Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship
Program Background/Statistics

July 2020

Purpose
To empower women through encouragement and financial support of women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral
degrees in aerospace engineering or space sciences. The Fellowships, established in 1938 as a living
memorial to Zontian and aviatrix Amelia Earhart, encourage women to expand their career options beyond
traditional boundaries.

Program Statistics
Since the inception of the program in 1938, there have been 1,638 Fellowships, totaling more than
US$10.6 million, given to 1,209 Fellows from 73 countries.

The Fellowship
Originally envisaged in 1938 as a US$500 loan, the award was changed to a scholarship the following
year. In 1964, the scholarships became fellowships to make the award more specific. In 1984, the
Fellowship amount was increased to US$6,000. In 2008, the Fellowship amount was increased to
US$10,000. In 2015, the eligibility changed stating that previous Amelia Earhart Fellows are not eligible to
apply to renew the Fellowship for a second year. This change took effect for the 2016 Amelia Earhart
Fellowships.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Amount of Fellowship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-Present</td>
<td>US$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-2007</td>
<td>US$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-1983</td>
<td>US$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-1978</td>
<td>US$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-1975</td>
<td>US$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959-1969</td>
<td>US$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957-1958</td>
<td>US$1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953-1956</td>
<td>US$1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948-1952</td>
<td>US$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1947</td>
<td>US$500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How does the program support Zonta’s mission to empower women worldwide through service
and advocacy?
The Amelia Earhart Fellowships focus on eliminating the gender bias that women face in pursuing doctoral
degrees in research applied to aerospace engineering or space sciences. Women are beginning to
demonstrate a progression from limited representation in aerospace engineering or space sciences to
being leaders in the field. During the first years of the program, the awards committee had trouble finding
qualified applicants and worked as mentors with potential applicants to help them become qualified for the
awards. Today, as evidence of the increasing numbers of women in aerospace engineering or space
sciences, the challenge is choosing the most promising women from among the many qualified applicants.
In addition, while professional and academic recommendations in this field were once written exclusively
by males, many of today’s applicants receive recommendations from respected professors and
professionals who are previous Amelia Earhart Fellows themselves.
How many Fellows are chosen on an annual basis?
Up to 35 awards are given to Fellows around the globe each year.

How are the Fellows chosen?
Candidates for the Amelia Earhart Fellowships are required to fill out an application, which includes information on their academic background, their professional goals, and their research program. In addition, the candidates submit three academic and/or professional references from professors (or supervisors) and their academic detailed transcripts of courses and grades from all universities/colleges attended. The Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Committee, whose members are all previous Fellows and Zontians, reviews the applications and recommends recipients to the Zonta International Board (or the Executive Committee acting on its behalf) for approval.

How are the Fellowships awarded?
The monetary awards are sent directly to the Fellows after they have returned the appropriate address, enrollment verification and tax information forms. In addition, each Fellow receives a certificate and wings pin. These items are sent to the governor or region representative (or the governor/region representative’s designee) in the area where the Fellow is studying. The district/region may invite the Fellow to attend a district conference (or some other high profile Zonta event) to make a presentation. Other options include having the area director, district Amelia Earhart chairman or club president present the items at a local event.

Application Deadline
Applicants may apply for the 2021 Amelia Earhart Fellowships at https://zontainternational.awardspring.com/. Hard copy and email applications will not be accepted. The application deadline is 15 November 2020 to be considered.