the student selection process is given to applicants with a demonstrated commitment to the Asia Pacific region.

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE EAST-WEST CENTER FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

Beyond fulfilling degree requirements at the University of Hawai'i, EWC graduate degree fellows have opportunities to enhance their degree studies by participating in the EWC community.

Living on Campus at the East-West Center

Graduate Degree Fellows and other EWC Scholarship recipients are required to live in EWC Housing, starting from the second week of August.

Located in Honolulu adjacent to the University of Hawai'i, the Center's 21-acre campus features conference, research, and residential facilities nestled in the heart of beautiful Mānoa Valley. Students and other EWC participants are required to live in residence halls that include nearly 500 rooms. Living, cooking and sharing meals together in the residence halls is a vital experience in community building that begins at the Center. Through this residential community, EWC students develop lifelong relationships and a powerful sense of community with others who share an interest in the Asia Pacific region. Further information about the EWC residence halls may be found at our [housing office website](#).

Community Building Institute

The East-West Center Community Building Institute (CBI) is a required academic program for participants on new awards. CBI integrates team building activities for East-West Center communities with dialogues on concerns related to Asia Pacific communities. More information can be found at the [CBI website](#).

STUDENT-LED INITIATIVES

Participants in the East-West Center Education Program participate in an exciting spectrum of extracurricular activities, student-led projects and initiatives that draw upon and highlight the Center's broad diversity of cultural perspectives and traditions.

Wednesday Evening Seminar (WES) is a required gathering of Center participants on a new award in their first fall and spring semesters. Visit the [WES website](#) for more information.

East-West Center International Graduate Student Conference (IGSC) is a multi-day conference, organized by graduate degree fellows at the Center and has become one of the premier graduate student conferences in the world. Visit the [IGSC website](#) for more info.

East-West Center Participants Association (EWCPA) The EWCPA Board is intended to create a vibrant and cohesive participant community that interacts, shares, and appreciates talents, arts, cultures, thoughts, and good will. Visit the [EWCPA Facebook page](#) for current and scheduled events.

Community Service

Degree fellows are required to devote 90 hours to community service during their award period (45 hours for 1-year awards). Through service learning activities, participants develop leadership skills, and broaden their understanding of Hawai‘i and its multicultural community, and the ways in which transformational change can take place at personal, professional and grassroots levels.

Leadership Development Projects and Internships

Graduate Degree Fellows are required to participate in Leadership Development Projects and Internships. Several internship possibilities are offered each year. Degree fellows in internship programs gain leadership experience in planning and organizing student activities including the International Graduate Student Conference, the Wednesday Evening Seminar, as well as support and enrichment gatherings.

Leadership Certificate Program

The Leadership Certificate is a custom-designed 2-year program open to graduate student fellows at the EWC who are studying for a Master’s degree at UHM. Participation in the program is mandatory for Asian Development Bank – Japan Scholarship Program Fellows (ADB-JSP). Leadership activities are scheduled around UHM classes and are designed to add value to your experience at the EWC. A certificate is awarded upon completion of the program, which serves as one option for the Leadership Development Projects listed above. More information can be found at the [Leadership Certificate Program webpage](#).

AWARD DETAILS

Basic Provisions

The East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellowship provides the following funding:

- Full-time graduate tuition and fees up to the equivalent of the tuition charged for post-baccalaureate students at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa toward master’s or doctoral studies;
- Housing in an East-West Center residence hall, based on single occupancy;
- A stipend to partially cover food and incidental expenses (Refer to the section on taxes on stipends for additional information.);
- An allowance for books, materials and supplies; and
- Subsidy toward health insurance coverage.

All provisions above are subject to change.

Residency Starting in August

The East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellowship begins in early- to mid-August with the Community Building Institute that includes time for advising and registration at the University of Hawai‘i. All students on new awards are required to participate in this initial program, including those who are currently residing in Hawai‘i.

Housing

Recipients of the fellowship who are single or married with no accompanying dependents below 18 years of age are required to reside in Center dormitories. Pets are not allowed in these dormitories.

Individuals with minor dependent children cannot be accommodated in on-campus facilities and must reside off-campus. Further information about the EWC residence halls may be found at our [housing office website](#).

Length of Award

EWC Graduate Degree Fellowships are granted on an annual basis. These grants are made initially for twelve months but may be renewed an additional year, subject to funding availability, and timely and satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree and fulfillment of East-West Center requirements. The total award length may be less than 24 months, depending on the academic status of the student at the time the award is given and the time necessary to complete degree requirements.

Eligibility

Eligibility to apply is determined by an individual's ability to meet the following conditions:

Bachelor's Degree and Grade Point Average

Before the start of the award, applicants for graduate programs must have obtained a 4-year bachelor's degree or its equivalent from an accredited U.S. college or university or from a recognized institution of higher learning abroad. Equivalency is determined by the University of Hawai'i Admissions Office. Generally, an applicant must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (4.0=A scale) or the equivalent, in the last four semesters or six quarters of the undergraduate record and in all post-baccalaureate work.

Citizenship or Permanent Residence

The Center's original mandate by the United States Congress established its geographical area of interest as Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. Individuals who are citizens or permanent residents of the United States or from the list below may apply for East-West Center fellowships:

Southeast Asia

Brunei
Burma
Cambodia
Timor-Leste
Indonesia
Lao, People's Democratic
Republic
Malaysia
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Vietnam

East-Asia

China
Hong Kong
Japan
Korea, Democratic People's
Republic of
Korea, Republic of
Macau
Mongolia
Russia
Taiwan

South Asia

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
India
Iran
Maldives
Nepal
Pakistan
Sri Lanka

U.S.

United States
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands

Pacific Region

American Samoa
Australia
Cook Islands
Federated States of Micronesia
Fiji
French Polynesia
Guam
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Nauru
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Niue
Northern Marianas
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tokelau
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu
Wallis & Futuna Islands

For applicants with dual citizenship, if the United States is one of the countries in which the applicant has dual citizenship, the application will be processed as a U.S. applicant.

For applicants with dual citizenship, please also note that *only* citizens from countries on the list above are eligible for this fellowship and for the J-1 visa if awarded the fellowship. For example, if an applicant has dual citizenship in the United Kingdom and Pakistan, the application will be processed as an applicant from Pakistan. If awarded the fellowship, the applicant must use his/her Pakistani passport to be eligible for the J-1 visa and fellowship.

Visa

Degree fellows who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States are required to come to the Center on the Exchange Visitor (J-1) visa and are subject to all provisions of the Exchange Visitor Program.

The intent of the Exchange Visitor Program is to have participants return to their home countries upon program completion to share and apply the knowledge and experience gained during their program at the Center. Exchange visitors on East-West Center sponsorship are required to return to their home country for an aggregate period of two years after completing their exchange visitor program. Graduate degree fellows (except for those on ADB-JSP scholarship) are eligible to apply for post-completion academic training upon completion of their degree program. For further information contact the East-West Center Visa Office at wongv@eastwestcenter.org.

Funding for a Second Degree

East-West Center degree fellows who have completed either an undergraduate or graduate degree under Center sponsorship (regardless of the funding source), and are pursuing an advanced degree, may apply for another fellowship administered by the Center for which they meet the eligibility requirements. They will however have a lower priority during the selection consideration having already been supported by the Center for one degree.

Deferral

The Graduate Degree Fellowship may not be deferred to another semester or year. Students are encouraged to reapply if they are unable to participate in residence at the EWC starting from early August of the year their fellowship is to begin.

FUNDING PROVISIONS

Spouses and Dependents: The East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellowship does not provide support for spouses and dependents. No additional stipend payment or travel allowance is made on the basis of marital status and the amount received will not adequately support a family.

Degree fellows are required to come to Honolulu alone for the first semester of the award to become acquainted with the Center, the University of Hawai‘i, and the Honolulu community, before arranging to have their families join them from abroad.

Degree fellows who plan eventually to bring their families should be fully aware of the high cost of living in Honolulu, the limited availability and high cost of off-campus housing, and especially the difficulty in finding employment opportunities for spouses.

The Center provides limited assistance in the following ways:

- During the period of the fellowship, the Center may arrange dormitory space for the spouse by providing a double room beginning the second semester of the award. The degree fellow is responsible for the additional cost of a double room beyond the single-room rate.
- If a degree fellow is joined by dependent children below the age of 18, the family must reside off-campus as the Center's residence halls are not allowed to house minors. Beginning the second semester of the award, the degree fellow living off-campus with family is eligible for an off-campus housing allowance equivalent to the rate of the single room in the East-West Center residence hall.
- The degree fellow is responsible for all other costs for the spouse and children.

Estimated Expenses Beyond the Provisions of the Fellowship:

- Living expenses beyond the fellowship are estimated at \$400 per month, or \$4,800/year.
- Cost-sharing for health insurance (if participant selects a health insurance plan that costs more than the health insurance subsidy).
- Travel to and from home country and Honolulu.

Degree fellows are responsible for all personal and academic expenses not covered by the Center fellowship.

Students are encouraged to seek and obtain financial support for one or more of the above categories from other sources where possible. The availability of funding from other sources should be noted on the *Verification of Funds for Expenses beyond the Provisions of the Scholarship* form included in the application packet

Policy on Work: A student may request permission to work on campus to earn funds that can contribute toward meeting living expenses. Under certain circumstances, students may be eligible to work additional hours during official school breaks and school vacations.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

All Graduate Degree Fellowship applicants are also considered for EWCA Alumni, supplemental and standalone scholarships. These awards are funded through privately endowed scholarships at the East-West Center Foundation.

EWC Foundation Scholarships: Through the generosity of the Center's friends and alumni, supplementary scholarships have been established to assist East-West Center students. The Center may be able to make available a limited amount of supplemental scholarship support to Graduate Degree Fellowship finalists with financial need on a case-by-case basis. Applicants must complete the form included in the application packet, *Verification of Funds for Expenses beyond the Provisions of the Scholarship* to be considered for these awards. Some of these awards may be made to semifinalists in the Graduate Degree Fellowship competition who do not receive a Graduate Degree Fellowship. Recipients of standalone awards are required to live in EWC housing and to participate in the EWC community. Visit the [Graduate Degree Fellowship website](#) for additional information.

Travel Grants: Subject to funding availability, funding for field study and conference presentations is offered to degree fellows on a competitive basis during their study period.

TAX INFORMATION REGARDING FELLOWSHIPS

United States Government Taxes

In 1986 the United States Government passed a Tax Reform Act that only partially allows the financial assistance provided through a scholarship or fellowship to be exempt from taxes. Only those items directly related to a degree fellow's academic program such as tuition and fees, books and materials and supplies, are exempt. Funds for food and incidental expenses, housing and health insurance provided by the Center from United States funding sources, are subject to United States Government taxes.

Some students may be exempt from United States Government taxes by virtue of tax treaties that the United States Government has signed with a number of countries. While provisions vary from country to country, treaties with such countries as China, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines will exempt most degree fellows from paying United States Government taxes on their East-West Center degree fellowship. Specific treaty benefits for each nation can be found in Internal Revenue Service Publication 901.

For **non-resident students from all other countries**, the Center is required by law to withhold taxes each month at a 14% rate of all taxable items (housing, health insurance and monthly stipend).

U.S. students, permanent residents and resident alien students are responsible for paying their own taxes. Since the Center can only withhold taxes for non-residents, U.S. students and permanent residents are strongly encouraged to pay estimated taxes.

State of Hawai'i Taxes

The State of Hawai'i also taxes that portion of the Center fellowship that provides for food and incidental expenses, housing and health insurance, but at a lesser rate. All students, including those from tax treaty countries, are subject to State of Hawai'i taxes as tax treaties only exempt United States Government taxes. Since the State does not have a withholding capability for non-employees, all students are encouraged to pay estimated State of Hawai'i taxes.

II. HOW TO APPLY

APPLYING TO THE EAST-WEST CENTER AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT MĀNOA

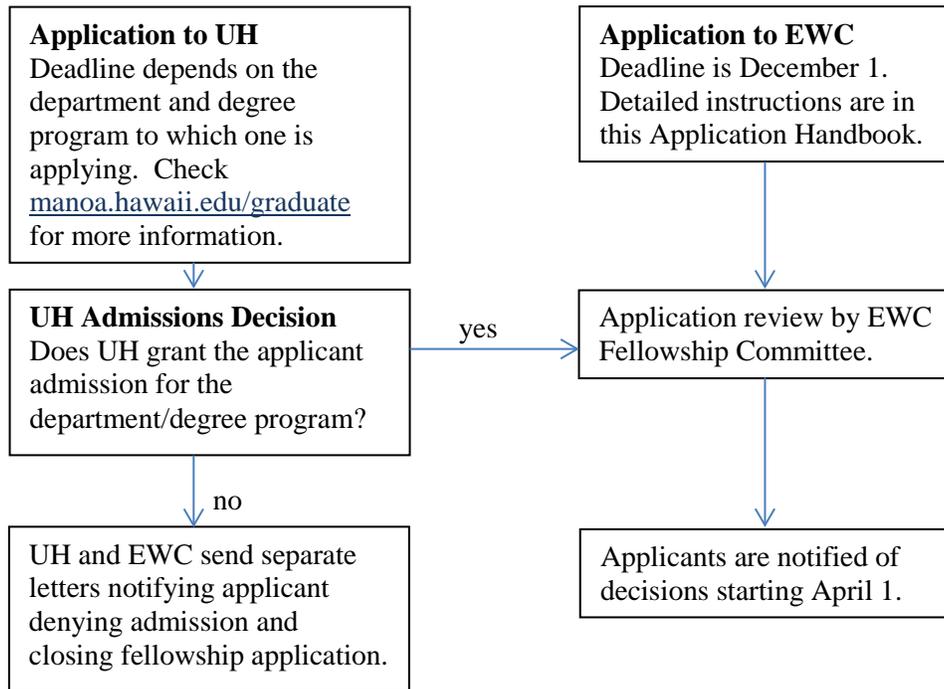
East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellowships support graduate study at the University of Hawai‘i (UH) in fields relevant to the goals and objectives of the East-West Center (EWC). Because degree fellows are involved in programs at the EWC, as well as in advanced degree work at the UH, they have obligations to both institutions. This relationship between the EWC and UH is unique, and clarification is needed regarding the EWC application process.

When you apply to the EWC, you may also be simultaneously applying for admission to a UH Mānoa graduate department. It is not necessary to obtain admission to a field of graduate study at UH Mānoa *before* applying to the EWC. The University of Hawai‘i launches their online application system (located here: <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate>) on August 1 each year for admissions the following year. We strongly urge all applicants to submit complete admission and departmental applications including all required materials by February 1, regardless of whether the UH departmental deadline falls after that date, so that a UH admissions decision can be made before the EWC Fellowship Review Committee meets in March.

The Review Process

Below is a diagram that summarizes the process for applying to the EWC and to UH.

Application Process: Separate Applications for UH and EWC



Selection for the fellowship is based upon the merits of the application. The final selection decision takes into consideration the following: relevance of the applicant’s interests to the East-West Center’s aims and programs, recommendation by the University of Hawai‘i graduate field of study, test scores, letters of reference, academic record, community involvement and/or extracurricular activity participation, and narrative statements. The final selection decision will be conveyed in writing as

well as email and only to the applicant by April 1. No information regarding the final selection will be disclosed over the telephone.

Deadline

EWC degree fellowships are awarded annually in an international competition. The deadline for submitting the East-West Center application is **December 1 (or following Monday if deadline falls on a weekend)** for study to begin the following August. Test scores and transcripts should also be sent by December 1, but must in any case be received no later than February 1.

Links to EWC Application Forms

Download application materials for the Graduate Degree Fellowship from the East-West Center [website](#).

If you are unable to download application materials from our website, or if you are unable to use these PDF files and wish to request a DOC version, please email your request to scholarships@eastwestcenter.org.

Exams and Score Reports

Make arrangements to register for any exams such as TOEFL and IELTS that may be required for your admission to the University of Hawai'i. Official results from the TOEFL or IELTS exams should also be sent by the testing service directly to the East-West Center. The Center requires a TOEFL minimum IBT score of 79 and 6.5 for IELTS.

Please use institution code 4868 for TOEFL scores, or the address below for IELTS results:

Award Services/Graduate Degree Fellowship
East-West Center
1601 East-West Road
John A. Burns Hall, Room 2066
Honolulu, Hawaii 96848-1601 USA

Academic Transcripts

Please request one (1) set of official transcripts from each of the institutions you list to accompany your East-West Center application. An official transcript must be certified by the appropriate school official in charge of maintaining academic records and must bear the actual inked stamp or embossed seal of the institution. A copy of the degree and/or graduation certificate, certified in the same manner as the transcript, must be included if the transcript does not list the type of degree awarded or date of graduation. Photo or scanned copies of documents bearing certification do not meet this requirement. Only documents that are received in sealed envelopes of the issuing school are considered official.

Your college or university should mail your transcripts directly to the East-West Center. However, if this is not their policy, you may include them with your application if they are in sealed school envelopes. Documents that arrive before your application will be kept on file until we are able to consolidate them with your application.

Please note that *currently enrolled* UH graduate students applying for the fellowship need not provide official transcripts since you have already gained admission to your academic program. However, the Center does need a copy of your academic records as the selection is based partly on academic merit. We therefore suggest you arrange with your academic program or the Graduate Admission Office to forward a copy of all transcripts listed on your application to the East-West Center.

Letters of Reference

Please identify three individuals who would be willing to recommend you to the fellowship program. Two of the individuals should comment on your academic and long-term professional objectives, while the third referee should reflect on any community service, civic engagement or extra-curricular activities with which you have been involved. Please be sure that your name and the recommender's name are on the letter of reference form before giving it to the letter writer.

Submission of Application Materials

Applications that are postmarked by December 1 (or following Monday if deadline falls on a weekend) will be considered for the fellowship. Please ensure that you deliver your EWC application form and essay responses to the post office or other mail service to be sent to the East-West Center by or before this date in order to meet the postmark deadline. If you mail your application close to the deadline, be sure to obtain a receipt as proof that it was accepted by the mail service. If you plan to personally deliver your application to the East-West Center, please arrive before the Award Services Office closes at 4:30 pm on the deadline day. Application materials should be sent to the following address:

Award Services/Graduate Degree Fellowship
East-West Center
1601 East-West Road
John A. Burns Hall, Room 2066
Honolulu, Hawaii 96848-1601 USA

Your application should include the following:

- a) **Graduate Degree Fellowship application.** If you are applying to more than one academic program, list both programs on one application in order of preference. Do not submit a separate application for each academic program.
- b) **A cover letter, responses to all four essay questions, and curriculum vitae.** The Graduate Degree Fellowship application requires additional essay questions if you are applying for the Asian Development Bank – Japan Scholarship Program or the Obuchi Student Scholarship. Please see instructions for the GDF essay questions at our website.

If you intend to apply for the Asian Development Bank – Japan Scholarship Program, please visit the [East-West Center ADB-JSP Scholarship website](#) or the [ADB website](#) for further information regarding eligibility before indicating your interest in the ADB Scholarship. If you are applying for the Obuchi Student Scholarship please see more specific information on the [EWC Obuchi Student Scholarship website](#).

- c) **UH departmental statement of objectives.** Current UH students who are applying for an EWC fellowship to fund their current degree need not provide the statement of objectives. Applicants who are new to UH, as well as current UH students applying for a new degree or program, should submit a copy of their UH departmental statement of objectives to the EWC.

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK – JAPAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In addition to the East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellowship, the Center also receives funding from the Asian Development Bank – Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP) to provide master's

degree scholarships. Funding is available for up to 2 years (24 months) for graduate student support including tuition and fees, book allowance, health insurance, housing, a monthly stipend, and roundtrip air transportation.

If you are eligible for the ADB-JSP Scholarship, you may apply by submitting the East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellowship application and noting your interest in being considered for the ADB-JSP scholarship on the EWC application form.

Eligibility for the ADB-JSP Scholarship

Prospective applicants for ADB-JSP funding must:

- Be a citizen of an ADB developing member country that currently borrows funds from the Bank. Note: Applicants living or working in a country *other* than his/her home country are **not** eligible for this Scholarship. Eligible countries are listed on the [ADB website](#).
- Have at least 2 years of full-time professional working experience (acquired *after* completing a university degree) at the time of application;
- Apply in one of the following fields of study approved for ADB-JSP funding:

Business Administration (MBA)	Oceanography (MS)
Economics (MA)	Pacific Islands Studies (MA)
Geography (MA)	Public Administration (MPA)
Law (LLM)	Sociology (MA)
Natural Resources & Environmental Management (MS)	Tropical Plant & Soil Science (formerly Horticulture) (MS)
Ocean & Resource Engineering (MS)	Urban and Regional Planning (MURP)

Final determination of eligibility for ADB-JSP funding will be made by the East-West Center and the Asian Development Bank. ADB-JSP Scholarship recipients are not eligible for Post-Completion Academic Training (PCAT) upon completion of their degree programs and are required to return to their home country immediately upon program completion to share and apply the knowledge and experience gained during their ADB-JSP Program at the East-West Center. Visit the [ADB website](#) for more information.

OBUCHI STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Obuchi Student Scholarships support Okinawan students for master's or doctoral degree study at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) in fields deemed beneficial to Okinawan development needs or for the Asia Pacific Leadership Program (APLP). For information on how to apply for the latter of these options, please visit the [APLP website](#). These scholarships are offered through a joint partnership of the United States and Japanese governments, specifically through the East-West Center and the Okinawa Prefectural Government. The program's mission is to help Okinawa develop and strengthen its human resources in order to take a proactive role in Asia Pacific intellectual, research, and business activities. Priority in the student selection process is given to those studying in fields of benefit to Okinawan development.

Obuchi Student Scholarship recipients participate in educational, cultural, residential community building, and leadership development programs at the East-West Center while pursuing graduate study at the University of Hawai'i, or while completing the Asia Pacific Leadership Program at the Center. The East-West Center and the University of Hawai'i, located in a unique island setting with a distinctive multicultural heritage, offer premier resources for studies on Asia, the

Pacific, and the United States. Through East-West Center affiliation, awardees become part of a growing network of students and alumni forging the shape and substance of the world's most vibrant region.

Obuchi student fellows have opportunities to enhance their degree studies by participating in Center internship and leadership development projects.

Undertaking degree studies at the UHM or joining the Asia Pacific Leadership Program through an Obuchi Student Scholarship is not merely about receiving a financial aid scholarship. Since the basic purpose of the East-West Center is to build a sense of Asia-Pacific community and prepare for future leadership roles, Obuchi student fellows and other EWC graduate student fellows live together and interact with each other in both intellectual and social activities. They are from the very outset an identifiable group committed to the notion of building an Asia-Pacific community. Through team-building activities, leadership development projects and internships, learning about the Asia Pacific region, cultural exchange, educational enrichment gatherings, community service and service learning projects, Obuchi fellows and other EWC graduate degree fellows establish friendships and lifelong ties to a network of people committed to positive change in the Asia Pacific region.

[Click here](#) to read testimonials from Obuchi alumni.

Okinawan Residence

If you apply for the Obuchi Student Scholarship, please submit a photocopy of permanent domicile in Okinawa or a certificate of residence for Okinawa to show your eligibility to apply for the Obuchi Student Scholarship.

East-West Center Obuchi Program Advisor

Professor Kinuko Maehara-Yamazato, East-West Center Obuchi Program Advisor, and Ms Junko Itokazu, EWC alumnae and Okinawa Language Center staff member, are available to meet with applicants who wish to learn more about the Obuchi Program and opportunities at the East-West Center.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I send to the East-West Center to apply for the East-West Center Graduate Degree Fellowship?

The application checklist provides a quick overview. Your application to the Graduate Degree Fellowship requires:

- 1) the application form;
- 2) a cover letter, resume, and essay responses regarding your long-range goals, biographical essay, your involvement in civic engagement and community service activities, and your preparedness for an inter-cultural learning environment;
- 3) unless you are a current UH student applying for a fellowship that will fund your current degree and field of study, submit the UH departmental statement of objectives for the academic program(s) to which you are applying;
- 4) official transcripts from each college or university you attended;
- 5) three letters of recommendation; and
- 6) IELTS or TOEFL, if applicable.

When does the East-West Center need to receive my application?

You have until December 1 (or following Monday if deadline falls on a weekend) to mail your application to the East-West Center. Your application does not have to be received at the Center by this deadline, but the application must show evidence, such as a postmark, that it was mailed by the deadline. If you are mailing your application close to the deadline, you should obtain a receipt from the post office. In the event we are unable to read the postmark, we will need you to send your receipt to us. If you plan to courier your application, be sure that the service accepts your application before or on the day of the deadline.

Is it possible to apply online?

The East-West Center does not have a process by which you can fill out an application and securely submit it electronically. We have fillable application forms which you can type into but you will need to print your completed forms and mail them to the East-West Center. Your application contains personal information and should not be submitted via the internet. Email is not secure.

Must I send everything by the December 1 deadline?

No, only the EWC application and supporting essays must be postmarked by December 1 (or following Monday if deadline falls on a weekend). Supporting documents such as test scores, transcripts and letters of recommendation do not have to be postmarked by December 1. The application checklist provides a quick overview.

Do I have to apply separately to the University of Hawai'i?

Yes. Check the UH Office of Graduate Education website (<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/>) for more detailed instructions on how to apply to UH.

How will I know whether my application is complete?

We will email you upon receipt of your application and periodically send you a summary report of what we received and what may still be missing. Please realize that as it gets closer to the deadline or in the 2–3 weeks following the deadline that the office is extremely busy and there may be delays in notifying you on the status of your application.

What is the latest date that you will accept documents that I could not include with my application?

We do not have a definitive deadline. However we would like to receive supporting documents by February 1.

Is my application disqualified if my recommenders do not submit their letters by the deadline?

No, your application would not be disqualified if your recommenders do not provide us with their recommendations in a timely manner. However, it is your responsibility to check with your recommenders to urge them to submit the letters so that your application can be completed. The EWC must receive your letters of recommendation by February 1 in order to review your application.

I studied at a university where English was the medium of instruction. Am I still required to take TOEFL or IELTS?

The University of Hawai‘i requires proof of English proficiency in determining your readiness for graduate level work. The University of Hawai‘i will grant an exception only if the following criteria are met: a) your academic program was in a country where English is the first language; b) you received a degree from that institution within the past five years. Please refrain from requesting EWC to grant a TOEFL or IELTS exemption as the Center is not in a position to overrule a University of Hawai‘i requirement. The Center will abide by the UH Admissions Office’s decision if an exemption is allowed.

What is the absolute latest date that I can take the TOEFL or IELTS?

The EWC must receive your official score reports for the TOEFL or IELTS, sent directly to us from the testing service, by February 1 in order to review your application.

What kind of page format should I use in my essay responses?

Provide your responses on separate sheets of paper. Note the essay or question number, and include your name at the top of each essay. We suggest 12-point, double-spaced with Times New Roman font.

When will I know of the results of my application?

Applicants will be contacted by April 1 concerning the Center’s decision on your application. The Center will email all applicants of the result. The Center will not disclose results over the telephone.

I am currently enrolled at the University of Hawai‘i. Do I need to provide you with official documents for transcripts and test scores, or will you accept photocopies?

Since you are already admitted to the University of Hawai‘i, it is not necessary for you to provide official transcripts or official test score reports. Photocopies of these documents, preferably from your academic program or the UH Records Office, are acceptable.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

For additional information, and to obtain downloadable application materials, go to the [EWC Graduate Degree Fellowship website](#). Questions regarding application procedures may be emailed to scholarships@eastwestcenter.org.