

2025 Graduate Richter Announcement and Guidelines

The highly competitive Richter Scholar Awards are available for the purpose of globally-oriented independent study for students in the undergraduate College and the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences on the **Reynolda Campus** of Wake Forest University. Traditionally, the Richter Scholarship prioritizes funding research projects in foreign countries; however, globally-oriented projects within the U.S. may also be funded on a case-by-case basis. This may include projects that are domestic in nature, such as a trip to Little Havana to study Cuban emigration stories, or virtual research with an international lab/contact. Proposals that focus on "touring", however, rather than exploring a topic in-depth receive lower priority. Also, proposals that simply describe a research project will receive lower priority. Successful applications usually combine a developed educational project as well as a plan to explore the culture. International students are welcome to apply but should consider any visa problems that might arise as a result of international travel.

The application can be found at: <https://graduate.wfu.edu/richter-scholarship-program/>

The application deadline is Monday, February 10, 2025.

Please email Sarah Simpson (slaffert@wfu.edu) with any questions.

The following guidelines are designed to help students put together high quality, competitive Richter proposals.

There are two elements present in all desirable Richter proposals submitted to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences:

1. Successful applications typically describe a substantive research project (i.e., clearly outline the project they are doing, where, and why). The Richter is not given just for travel (*abroad*) but also emphasizes this educational experience. The details of the research project should be clear. If the applicant will involve some person or group in the location/country visited, successful applicants typically secure a letter of support or some indication that the student will be able to undertake the proposed project and will have any necessary supporting materials needed.

2. In addition to the research emphasis, successful applications convey how the student will be exposed to the culture in the country visited, have new experiences, and meet with new types of people. In particular, the Richter group is looking for projects that might have a “life-enhancing” or “life-changing” impact. Think “Pro humanitate” from a personal and global perspective. (This means that the funding is neither for simply doing research (*abroad*) or just traveling to another location/country.)

In addition to these guidelines, there are a number of practical issues to consider:

- Students must be full-time enrolled and in good standing with the University. Travel must be completed during Summer 2025 and the final report must be submitted to the Graduate School office during Fall 2025--or prior to the student’s graduation (whichever occurs first).
- Be realistic in your budget. The maximum award amount is \$7,500 but lesser amounts are often awarded in an effort to fund as many excellent proposals as possible.
- Proposals must be for an independent research project and be distinct from simply taking one or more for-credit course(s).
- If a student is already receiving a stipend, a Richter award will only pay for travel expenses above the stipend.
- Students working in a laboratory at the WFU Biomedical Campus or a faculty advisor whose primary appointment is housed there but also enrolled in a WFU Reynolda Campus Program are eligible to apply for a Richter award.
- Two students cannot split one award, but they can apply together and may be granted individually.
- International students are responsible for arranging any visa issues affecting their entry to another country or back into the USA.
- Attendance of professional workshops or conferences are not desirable outcomes for the award. **Waived in part temporarily: *Must tie into the student’s research focus. Proposed project must still fulfill the overall objective of advancing globally-focused research.**

- Support for visiting a research lab, workshop, or conference in the US is not supported by this award. **Waived in part temporarily: *Must tie into the student's research focus. Proposed project must still fulfill the overall objective of advancing globally-focused research.**
- Students must be registered for the semester in which they travel and may not use funds for travel after graduation.
- Richter report must be completed prior to graduation.
- If returning to a place where the student has been before, the new experience must be **substantially** different or enlarged for it to be life-enhancing.
- Rent and utilities of the student's local residence are not paid while student is abroad.
- Funds can only be awarded for planned and approved travel.
- Funds may not be used to support third party expenses.
- Graduate students must be enrolled and accepted into degree programs. Richter funds may not be used after student has graduated.
- In studies involving human subjects, students are responsible for obtaining IRB approval for their project before the activation of the Fellowship. To avoid difficulties or delays, students are urged to discuss studies requiring the collection of data from human subjects with their advisor and the IRB prior to submitting the Richter application to anticipate difficulties and explore alternatives. IRB-dependent projects that have not been approved will not receive Richter funding.
- It is highly recommended that students receive approval from their advisor with regard to missing any academic commitments. If the student has any T.A. or R.A. obligations, the student must obtain signature of advisor/supervisor indicating support of this absence and how these obligations will be handled.
- An issue to keep in mind is whether the proposed project will take you to an area of the globe rated as dangerous by the US State Department. (US and University travel policies, and COVID advisories should be taken into consideration.)