Introduction

The Maria Pia Gratton International Fellowship at the University of Illinois was established by the family and friends of Maria Pia Gratton. Pia passed away on October 31, 1995, at the age of 47. When she came to the United States, Pia had two small children, a degree in math, and little grasp of the English language. Pia enrolled in classes to learn English and computer programming, and with determination she made a home for her family, developed close friendships and began a career in her new country. Those who knew Pia knew her to be a beautiful woman, a caring mother, a loving wife, a dependable co-worker, a true friend, a conscientious student, a patient teacher, and a daring traveler. This fellowship continues Pia’s memory with a living tribute to her life.

Eligibility

This fellowship is intended to enable a female international graduate student to have an academic and cultural experience at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Preference will be given to a student who has had a limited opportunity to travel outside of her home country.

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to apply:

1)   Applicants must either be:
     a) currently enrolled as graduate students at Illinois with at least one academic year (i.e., two semesters) of graduate school remaining beginning in Fall 2018; OR
     b) if not currently enrolled as graduate students at Illinois, applicants must be applying to begin graduate study at Illinois in Fall 2018 (Note: Applicants who have not yet been admitted to Illinois must follow regular academic admission procedures.)

2)   Applicants must be international students (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents are not eligible to apply)

3)   Applicants must be female (applications from male applicants will not be considered)

Fellowship Amount

The Gratton Fellowship provides a tuition waiver* and a monthly stipend totaling $10,000 for the academic year.

* Please note that some Colleges and/or programs do not accept tuition waivers. It is the student's responsibility to confirm the availability of a waiver in her department before applying. If the student's department cannot accept a tuition waiver, the student is not eligible to receive the fellowship.

More information is also available online at:
http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/chaptervii/section04.

Deadline

The deadline to apply for a fellowship for Academic Year 2018-19 is Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 11:59PM. All applications will be reviewed after the deadline. Applicants will be notified of the decision
via email as soon as possible after the deadline. Please note: late applicants will not be considered. Decisions on awardees will be made and awardee notified by March 21, 2018 with an expected disbursement date of April 11, 2018.

Selection Criteria

The selections committee will take into account the degree to which applicants share Pia's philosophy of life and desire to improve their multicultural experiences and education. Pia believed that living among various people, studying various cultures, and learning various customs taught her to appreciate and respect the people of this world. For more information about Pia, please refer to: http://www.mariapiagratton.com/

The Application

The online application consists of an online application, a letter of recommendation, and a student agreement. The application asks for:

- Basic information about the applicant
- Response to an essay prompt
- Detailed financial information about funding sources

The letter of recommendation may be uploaded online by the applicant. The student agreement outlines the conditions of applying for the fellowship and requires an electronic signature. Scholarship applicants must complete and submit all of the application as well as the letter of recommendation and student agreement. Incomplete applications may not be reviewed.

The online application for the Maria Pia Gratton International Fellowship can be found here.

Please note:

The selection process for this fellowship is highly competitive. Each year, the selection committee reviews approximately 50-100 completed applications and offers the fellowship to one student.

After the deadline has passed, you will not be able to access the application again. You will have until 11:59 p.m. Central Standard Time on the date of the deadline to complete your application; at midnight, the application will close.

Scholarships might be taxable to the recipient. Recipients will be taxed on the scholarship payments, Please contact the Office of Business and Financial Services and University Payroll and Benefits Foreign National Service Center to determine if you are eligible for a tax treaty or tax reduction at 217-265-6363 or fninquiry@uillinois.edu.

Students who intend to hold an assistantship appointment level of 50% or below during the fellowship year may apply for this fellowship; however, University policy dictates that students receiving a fellowship may not maintain an assistantship appointment level above 50% (see http://www.grad.illinois.edu/fellowship/fellows).
Contact

Questions about applying for the Maria Pia Gratton International Fellowship should be directed to William Baptist at wbaptist@illinois.edu.