

## 2009 Carl Zeiss Vision Fellowships

### Call for Applications

#### Purpose

To encourage talented persons to pursue full-time careers in independent optometric practice and leadership, the American Optometric Foundation (AOF) is accepting applications for fellowships sponsored by Carl Zeiss Vision.

#### Awards

One \$5,000 award will be given to a student completing his/her third year at each of the schools and colleges of Optometry in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico; nineteen (19) awards in total. In addition, each AOF – Carl Zeiss Vision Fellow will receive a travel fellowship to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Optometry during his/her fourth year *and* first year after graduation.

#### Eligibility

Open to all third year students (Class 2010) at North American schools and colleges of optometry. If not already members of the Academy, winners will be encouraged to apply.

#### Application and Review Procedures

The appropriate award selection committee at each of the schools/colleges of optometry will select the three to five students who meet the eligibility requirements and best demonstrate the qualities detailed in the above criteria. The AOF will not accept applications directly from students.

Applications should include

- A one-page statement of career goals and a perspective on what the future of optometry would look like **without** independent practice written by the applicant.
- A curriculum vitae including:
  - Education/training
  - Participation in optometric student leadership and professional organizations
  - Optometric professional and research experience
  - Honors and awards

At the discretion of each school or college, letters of recommendation from faculty, externship preceptors, administrators, and optometrists may be included.

Each institution must submit their slate of applications **electronically** as a PDF or MS Word file.

Proposals will be reviewed by a peer review committee established by the American Optometric Foundation.

#### Application Submission and Deadline

All proposals **must** be sent **electronically** by e-mail to: Helen Chan ([awards@aaoptom.org](mailto:awards@aaoptom.org)) by COB **March 1, 2009**. Fellowship recipients will be announced in **May 2009**.

For additional information, contact Mark Bullimore, AOF Development Director: by phone 614-292-4724 or e-mail: [bullimore.1@osu.edu](mailto:bullimore.1@osu.edu).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How should the three to five students be selected?**

This is at the discretion of the institution. All third year students can be invited to submit applications to the institution's Awards Committee (or appropriate standing or *ad hoc* group) or only students regarded as deserving could be invited to apply. Carl Zeiss Vision may be contacting all third year students in February to promote the program, so the former may be preferable.

### **Are letters of recommendation required?**

Students are not competing against their peers from other institutions. They are competing against their classmates. For this reason, letters are considered optional. The Foundation and Carl Zeiss Vision do *not* wish to burden faculty with writing many, many letters. One option would be to include a letter of recommendation for the institution's 3 to 5 finalists.

### **Should the three to five students be ranked?**

No. This will be done by the national panel. Nonetheless, the institution may include a cover letter summarizing the strengths of each candidate. In lieu of letters of recommendation, this cover letter could also include brief quotes or testimonials about the candidates.

### **Is March 1 the internal deadline?**

We recommend that institutions set an internal deadline of no later than February 14 to allow adequate time for selection of the three to five finalists and to assemble the materials for submission.

### **Do students need to be members of the American Academy of Optometry?**

No, although this may be one of the many factors considered by the national panel.

### **How does this program interact with other scholarship programs?**

The Carl Zeiss Vision Fellowships are among the largest external scholarships for optometry students. Whether the winner is considered for other scholarships, including those administered by the AOF, is the institution's decision.

### **How will the winners be announced?**

The Foundation will contact each institution (typically the individual submitting the applications). If possible, the Foundation would like a representative of Carl Zeiss Vision, the Foundation, or the American Academy of Optometry to make the announcement to the entire class. Please let the Foundation know if there is an appropriate event where such an announcement and presentation might take place. In the absence of an appropriate event, the President of the AOF may call the student.

### **Who should be contacted if there are further questions?**

Mark Bullimore, Development Director, American Optometric Foundation: 614-292-4724 or [bullimore.1@osu.edu](mailto:bullimore.1@osu.edu)