**Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) International Services and Global Issues Division**

**Conference Travel Scholarship Application**

***The Global Issues Division is now accepting applications for a new Travel Scholarship to attend the 2024 AER International Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina***

AER’s Global Issues Division is offering a Conference Travel Scholarship to AER members originating from areas outside of mainland United States and Canada who are serving students with visual impairments in their region.  Therefore, this travel scholarship is open to cultural and geographical locations around the world; however, it is not open to American or Canadian students working or studying in or outside of their home country.

This travel scholarship will cover the AER International Conference registration fee, a complimentary stay at the conference hotel, and a refund of up to $2000 for the roundtrip flight between the winner’s location and Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT). The Travel Scholarship winner will commit to provide a reciprocal activity (to be approved by AER) to demonstrate information gained and implementation in home country. Options include a written article in The Voice, and/or proof of presentation of a webinar or speaking engagement.

**The deadline for the application is January 15, 2024**

**Eligibility**

Applicants for the travel scholarship must:

* Be current members of AER International upon the time of their application and attendance.
* Be currently working as a vision professional or studying to become a vision professional.
* Submit a budget flight costs.
* Document a plan for providing a reciprocal activity (to be approved by AER) to demonstrate information gained and implementation in home country. Options include a written article in The Voice, or proof of presentation of a webinar or speaking engagement.

Recipients will receive a code to cover their registration cost for the conference, as well as a complimentary room at the conference hotel. Upon attendance and submission of flight receipt, they will receive a refund in the form of an electronic transfer.

**How to apply**

An application form must be completed in full and signed by the applicant.  Application submission is as follows:

* ***Only electronic submissions are accepted***.  These should be emailed to Katie Ericson at aer.global.division@gmail.com
* *Incomplete applications or applications that are not received by* ***January 15, 2024*** *will not be considered.*

**Selection**

Applications for the AER Global Issues Scholarship will be evaluated by the Division Chair and Division Scholarship Committee. Individuals will be evaluated for the scholarship based only on the information included in the application packet.  The award decision date will be no later than March 1, 2024.  
  
Selection will be based on the applicants’ commitment and passion for working with people with visual impairments in their region, the need for professionals working with this population in their region, along with the extent of experience (paid or unpaid) in human service endeavors as reflected in the responses, the essay, and in the letter of recommendation.

All eligible members of AER International are encouraged to apply for the travel scholarship.

**Other information about the scholarship**

The travel scholarship winner will be notified via email. Upon awarding the scholarship, a brief biography of the recipient will be announced in a division email update, newsletter, and on the Facebook site.

**Permission for Media Release**

**Media:** In accepting the AER International Services and Global Issues Division Conference Travel Scholarship, I am specifically granting permission for use of the name, voice or words, and any image created digitally in television, radio, films, newspaper, printed materials or websites in any form.  This includes 35mm photos, videos, digital photos or any other form of image reproduction. Photos will be used in an educationally professional manner and may appear in print, on the AER International Services and Global Issues Division website, or as design elements in public displays and presentations.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Print)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Signature)

The Scholarship Committee chairperson will notify the award winner by phone or email on or before March 1, 2024. Individuals who apply and are not selected will be notified by the Scholarship Committee Chairperson via email.

The award will be presented to the winner upon verification that the proposed awardee meets the eligibility requirement described above.

**AER International Services and Global Issues Division**

Conference Travel Scholarship Application Form - 2024 Edition

*Please type or neatly print all information in English.*

Name:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (please include your country code):  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of AER? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Are you currently working with individuals with people with visual impairments?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Are you currently enrolled in an institution of higher education where you intend to receive education for the purpose of working with people with visual impairments in some capacity?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Where are you working and/or attending school?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please feel free to write your responses on a separate page and attach to this application as needed.*

The need for professionals working with the blind and visually impaired population in your region will be considered.  Briefly describe the need for professionals working in your area of study, in the region of your choosing as it relates to the field of visual impairment    
  
Selection will be based on the applicants’ commitment and/or passion for working with people with visual impairments in their home region in any capacity.  Please briefly describe your current role working with people with visual impairments.

All materials received by the scholarship chairperson will become the property of the committee and will not be returned to the applicant.  All information will be kept confidential.

In addition to the signed application form, each applicant must include the following items to complete the application process:

* **Essay** – Describe how you will provide a reciprocal activity to demonstrate information gained and implementation in your home country. Options include a written article in The Voice, or proof of presentation of a webinar or speaking engagement. The essay should be no longer than 200 words and should provide evidence of your commitment to the field. The plan must be approved by AER leadership.
* **One letter of recommendation** – Letters of recommendation should mention the applicant’s commitment to the field.
* **Flight Itinerary Cost Estimate** –Create an anticipated budget for your roundtrip flight itinerary and cost (from your location to Charlotte Douglas International Airport/CLT)

I hereby apply for the AER International Services and Global Issues Division Conference Travel Scholarship.  I agree to abide by the decision of the scholarship committee. I understand that I alone am responsible for my own travel visa application (if needed for travel, including cost of visa).

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Application forms must be completed in full and signed by each applicant.

Application submission is as follows:

***Only electronic submissions are accepted***.  These should be emailed to Katie Ericson at aer.global.division@gmail.com. Applications for the scholarship must be received by **January 15, 2024**.

***Incomplete applications or applications that are not received by January 15, 2024******will not be considered.***