

APPLICATIONS INVITED

Tagore Scholar Passport Operating Scholarship

The Tagore Society of Houston and the University of Houston India Studies Program, the Department of English and Creative Writing Program invite applications for the 2018-2019 Tagore Scholar Passport Operating Scholarship. The award of \$5,000 is meant to support advanced study by a University of Houston graduate student pursuing research and/or creative work that will advance understanding and appreciation of the values and ideas of Rabindranath Tagore.

Tagore and His Legacy: With the Tagore Scholar Passport Operating Scholarship the Tagore Society of Houston, the University of Houston's India Studies Program, the Department of English and its Creative Writing Program honor the importance of Rabindranath Tagore's rich and varied legacy to the arts, languages, multi-cultural values and understanding, spiritual and social values in a global community. Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), native of Bengal, a Nobel Laureate in Literature in 1913, and friend of Gandhi, was a poet, novelist, and playwright, as well as a political and social reformer and educator who worked to foster values of multi-cultural understanding. At the height of his influence he had traveled to all major continents, had intellectual associations with many noted philosophers, scientists and poets around the world, penned the national anthems of two countries, written over 6000 poems, stories and literary drama, innovated new art, dance and dramatic genres (which continue to be the bedrock of artistic expression in his native India and Bangladesh), and founded a major international center of learning called Visva-Bharati, dedicated to the principle of borderless thinking, peaceful coexistence with nature, and world communion. The Tagore Scholar Passport Operating Scholarship is intended to foster understanding and appreciation of his legacy.

The Scholarship and Eligibility: The Tagore Scholar Passport Operating Scholarship will support one semester's research or creative work and study that will advance the understanding and appreciation of the intellectual, artistic, and spiritual legacy of Rabindranath Tagore. Applications are invited from full-time University of Houston graduate students in the creative and performing arts, literary studies and the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Applicants should have a well-defined creative or scholarly project that contributes to some aspect of Tagore's work. This might be in such areas as environmental studies, the literary or performing arts, transcultural studies reflecting his vision of a borderless society, or the interrelations between Eastern and Western philosophy and spirituality. The grant will support scholarly and creative work broadly conceived that explores ideas central to Tagore's work or is influenced by Tagore's many creative and intellectual pursuits.

The Tagore travel scholarship has a global remit and its uses might include: Student travel and study in India, possibly at Rabindra Bharati University, or the Visva-Bharati University, which was founded by Tagore; or travel to study at a university or library that archives the work of Tagore; study with a prominent Tagore scholar; scholarly or creative projects that take as their starting point the intellectual or creative work of Tagore; studies of the diasporic influence of Tagore and his students beyond the borders of India. Students proposing study abroad will be eligible for an additional \$1,000 travel support from the University of Houston; the University and the Tagore Society will help facilitate arrangements for their travel and study abroad. Applicants must have a faculty mentor familiar with their work and proposal, who is prepared to advise the student during the period of the award. At the completion of the tenure of the award, Tagore Scholars will be expected to share the results of their study through a lecture or reading and other community event(s) sponsored by the Tagore Society and the University of Houston's India-related initiatives. It is expected that the Award will lead to the creation of a significant scholarly or creative project such as a published article, a performance or an exhibit. Scholarly or creative work supported by a

Tagore Scholar Passport Operating Scholarship must acknowledge in publication or public performance the assistance of the Tagore Scholar Passport Scholarship and the Tagore Society.

Application Process: Full-time University of Houston graduate students in any field may apply. They must be eligible for a visa to travel to India or the country they are proposing to visit for the purposes of the award. Applicants should submit a letter of application describing the creative or research project that they will be pursuing during the period of the award and how it will contribute to, and benefit from, the intellectual and / or creative legacy of Rabindranath Tagore. With their letter of application they should submit a timetable for completion of the project; a budget outlining anticipated travel and other expenses; copies of their University of Houston transcript; a sample of their research or creative work (no more than twenty page in length); and a letter of recommendation from their thesis director or other faculty member familiar with their work and willing to mentor them as a Tagore Scholar.

Selection Process: Applications will be evaluated by a panel of judges chosen by the India Studies Program, the Department of English, and the Tagore Society. The selected candidate is expected to be advised by faculty of his or her choosing or nominated by the Department.

Submission Deadline: Applications for the 2018-2019 award should be submitted to the Office of the Dean of CLASS, Room 402 Agnes Arnold Hall, University of Houston, by February 1st 2018. Students will be informed of the committee's decision by February 14th, 2018. For more information call the Dean Tillis's executive assistant, Sheba Hopkins, on (713) 743-7295