International Education Fellowship

Information and Application for:

BELIZE

Due date for completed application:

February 26, 2014

Office of International and Multicultural Affairs

Bedford Campus
Campus Center
2nd floor, Room 203

Lowell Campus
City Building
3rd floor, room 314

The Belize Fellowship supports the Written & Oral Communication, Multicultural & Global Literacy, Social Responsibility, Quantitative Literacy, and Critical Thinking Institutional Student Learning Outcomes.
MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

International Student Fellowship Program to Belize

Middlesex Community College is committed to educating students about global issues and broadening their perspective of the world community. In this interdependent global economy, the college recognizes that our students need to understand other cultures and appreciate global relationships so that they can enhance their capacity to participate in a global marketplace.

Student fellowships are academic opportunities for students to study about the history and culture of a particular country. Students who are accepted for the Belize Fellowship enroll and actively participate in the three credit science course ENV 121 – Coral Reef Ecology, as well as a one credit lab component. Information regarding the history and culture of Belize will be incorporated throughout the lectures. Students are expected to complete various assigned readings, write papers, and complete other assignments, which are a part of the course. The lab component of the Coral Reef Ecology course will include a field experience in Belize during June.

Students who are selected for the fellowship program must complete all the requirements of the course, including attendance at lectures, required readings, papers, and other requirements as outlined in the syllabus. After completion of the course, students are expected to share the knowledge and experience they have learned from the course with the college community. The program is supported by the MCC Foundation and NSF grant funding for under-represented minority STEM majors.

The Belize Experience is a 14 day research experience to study coral reef ecology and conservation from June 14 to June 28, 2014. In preparation for the trip, students attend classes regarding the cultural and economic importance of reef ecosystems. Students will participate in activities that include data collection while SCUBA diving and/or snorkeling on the reef in Belize. All activities are done from a boat. The course will involve journal entries, underwater photography, and analysis of data. A summary documentation of the experience will also be created. The academic preparation prior to the fellowship includes a full day retreat led by the staff of the Office of International and Multicultural Affairs. Priority will be given to certified SCUBA divers, but seats for non-divers (snorkelers) may also be available.

For the Belize Fellowship program, the cost of roundtrip airfare, local air transportation, accommodations and the day-long excursion to the Mayan ruins are covered by the college. The student is responsible for the cost of tuition for the course, expenses for passports, visa if needed, additional health insurance, meals, and incidentals (generally $600 is suggested as a minimum amount). In addition, a fee of $800 for SCUBA diving and/or snorkeling must be submitted to Pat Demaras, International/Multicultural Office, room 314, City Building, Lowell Campus by May 1, 2014

*APPLICANTS MAY ONLY PARTICIPATE IN ONE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM*
THE APPLICATION PROCESS

There are usually 10 students who are selected for the Belize Fellowship. Applications are available in the International/Multicultural Office, room 314, City Building, Lowell Campus and the Multicultural Center, room 203, Campus Center on the Bedford Campus.

Students who apply must meet the following requirements:

- Be currently enrolled or have recently completed ENV 121- CORAL REEF ECOLOGY course.
- Enrolled in a degree program
- Have completed at least 12 credits of course work at MCC by December 31, 2013
- Be at least 18 years old on the day of travel
- Have a minimum G.P.A. of 2.0
- Submit a completed application

APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Obtain an application form, available at the offices listed above.

2. Complete the application essay. Essays are generally two typewritten pages, either single or double spaced.

3. Submit an unofficial transcript of your grades to be obtained from the Student Information Center.

4. Have each of the two recommendation forms completed by faculty or staff members at the college. These recommendation forms should be sent directly to one of the offices listed above.

5. Be sure to submit the materials by the due date for applications. All materials are to be submitted to Pat Demaras, International/Multicultural Office, room 314, City Building, Lowell Campus or the Multicultural Center, room 203, Campus Center on the Bedford Campus.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Candidates are chosen by a Selection Committee, consisting of students who have completed a previous fellowship, fellowship advisors, and the Assistant Dean of International/Multicultural Office.

Each committee member reads each student application and rates it independently. The names of each student are deleted on the application, transcript, and faculty recommendations, so that the Committee members do not know the student name of the application they are reviewing. This “blind process” of review is done so that favoritism is eliminated.

Committee members rate the applicants on a basis of 1 to 10 on each of the following factors:
1. **Academic competence:** Is the applicant a capable student academically? Has the student taken a substantive array of courses that would demonstrate that he/she is able to complete the fellowship course and contribute to the class?

2. **Level of emotional maturity, responsibility, and ability to function effectively in a group setting:** Do the recommendations and the student’s application underscore these qualities?

3. **Interest in the fellowship opportunity:** Does the candidate express a sincere interest in participating in this fellowship program?

4. **Ability to contribute to the college after the fellowship:** Has this individual thought of ways to contribute to the college after the fellowship experience?

5. **Overall quality of the application:** Based on all aspects of the application, what is the quality of this application?

Every effort will be made to interview those students who ranked in the upper half or more of the candidates pool, based on the scores of Committee members during the blind process of the application review. Those students who are asked to meet Committee members for an interview will be rated on a scale of 1 to 10 based on the following factors:

1. **Ability to contribute to the group experience:** Does this person, based on the interview, have the experience and background necessary to enhance the group experience?

2. **Evidence of effective communication and ability to serve as a responsible representative of the college community:** Can this individual communicate effectively? Could this person effectively represent the college in a foreign country? As a representative of the college in the community?

3. **Ability to function in a group setting:** Does this person, based on the interview, appear to be flexible, emotionally mature, and able to function effectively in a group setting?

4. **Interest in the fellowship program:** Is the candidate aware of the demands of the fellowship program and able to benefit from the experience?

5. **Overall quality of the applicant:** Based on the interview, would this candidate be a good choice for the fellowship program?

The top candidates, based on the applications and interviews, will be selected. Individual scores will not be disclosed. **Final candidates should be aware that the Committee reserves the right to withdraw an offer of acceptance for the fellowship program at any time prior to the trip itself if the Committee learns additional information about the candidate which might adversely affect the committee’s perception of the candidate’s ability to function effectively in the program.**
Please respond to the fellowship questions in an essay statement of approximately two typed written pages. These questions do not necessarily need to be answered in order, as long as the answers are covered in the essay. (If a computer is used, please make sure print-out is dark enough for copies to be made).

1. Describe yourself, including what you have done prior to attending Middlesex, what responsibilities and/or interests you have outside the classroom environment, and what you plan to do when you complete your studies at Middlesex.

2. Why is this fellowship program of interest to you?

3. What courses are particularly interesting to you and why?

4. How would you describe your personality? Give some examples to demonstrate your personal attributes?

5. What is it about you that would make you a good candidate for this fellowship program?

6. Describe your experience with snorkeling or scuba diving. Please discuss your level of certification and diving experience.

PLEASE RETURN BY: February 26, 2014

TO: Pat Demaras
   International/Multicultural Office
   Room 314, City Building
   Lowell Campus
   Multicultural Center
   Campus Center, Room 203
   Bedford Campus
MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Faculty or Staff Recommendation for the International Fellowship Program

Fellowship Program: BELIZE

Student Name: 

Student ID#: 

Your Name: 

Your Position/Department: 

Your recommendation is crucial in our ability to select appropriate candidates. Please respond to the following questions. You may answer the questions separately or you may respond in one complete page, as long as the following questions are addressed: (Please use black ink or type).

1. Is the candidate strong academically? Would he/she be able to complete the coursework that is part of the fellowship program and contribute effectively to the class? Is the candidate intellectually curious?

2. Is the candidate emotionally mature? responsible? able to meet deadlines?

3. Is the candidate flexible? Could he/she respond to new demands during a stressful trip?

4. Could the candidate work well in a group setting?

5. Could the candidate represent the college well and serve as an effective ambassador for the college both here and abroad?

6. How would you rank the candidate overall?

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