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Scholarship Selection Committee Criteria

The Lakselaget Scholarship Committee should keep the basic intention of the scholarship as stated at the beginning of the application form:

The Lakselaget Scholarship Fund was established to celebrate, encourage, and advance the organization's motto, women who swim against the current. Its goal is to promote the international connections between Norway and Minnesota and learn, teach, and share knowledge that will benefit women in their complex roles in today's society.

If no applicant fills all these criteria, no scholarships will be awarded. The money will stay in the fund until the following year. The number of scholarships given each year will depend on the funds available.

1. **SCHOLARLY COMPETENCE**

- Look at the GPA, but also place emphasis on the type of classes and the academic maturity the student displays. Is she breaking new ground? How has her job, field of study, or life experiences, contributed to the betterment of the student?

2. **APPROPRIATENESS TO THE TIME AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

- Are her class choices and the timing of this scholarship realistic toward completing her timeline of study?

3. **HAS THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATED AN INTEREST IN CONTEMPORARY NORWAY AND HOW IT RELATES TO THE STUDENT'S OWN FIELD OF STUDY OR FUTURE GOALS?**

- Determine if the student's interest in Norway/Minnesota has been a sincere interest for some time. The applicant's interest should be greater than having a relative emigrate from Norway. It should be an ongoing interest, such as Norwegian classes, membership in a Norwegian organization, Camp Norway, trips to Norway, Concordia Language Camp (Skogfjorden) or Scandinavian studies. A similar measure should be used for Norwegian students wishing to study in Minnesota.

4. **QUALITY OF WRITTEN APPLICATION**

- Is the essay well written, clear and succinct?
- Does it address the points requested in the application?
An essay, up to 1,000-words, which clearly describes why study in Norway/Minnesota/Grand Forks, North Dakota is essential to you, what you expect to contribute to your world in the future, your ideas for sharing ideas internationally, and how your studies upholds Lakselaget's motto, "Women who swim against the current."
- Does it convince you that the applicant truly wants to study and learn?

5. **BENEFIT TO THE DISCIPLINE**

- Look at the student's larger purpose in undertaking study in Norway, including the potential benefit to the student or to future relations between Norway and Minnesota, or the promotion of current Norway, and how all of it might benefit Lakselaget at large.

6. **HUMAN NEED AND PERSONAL GROWTH**

- How will a stay in Norway/Minnesota/University of North Dakota, Grand Forks contribute to the individual's development and personal growth?
- If possible, conduct a personal or phone interview, before any final decision is made. Applicants must make themselves available by phone if the Committee requests an interview.

POLICIES

Below are guidelines for Lakselaget's scholarship policy. These should be review annually by the Foundation Director, the Scholarship Selection Committee and the Board.

- Lakselaget members and their children may apply but must compete along with all applicants.
- Siblings may apply and be awarded scholarships, but only one sibling per year.
- Any selection committee member who is related to or has close ties with any applicant, must recuse herself from the committee and an alternate will be substituted.

- If the student has received the scholarship and, without reason, decides not to study as planned, the scholarship must be returned in full. If time allows the next applicant next in line may then be given the scholarship.
- If the student becomes ill and must return home, all efforts should be made by the student to obtain a refund and return the unused portion of the funds to Lakselaget. She may apply again at a later date. A letter from the doctor should be sent to the scholarship committee.

Last updated: 1/4/2024