

THIS FORM IS FREE AND MAY BE DUPLICATED



Scholarship Programs

SOUTH ASIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Academic Year 2012 - 2013

Application Form

What is an “Open Society?”

An Open Society is a society based on the recognition that nobody has a monopoly on the truth, that different people have different views and interests, and that there is a need for institutions to protect the rights of all people to allow them to live together in peace. The term “open society” was popularized by the philosopher Karl Popper in his 1945 book Open Society and Its Enemies. Broadly speaking, an open society is characterized by a reliance on the rule of law, the existence of a democratically elected government, a diverse and vigorous civil society, and a respect for minorities and minority opinions.

About the Open Society Foundations

The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. To achieve its mission, the Foundations seek to shape public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal, and economic systems and safeguard fundamental rights. On a local level, the Foundations implement a range of initiatives to advance justice, education, public health, and independent media. At the same time, the Foundations build alliances across borders and continents on issues such as corruption and freedom of information. The Foundations place a high priority on protecting and improving the lives of marginalized people and communities.

About Scholarship Programs

The Open Society Scholarship Programs fund the participation of students, scholars, and professionals from a variety of countries in rigorous, competitive academic programs outside of their home countries. The goals of these programs are: to revitalize and reform the teaching of the social sciences and humanities at higher education institutions; to provide professional training in fields unavailable or underrepresented at institutions in the countries served; and to assist outstanding students from a range of backgrounds to pursue their studies in alternative academic and cultural environments.

More information about the Open Society Foundations and Scholarship Programs can be found at:
www.soros.org/initiatives/scholarship

**OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS
SOUTH ASIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
2012 - 2013**

Program Description:

The Open Society Scholarship Programs is pleased to announce the South Asia Scholarship Program for individuals from Afghanistan and Nepal. The program provides opportunities and scholarships for high quality post-graduate study to individuals who demonstrate both academic and professional excellence and the potential to become leaders in the following fields:

- ❖ **Sustainable Development Practice**
- ❖ **Education Counseling**

The Program also introduces students from the participating countries to colleagues from across the region and encourages cross-national dialogues among professional communities. Approximately 10 awards (up to 5 per country) in each discipline will be granted in 2012.

Fellows will be placed at universities in India for two-year graduate programs in Sustainable Development Practice and Counseling beginning in July 2012 and concluding in May 2014. The participating host universities are The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) University in New Delhi (www.teriuniversity.ac.in) for the MA in Sustainable Development Practice and Tata Institute for Social Sciences in Mumbai (www.tiss.edu) for the MA in Counseling.

The Fellowship provides:

- Tuition and university fees for up to 2 years, requiring full-time enrollment;
- Monthly stipend for room, board, and living expenses for a single person only;
- Air travel to and from host universities at the start and conclusion of Program;
- One trip home during the Program;
- Accident and sickness insurance during Program;
- Annual allowances for academic materials & professional development;
- Facilitation of all visa and travel arrangements;
- Pre-academic training in academic writing & research methods;
- Participation in annual fellows' conference.

The Fellowship does NOT provide:

- Funding or support for dependent family members;
- Funding for non-fellowship travel expenses;
- Summer stipends for activities unrelated to degree completion;

OSF supports post-fellowship opportunities at select NGOs for students who have completed the M.A. degree.

Eligibility

The Program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. The competition is merit-based and open to those meeting the following criteria:

1. Hold an undergraduate degree at the time of application deadline with an excellent academic record;
2. Be a legal resident of and currently living in home country (Afghanistan or Nepal);
3. Be proficient in English;
4. Be committed to returning to home country after completion of the program to continue work and impart knowledge gained during studies.

Expectations of MA Fellows

- Fellows must uphold the academic standards of their host institution and undertake full-time study for the duration of the Program. Failure to do so will result in dismissal.
- All fellows are expected to earn an MA within the standard 2-year program period.
- Fellows must comply with the visa regulations of the host country and may be subject by the terms of the visa to a home residency requirement upon completion of the Program.
- OSF expects that Fellows will return to their home countries after completing the degree and take up meaningful posts in their field.
- Fellows are given the Program's "Terms and Conditions" with detailed information on the rules & policies that must be followed during the Program. These requirements will be reviewed in detail with all grantees prior to the beginning of the fellowship.

Selection of Finalists

Competition for the South Asia Scholarship Program is open, merit-based, and relies on a combination of an applicant's suitability towards the program's objectives and host university admissions criteria. Selection is made on the basis of academic excellence, professional aptitude, leadership potential in the field of specialization, proven commitment to open society values, long-term commitment to furthering the profession in applicants' home country, and English language proficiency.

- Pre-selection and Testing: Submitted applications will be screened by representatives from OSF and potential host universities. Applicants chosen to continue in the competition as semifinalists will be required to take the TOEFL or ITP.
- Interviews and Final Selection: Semifinalists will be interviewed in-person or via videoconference by a committee of representatives from OSF and potential host universities. The committee will recommend finalists for placement at host universities.

Application Instructions

Read all instructions and information carefully before completing the application. All forms are to be completed in English. Answer every question and write "Not applicable" if a question does not apply to you. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants can submit applications via the Internet at <http://www.soros.org/grants/oas> (available in late November), or to one of the addresses listed below:

Residents of Afghanistan:

Open Society Foundation Afghanistan
House No. 53 Shahre-Naw
Kochea Kasabi
Kabul, Afghanistan

Contact: Mr. Mohammad Yusuf
Email: yusufm@osafg.org
Phone: +93 (0) 784 609 868

Residents of Nepal:

Alliance for Social Dialogue
GPO Box 25334
Ramchandra Marg, Battispatali
Kathmandu, Nepal

Contact: Ms. Richa Shivakoti
Email: scholarship@asd.org.np
Phone: +977 1 4472807

ATTACHMENTS: Attach the following items to your application in the order given below.

1. Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV), in English. Your educational and professional history.
2. Personal Statement and Essay.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS: Mail all of the additional documents to the Open Society Foundations Afghanistan if you are a resident of Afghanistan, and the Alliance for Social Dialogue if you are a resident of Nepal, in the order given below. Translations must have the stamp or seal of the English language faculty or notary or translating service confirming the accuracy of the translation. Applicant may not write or certify his/her own translation.

1. Two recommendation letters. Must include the stamp or seal of the organization or university or be written on letterhead. Recommendations in the local language must have a certified English translation.
2. Official copies of all university transcripts in original language. Official transcripts must bear the stamp or seal of the department or faculty of the university that issued it. For the purposes of this program, a transcript is a list of every course taken to receive a diploma, and the grade received in each course.
3. Certified English translations of university transcripts. English language transcripts must bear the stamp or seal of the department or faculty of the university that issued it.
4. Official copies of all diplomas in original language. Official diploma must bear the stamp or seal of the department or faculty of the university that issued it.
5. Certified English translations of diplomas. English language diplomas must bear the stamp or seal of the department or faculty of the university that issued it.
6. Photocopy of passport photo page (if available)

VERIFICATION: The Program reserves the right to verify all information submitted as part of an application. In the event that there is a discrepancy or information is found to be false, the applicant will be declared ineligible.

DEADLINE: Thursday, **January 5, 2012**

SUBMISSION: Documentation (applications, attachments or additional documents) received after the deadline will not be considered. Documentation may not be submitted via email/fax nor enclosed in plastic covers/binders. Documentation will not be returned. Please include “South Asia Scholarship Program” on the envelope addressed to the local partner office in Afghanistan or Nepal listed above.

- *Paper applications* : Please type or print in dark ink. Staple attachments and additional documents to your application in the above order. Submit one original and two copies of your application with all attachments and additional documents to the local partner office in Afghanistan or Nepal listed above.
- *Online applications:* Submit your application, essay and CV via the Online Application System (OAS) at <http://www.soros.org/grants/oas>. Print the additional documents cover sheet from OAS and include it with the additional documents. Submit one original and two copies of the additional documents to the local partner office in Afghanistan or Nepal listed above.

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OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

2012 SOUTH ASIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR MA AWARD IN COUNSELING OR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DEADLINE: JANUARY 2012

Grants will be given for Master's study in the fields of Counseling or Sustainable Development to individuals from Afghanistan or Nepal only.

Field of Study

Check one ONLY: I am applying for an MA in Counseling at the Tata Institute of Social Science I am applying for an MA in Sustainable Development at TERI University

Home Country

Afghanistan Nepal

YOUR NAME: _____
(as it appears on your passport) *Last* *First* *Middle*

HOME COUNTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

Current mailing address in your home country: _____
Home telephone: _____
Office telephone: _____
Fax number: _____
E-mail address: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Sex: Male Female Date of Birth: _____ Place: _____
Month/Day/Year *City* *Country*
Country of permanent legal residence: _____ Country of citizenship: _____
Do you hold any other citizenship? YES NO If yes, which country? _____
Current academic/professional status (student status or job title): _____
Have you previously received, or are you currently receiving, support from any OSF program? If yes, please specify: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide the names and contact information of individuals who should be notified in case of an emergency.

Name *Relationship to you* *Street Address*

City *State* *ZIP Code* *Telephone Number* *E-mail address*

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Applicants to the Counseling MA, please answer the following:

What counseling issue area most interests you? (Check ONE from this list)

- Children, Youth, and Families
- Gerontology
- School
- Work
- Other (please specify): _____

Applicants to the Sustainable Development MA, please answer the following:

What sustainable development issue area most interests you? (Check ONE from this list)

- Agricultural capacity-building
- Economic Development
- Environmental Protection
- Social Development
- Other (please specify): _____

ACADEMIC HISTORY

Institution Name (No abbreviations)	Institution Location (City, Country)	Dates Attended MM/YY – MM/YY		Major Field of Study	Degree Received and Date Received	Grade Point Average
		From:	To:			

Academic Awards

Please list, provide a date, and describe any awards or scholastic honors received, scholarships held, elections to honor societies, extracurricular activities. Some examples of academic honors are: graduation with distinction, graduation from school with a gold or silver medal, awards received or papers published in a competition, etc.

Research

Describe any scholarly or professional research you have completed or in which you are currently involved, either as a student or an employee.

Publications

List any books, articles, or theses you have published. Please give title, publisher, place and date of publication.

Professional Association

List professional associations or other organizations in which you currently are involved or with which you have been involved in the past. Include approximate dates of affiliation.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Please start with your most recent position. You may also attach a resume or curriculum vitae (CV).

Name of Employer and Employer's Mailing Address	Your Job Title and Responsibilities	Dates of Employment MM/YY – MM/YY	
		From:	To:

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Native language(s): _____

Number of years of English study: _____ Where studied: _____

Knowledge of foreign languages, including English (Rate your abilities as Excellent, Good, or Fair):

Language Name	Reading Ability	Writing Ability	Speaking Ability
English			

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Please indicate ALL extensive (more than one month) travel, study, or work you have had outside your home country.

Country Visited	Length of Stay	Dates	Travel, Study or Work

STANDARDIZED TESTS

Please complete the information below if you have already taken the tests.

Please note that selected semifinalists who have not taken either the TOEFL or ITP exam within the past two years will be required to take the TOEFL or ITP. Information about the test dates will be provided to semifinalists upon selection.

TOEFL: Test Date: _____ / _____ Score: _____ ITP: Test Date: _____ / _____ Score: _____

PERSONAL STATEMENT AND ESSAY

A) Personal Statement – In no more than 750 words, please discuss why you are applying for the OSF award program in either counseling or sustainable development. Explain how your background, education, and employment since completing secondary school have led you to pursue study at the graduate level. What are your long-term career plans?

B) Essay – In no more than 750 words, identify a critical issue facing your home country and explain how you believe an MA degree in either counseling or sustainable development will help you address that issue.

RECRUITMENT QUESTION

Please indicate how you learned about the program (check all responses that apply).

** This information will not be used in the evaluation of your application. It will help the program administrators plan future advertising and recruiting efforts.*

- Open Society Foundation (OSF) office
- Partner Organization
- Resources at Your Workplace
- Resources at Your University
- Friend/ colleague
- Newspaper/Journal: (name; date)
- Television: (station; date)
- Radio: (station)
- Internet: (site address)
- Other (please describe)

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS 2012 SOUTH ASIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants to the South Asia Scholarships Program are required to submit two recommendations from employers, supervisors, professors or lecturers. Their candid, honest responses on the recommendation forms provided here will assist us in selecting successful candidates and placing them in programs that best meet their personal and academic goals.

Recommenders should kindly note the following guidelines:

- Recommendations must be *signed* and include the *name, address, and telephone number* of the person providing the recommendation.
- Recommendations written in a language other than English must be accompanied by an English translation.
- Please return the recommendation forms to the applicant after you have filled them out. The applicant will submit them with his or her other application materials. **The deadline for applicants to submit their applications, including recommendations, January 5, 2012.**
- *If you do not want the applicant to read your recommendation*, please do the following: 1) fill out the recommendation forms; 2) make one photocopy of the forms; 3) return the forms to the applicant in separate, sealed, signed envelopes. Please indicate that you are doing this by checking the appropriate box on the bottom of the first page of the recommendation forms.

The Open Society Foundations' Scholarship Program greatly appreciates your taking the time to assist this applicant.

**Open Society Foundations
South Asia Scholarship Program
M.A. Fellowship Component 2012-2013**

RECOMMENDATION FORM

FOR GRADUATE LEVEL STUDY IN INDIA IN THE FIELD OF COUNSELING OR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LEADING TO AN M.A. DEGREE

Information about Applicant: *To be completed by the applicant.* Please print clearly or type.

Last Name (Surname): _____ First and Middle Names: _____

Instructions: *The remainder of this form should be completed by an employer, supervisor, professor, or lecturer who is familiar with the applicant.*

Compared to other people you have taught or employed, how would you rank the applicant in the following terms?

	No basis	Poor	Average	Very Good	Excellent
Motivation					
Independence					
Effective communication skills					
English language skills					
Respect for others					
Academic success					

Overall, how would you rate this applicant?

No basis Poor Average Very Good Excellent One of the top students/employees I have encountered

If you have completed recommendation forms for other South Asia Scholarship Program applicants, how does this applicant compare to them:

No basis Poor Average Very Good Excellent One of the top students/employees I have encountered

Please list the courses you have taught the applicant, if applicable:

Course Name _____ Year _____ Applicant's Grade _____

Course Name _____ Year _____ Applicant's Grade _____

- I will not enclose this recommendation in a signed and sealed envelope before returning it to the applicant.
- I will enclose this recommendation, and one photocopy of it, in two separate, signed, and sealed envelopes before returning it to the applicant.

Please describe why you believe the applicant is prepared (or not prepared) for graduate study in India in the chosen field of study. Cite examples from the applicant's academic and/or professional background to support your conclusions.

In what ways do you see this applicant making a difference in his/her field, upon return to his/her home country?

Please share a concrete example of a specific accomplishment the applicant has made in his/her field.

Please use this space for any additional comments you would like to make about the applicant.

Name and Title (please print): _____

Place of Employment or Academic Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Work Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Application Check List

PLEASE ASSEMBLE ALL DOCUMENTS IN THE ORDER LISTED BELOW

Before mailing your application (or supporting materials, if you have applied online) please check that you have attached the following:

- Application Form (only required if you have not applied online through the Online Application System)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV should include complete work history, extra-curricular activities, academic awards and publications)
- Personal statement and essay
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official copies of all university transcripts (in original language)
- Certified English translations of university transcripts
- Official copies of all diplomas in original language
- Certified English translations of diplomas
- Copy of passport photo page

NOTE: Omission of one or more of the documents mentioned above may render your application incomplete and could result in disqualification.

Applicants may apply online at <http://www.soros.org/grants/oas>.

All applicants must submit supporting documents (or the completed application form, PLUS supporting documents, if not applying online) to either of the addresses below:

Afghanistan:

Open Society Foundation Afghanistan
House No. 53 Shahre-Naw
Kochea Kasabi
Kabul, Afghanistan

Contact: Mr. Mohammad Yusuf
Email: yusufm@osafg.org
Phone: +93 (0) 784 609 868

Nepal:

Alliance for Social Dialogue
GPO Box 25334
Ramchandra Marg, Battisputali
Kathmandu, Nepal

Contact: Ms. Richa Shivakoti
Email: scholarship@asd.org.np
Phone: +977 1 4472807

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 5, 2012