



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Amelia Earhart Fellowships

A Zonta International Program, Funded through the Zonta International Foundation

Revision date: July 2018

The Fellowship

The Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowships were established in 1938 in honor of Amelia Earhart, famed pilot and Zonta club member. The Amelia Earhart Fellowships are awarded annually to women pursuing a Ph.D./doctoral degree in aerospace-applied sciences or aerospace-applied engineering. The Fellowship of **US\$10,000** may be used at any university or college offering accredited post-graduate courses and degrees.

Who is Eligible?

Women of any nationality pursuing a Ph.D./doctoral degree who demonstrate a superior academic record in the field of aerospace-applied sciences or aerospace-applied engineering are eligible. Students must be registered in a full-time Ph.D./doctoral program and completed at least one year of that program or have received a master's degree in an aerospace-applied field at the time the application is submitted. Applicants must not graduate before April 2020. Please note that post-doctoral research programs are not eligible for the Fellowship. Members and employees of Zonta International or the Zonta International Foundation are also not eligible to apply for the Fellowship. Note that previous Amelia Earhart fellows are not eligible to apply to renew the Fellowship for a second year.

What are the Requirements?

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be registered in an accredited Ph.D./doctoral program in a qualifying area of science or engineering closely related to advanced studies in aerospace-applied science or aerospace-applied engineering and completed at least one year of that program or have received a master's degree in an aerospace-applied field at the time the application is submitted. A verification of current enrollment must be submitted with the application. Acceptance letters are not verification of enrollment and will not be accepted.
- Demonstrate a superior academic record at a recognized university or college with accredited courses in aerospace-applied studies as verified by official transcripts and recommendations. In programs where graduate transcripts are not provided as a matter of institutional policy, please provide a statement of that policy from the registrar or other school official. Please note that electronic transcripts will not be accepted.
- Provide evidence of a well-defined research program in aerospace-applied science or aerospace-applied engineering as described in the application essay (in general scientific terms), the academic documentation, references and listed publications as specified in the application form.
- Clearly demonstrate the relationship of the research to aerospace and furnish verification of research program through at least one of the reference letters required with the application. The thesis supervisor or advisor must be one of the referees.
- Applicant must be registered in a full-time Ph.D./doctoral program by 15 November 2018 and must not graduate before April 2020.

How Do I Apply?

Applicants may apply for the 2019 Amelia Earhart Fellowships at <https://zontainternational.awardspring.com/> and include:

- Biographical information
- Plans for intended study
- List and include official detailed transcripts of grades from all universities/colleges attended, including undergraduate institutions and degrees received
- List and include translated transcripts in English of all grades from all universities/colleges/institutions attended (links from universities containing electronic transcripts will not be accepted).
- List scholarships, fellowships and honors received, if any
- List previous publications, if any (must fit in the space provided; please do not attach publications)
- Employment history, if any
- Essay on academic program and professional goals - Applicant should describe, in general scientific terms, a well-defined research program (thesis) and professional goals in 500 words or less. Preference will be given to those candidates who can demonstrate a well-defined research program. **Clearly identify** the relevance of your research to aerospace-applied sciences or aerospace-applied engineering during your Ph.D./doctoral studies.
- Three recommendations from professors (or supervisors); one of the recommendations must be from a thesis supervisor or advisor and one from a university professor
- Verification of Current Enrollment form from the university/college registrar
- All non-English documents must be translated into English to be considered
- Information other than official transcripts and recommendations must be limited to the space provided; attachments, articles, pamphlets, books, curriculum vitae or other publications are not requested and will not be considered

What is the Application Process?

The Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Committee reviews the applications and recommends recipients to the Zonta International Board. All applicants are evaluated on the criteria stated in the requirements section of the application. All details of the evaluations are kept confidential; evaluations are not disclosed to applicants. All applicants will be notified of their status by the end of April 2019.

How may I use the Fellowship Funds?

1. The Fellowship may be used for tuition, books and fees, or living expenses (room, board or travel). The payment of US\$10,000 is planned for September-October subject to any US sanctions regulation.
2. For domestic and foreign recipients studying in the United States, Fellowship funds used for tuition, books, fees, supplies or required equipment for the program of study are not considered taxable income. Withholding taxes may be required on funds used for living expenses or other non-qualified expenses, e.g. room, board or travel to conferences.
3. Recipients are not permitted to defer the Fellowship.
4. Fellows may accept additional grants and scholarships from other sources.

Deadline

The 2019 Amelia Earhart Fellowship application must be submitted **by 15 November 2018** to be considered.



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Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program Background/Statistics

July 2018

Purpose

To empower women through encouragement and financial support of women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace-applied sciences or aerospace-applied engineering. The Fellowships, established in 1938 as a living memorial to Zontian and aviatrix Amelia Earhart, encourage women to expand their career options beyond traditional boundaries.

Program Statistics

Since the inception of the program in 1938, there have been 1,573 Fellowships, totaling more than US\$10 million, given to 1,144 Fellows from 73 countries.

The Fellowship

Originally envisaged in 1938 as a US\$500 loan, the award was changed to a scholarship the following year. In 1964, the scholarships became fellowships to make the award more specific. In 1984, the Fellowship amount was increased to US\$6,000. In 2008, the Fellowship amount was increased to US\$10,000. In 2015, the eligibility changed stating that previous Amelia Earhart Fellows are not eligible to apply to renew the Fellowship for a second year. This change took effect for the 2016 Amelia Earhart Fellowships.

| <u>Years</u> | <u>Amount of Fellowship</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 2008-Present | US\$10,000 |
| 1984 -2007 | US\$6,000 |
| 1979-1983 | US\$5,000 |
| 1976-1978 | US\$4,000 |
| 1970-1975 | US\$3,000 |
| 1959-1969 | US\$2,500 |
| 1957-1958 | US\$1,800 |
| 1953-1956 | US\$1,200 |
| 1948-1952 | US\$1,000 |
| 1940-1947 | US\$500 |

How Does the Program Support Zonta's Mission to Empower Women Worldwide through Service and Advocacy?

The Amelia Earhart Fellowships focus on eliminating the gender bias that women face in pursuing doctoral degrees in the sciences and engineering. Women are beginning to demonstrate a progression from limited representation in aerospace-applied sciences and aerospace-applied engineering to being leaders in the field. During the first years of the program, the awards committee had trouble finding qualified applicants and worked as mentors with potential applicants to help them become qualified for the awards. Today, as evidence of the increasing numbers of women in aerospace-applied sciences and aerospace-applied engineering, the challenge is choosing the most promising women from among the many qualified applicants. In addition, while professional and academic recommendations in this field were once written exclusively by males, many of today's applicants receive recommendations from respected professors and professionals who are previous Amelia Earhart Fellows themselves.

How Many Fellows are Chosen on an Annual Basis?

Since 1996, up to 30 awards have been given to Fellows around the globe each year.

How are the Fellows Chosen?

Candidates for the Amelia Earhart Fellowships are required to fill out an application, which includes information on their academic background, their professional goals, and their research program. In addition, the candidates submit three academic and/or professional references from professors (or supervisors); at least one of the recommendations must be from a thesis supervisor or advisor and their academic detailed transcripts of courses and grades from all universities/colleges attended. The Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Committee, whose members are all previous Fellows and Zontians, reviews the applications and recommends recipients to the Zonta International Board (or the Executive Committee acting on its behalf) for approval.

How are the Fellowships Awarded?

The monetary awards are sent directly to the Fellows after they have returned the appropriate address, enrollment verification and tax information forms. In addition, each Fellow receives a certificate and wings pin. These items are sent to the governor or region representative (or the governor/region representative's designee) in the area where the Fellow is studying. The district/region may invite the Fellow(s) to attend a district conference (or some other high profile Zonta event) to make a presentation. Other options include having the area director, district Amelia Earhart chairman or club president present the items at a local event.

Application Deadline

Applicants may apply for the 2019 Amelia Earhart Fellowships at <https://zontainternational.awardspring.com/>. The application deadline is **15 November 2018** to be considered.