

Dara J. Kaufman Memorial Scholarship for International Study

Dara Kaufman was tragically killed during a camping trip on June 19, 2006, one day before her 23rd birthday. Just a year before this, Dara returned to the University of Southern Maine after a wonderful and transformative year spent studying in Seville, Spain. She graduated cum laude with a major in Hispanic Studies and a minor in Economics. To honor Dara's love of learning, travel and adventure, a scholarship fund has been established* to support high-achieving USM students who wish to study abroad as part of an approved program and who would otherwise be unable financially to do so.

As a Dara J. Kaufman Scholar you must:

- Be a full-time Maine resident;
- Have an overall GPA of 3.2 or more;
- Be enrolled as an undergraduate degree candidate;
- Be able to demonstrate financial need;
- Write an essay in response to the questions included in this application;
- Submit 2 recommendations from USM faculty members who have taught you as a student in their classes.
- Help publicize this opportunity to other students upon your return;
- Assist with selecting a new Dara J. Kaufman Scholar during the semester following your trip.

Award Amount: Two \$3000 scholarships for spring and fall semesters

Deadlines: Deadlines are the same as for USM's Study Abroad Application. It is your responsibility to ensure that your application is complete and meets the deadlines below. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

- October 5, 2018: For Spring 2019 and January term
- March 15, 2019: For Summer and Fall 2019, AY 2019/2020

Checklist:

- General Information Sheet (attached)
- Essay that answers all of the questions
- Official Transcripts from USM Registrar (unless already submitted with study abroad application)
- 2 Letters of Recommendation (unless already submitted with study abroad application)
- Financial Estimates Sheet, signed (attached) with your Mainstreet financial aid screen.
- Applicant Certification Form (attached)

Return application materials in a single complete packet postmarked by the deadline:

USM Office of International Programs
101 Payson Smith Hall, USM Portland Campus

Mailing address: P O Box 9300; Portland, ME 04104-9300

** This scholarship is possible due to the generosity of Patricia Harron Imbesi and family, and family, friends and neighbors of Dara Jeanne Kaufman.*

APPLICATION:

A. General Information.

Name:	Email Address:	Permanent Phone #:
Home Address:	School Address:	Current Class Status:
Major: Minor:	GPA:	Projected Graduation Date:
Probable Study Abroad Destination (include country and city):	Probable Study Abroad Program (include sponsoring institution or university):	Circle and complete your study abroad time: Fall 20__ Spring 20__ Full year 20__ - __
List all higher ed institutions attended with dates:		
List Previous Travel Experiences (both national and international):		
List Work and/or Volunteer Experiences (previous 2 years):		
List Academic Achievements (previous 2 years):		

B. Essay: Please respond to all of the questions below in essay format. Feel free to respond in a different order than that in which they are asked.

- Please describe the study abroad program(s) you are considering and the reasons for your interest.
- Why do you want to study abroad and what kind of learning experiences do you think you will bring back with you?
- Dara loved to immerse herself in learning about other cultures and practices. Please describe the importance of this and why it intrigues you?
- What are your academic and/or professional goals? How will the study abroad program foster these goals?
- What challenges, if any, will you be facing by choosing to study abroad and how will you overcome them?
- Please describe the type of person you are or how others might describe you. Include your interests, activities, values, and outlook on life.
- When Dara returned from her study abroad program many close friends and family saw a change in her. She was not only more committed to her education, but more outgoing and happy as well. How do you hope to grow and mature academically, socially and emotionally through this experience?

C. Financial Estimates – Planning for Study Abroad Costs

The Dara J. Kaufman Scholarship is meant for those students who are not able to study abroad unless they receive substantial funds above and beyond what they usually receive in grants, scholarships and/or loans. Your Financial Aid Advisor and Study Abroad Advisor will be asked to sign your estimated study abroad program costs and the estimated financial aid that you know that you can apply to your program.

Estimated Study Abroad Program Cost:

Tuition	
Room & Board	
Program Fees	
Fees for Travel Documents (e.g., passport, visas, International student ID)	
Books & Supplies	
Personal Expenses While Abroad	

Airfare	
Known and Unchangeable Personal Living Expenses (e.g., car payment, etc.)	
Total:	

➤ Signature of Study Abroad Advisor: _____

Current Financial Aid: If you are receiving financial aid, please submit a copy of your financial aid screen from Mainstreet. Please note other sources of funding.

Loans	
Outside scholarships (e.g., Rotary, Wal-Mart, etc.)	
Family / personal contributions	
Other	
Total :	

D. Applicant Certification

In submitting this application, I certify that

- Everything stated is true, factual and submitted in good faith to the best of my knowledge
- I agree to provide more information or proof of certain statements if requested
- If chosen, upon my return I will help to publicize The Dara J. Kaufman Scholarship to other USM students by sharing some of my experiences during my time studying abroad
- If chosen, upon my return I will participate in the process of selecting a new Dara J. Kaufman Scholar during the semester following my trip
- If you are not accepted into a study abroad program of your choice, or cannot pursue your study abroad plans, you will not receive this scholarship.

Applicants for scholarships (unless opting out by checking the box below) authorize the release of their name, directory, and academic information on file with the University of Southern Maine to scholarship donors and others in conjunction with any University scholarships they may receive.

_____ I do not authorize the release of information to donors and others in conjunction with any University scholarships I may receive.

Applicant's Signature:

Date:
