

KANSAS-PARAGUAY PARTNERS



PARTNERS *of the* AMERICAS

Special Merit Scholarship Fund Application

Kansas Paraguay Partners (KPP) is a statewide volunteer organization promoting people-to-people exchanges between Kansans and Paraguayans. We are members of Partners of the Americas (POA) (<http://www.partners.net>), the Western hemisphere's largest private, completely apolitical, volunteer organization. Every state chapter in the USA is partnered with a country or state within a country in Latin America. KPP and its counterpart, the Comité Paraguay Kansas (CPK) were formed in 1968 and became one of the most active of all POA partnerships (<http://kansasparaguaypartners.wordpress.com/>). Since the mid 1980s hundreds of Paraguayans have studied at Kansas colleges and universities. The goal of the Special Merit Scholarship Fund is to encourage Kansas students to study in Paraguay and Paraguayans to study in Kansas.

One scholarship of \$1,200 is available for the 2009-10 academic year. The Special Merit Scholarship is available to students enrolled at any Kansas college or University that offers Paraguayan students instate tuition. Currently this includes all of the Regents institutions and Johnson County Community College. The scholarship may be used for study in a Paraguayan university, research center or for an internship experience in Paraguay. Application deadline: April 1, 2009.

The field of study is unrestricted. Preference will be given to students in their second or third year of university study. A student may only receive the scholarship one time.

Since there is currently no formal study abroad program between Paraguayan and Kansas universities, the successful applicant will need to develop an individual plan that may include study in a university, research in a Paraguayan research center or internship experience. Members of the Kansas-Paraguay Partners University Linkage Committee will assist applicants to make necessary connections. Please contact the chair of the University Linkages Committee for information and assistance (Edith Black at edithblack@sunflower.com).

Application Requirements: The application (Deadline: April 1, 2009) must include:

- University transcripts
- A statement of purpose, including overall educational goal and how this experience in Paraguay will contribute to the applicant's academic program.
- Plans for research, study or internship at one of the Paraguayan universities, research centers or other institutions. This should include:
 - the field of study (unrestricted)
 - duration of study including dates (the minimum required duration is two months with preference given to longer commitments)
 - course credit (independent study or readings courses from a Kansas university is an option)

- name of Paraguayan institution and person who will help guide the plan of study, including a letter of commitment from that person;
- housing arrangements in Paraguay
- Three letters of recommendation, at least one should include the applicant's fluency in Spanish (four or five semesters of coursework in Spanish is required; an applicant with less may petition for an exception).
- Listing of previous international experiences.
- Special needs or health conditions that may require special assistance.
- Photocopy of valid passport
- Your current financial situation (e.g. financial aid amounts, loans, scholarships, or other assistance). Indicate any special circumstances that may affect your financial ability to study abroad.
- include the following statement as part of the application with signature and date

I affirm that the information given in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if my application is approved, I will submit a brief report and participate in promotional events for Kansas-Paraguay Partners after returning.

Submit application to: Edith Black, 1646 Hillcrest Road, Lawrence, KS 66044