



American Planning Association

Making Great Communities Happen

CHARLES ABRAMS SCHOLARSHIP

2009-2010 Academic Year

The Program

Charles Abrams was an internationally recognized authority on housing and urban affairs who died in 1970. Throughout his career, he exhibited an active desire to help students in planning programs. In his honor, the *American Planning Association* administers a scholarship fund established by his widow and a number of his colleagues.

General Information and Purpose of Program

The Charles Abrams Scholarship is an annual partial scholarship to a student who is enrolled in a graduate planning program leading to a masters degree in one of the five schools at which Charles Abrams taught and who has been nominated by the program's department chair. The student chosen for this award must demonstrate a genuine financial need. The program is designed to aid students who will pursue careers as practicing planners.

Program Description

A. A student will be selected from among nominees of the following five schools:

- Columbia University, Division of Urban Planning
- Harvard University, Urban Planning Program (Master in Urban Planning) Harvard Graduate School of Design – *Formerly, Harvard University, City & Regional Planning Program of the Graduate School of Architecture and Design*
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Urban Studies & Planning
- New School University, Urban Policy Analysis & Management Program, Robert J. Milano Graduate School of Management & Urban Policy - *Formerly, New School for Social Research, New York, Department for Urban Affairs & Policy Analysis*
- University of Pennsylvania, Department of City & Regional Planning

B. Scholarship Amount

A scholarship of \$2,000 will be awarded to the selected candidate and will be paid directly to the student's school to defray tuition costs. Scholarship winners also receive a complimentary one-year student membership to APA.

C. Eligible Students

1. An applicant must be a US citizen and have been accepted into the graduate planning program at one of the five eligible schools. A nomination by the department chair is required. (Incoming students are eligible providing a letter of acceptance into the graduate planning program of the specific school accompanies their nominating letter).
2. Applicants must be in need of financial assistance as determined by a review of the information contained on the applicant's financial aid form. (Eligible students wishing to apply for this scholarship must complete the Financial Aid Application in full.

The information provided by the applicant, spouse or parent(s) will be analyzed by both the school in its selection of a candidate and later by the Charles Abrams Scholarship Selection Committee. If a student wishes to be declared financially independent, a notarized statement from the parents is required, certifying that the student will not be taken as a tax deduction in the year for which the scholarship is sought and that the student will receive no financial aid

from parents.

Note: Prior winners of any APA-administered fellowship or scholarship program are not eligible.

D. Application Materials

The Charles Abrams Scholarship application shall consist of original documents with signatures, as required, for the following materials:

1. **A letter of nomination** or statement by the department chair discussing the reasons why the student was chosen, comments on the student's strengths, areas of interest, and other abilities, as appropriate. (This statement is referred to in Par. C-1, Eligible Students)
2. **A one- to two-page statement** written by the applicant containing:
 - a description of the applicant's commitment to complete the planning curriculum of the university and to pursue a career in the planning profession
 - an outline of the applicant's academic qualifications, extra-curricular activities, and reasons for believing a scholarship award is justified
3. The Financial Aid Application.
4. Official transcripts of all previous collegiate and graduate academic work – **(Request official transcripts in time for them to reach APA by the deadline date.)**
5. An official copy of GRE scores, if required for admission to the school.
6. It is required that any and all application materials be originals specifically developed and/or requested for the Charles Abrams Scholarship application process.

E. Application Process

An eligible applicant must apply through one of the five designated schools on forms supplied by APA. **Application materials must be received in the APA office by April 30th**

The Charles Abrams Scholarship Selection Committee will review all applications. It will submit its recommendation for the award recipient to the APA for approval based on the following criteria:

- relative financial need among the nominees
- demonstration of an interest in and commitment to pursuing an academic curriculum leading to a career in the planning profession
- the applicant's statement of academic background, extra-curricular activities and reasons for believing an award would be justified

F. Administration of Award

Because of the limited amount of the Scholarship, the \$2,000 will be used to defray tuition costs. **Prior to the beginning of each term**, the APA shall forward one-half of the scholarship amount to the university to be credited toward the student's tuition charges, contingent upon receipt of a statement from the university affirming the student's continued good standing.

G. Scholarship Terms

The recipient is expected to participate as a full-time student in the planning degree program. If, for any reason, the student is unable to complete a term for which funding was granted, any refundable tuition up to the amount of the scholarship will be repaid to APA.

H. Application Check List:

- Cover letter (Optional)
- Letter of nomination from school
- One-two page essay written by the student
- Financial Aid Application
- Official transcripts - to be sent under separate mailing or in officially sealed envelopes
- Official copy of GRE scores, if required for admission to the school
- Certificate of independence (optional) as referred to on page 3, of the Financial Aid application

Deadline

*The deadline for the Charles Abrams Scholarship application materials is **April 30th**. The application must consist of original documents.(See section D of application) **Faxed or electronic documents will not be accepted.***

Mail completed applications to:

Charles Abrams Scholarship Program
Attn: Kriss Blank, Leadership Affairs Associate
American Planning Association
122 S. Michigan Ave., Ste. 1600
Chicago, IL 60603-6107