

THE 2014 BEAGLE II AWARDS



The Anthropology Department is pleased to offer the Beagle II Awards for the summer of 2014, open to *Stanford undergraduates of all years and majors*. Awards of up to \$7000, or shared awards of up to \$11,000, will be made to the best three or four proposals for a summer “voyage” (defined here as travel of any kind) of scientific discovery to any appropriate location in the world. ***Applications are due by email (see details below) no later than Saturday, February 15, 2014.***

Purpose

The primary purpose of Beagle II Awards is to promote scientific discovery and exploration by Stanford undergraduates who possess a strong intellectual curiosity, a passionate interest in a particular subject, and a keen spirit of intellectual adventure. The award takes its name from the *H.M.S. Beagle*, the ship that carried Charles Darwin on a voyage of scientific discovery around the world from 1831 to 1836. Darwin began his voyage at the age of 22, soon after completing his Bachelor of Arts degree at Cambridge University. The natural phenomena Darwin observed on the voyage eventually prompted a radical change in his thinking about living organisms, providing major inspiration for his theory of evolution. In similar manner, many researchers and scholars today have done some of their most creative, path-breaking work in their early years. The Beagle II Award aims to provide a parallel opportunity to research-minded undergraduates—an opportunity to cultivate and act upon scientific curiosity outside the bounds of the standard curriculum and research resources. We also hope that the Beagle II experience will encourage students to take greater responsibility for their education, preparing them for independent scholarly challenges and discoveries in graduate school, professional school, and beyond.

Award

From one to four students will receive up to \$7000, or in the case of shared awards up to \$11,000, to be used for travel and study costs for a voyage of scientific discovery, as well as for summer earnings replacement. The voyage *must last at least eight weeks*, and students *must return to the Stanford campus and enroll full-time for at least one quarter* upon completion of the voyage. Beagle II Awards have been specifically designed for summer study and travel, but applicants with good reasons to travel at other times (better weather in Southern Cone, etc.) should propose an alternative timetable and argue its merits. In all cases, travel must be completed by the end of winter quarter, 2014. This award cannot be used for institutional summer programs, such as Earthwatch, School for Field Studies, or for formal language instruction. Moreover, the Beagle II cannot be used for travel to or work in a country with a current US State Department Travel Warning. Preference will be given to proposals that creatively integrate travel into the design of study and research, but that also show a *realistic, unhurried schedule that allows time for thoughtful good work and local interaction*. Beagle II stipend payments can be arranged as early as spring break this year, to cover advance purchase of discount air tickets and the like.

Expectations

As a requirement of funding and for the final \$500 per person of the award, each Beagle II recipient is expected to submit a Final Report equivalent to twenty pages of text by the end of the first full academic quarter following return from travel (i.e., normally mid-December). The report can be submitted in a variety of styles and media--as a website dedicated to your "voyage," for example, or as a video documentary, a written research report, a photo essay for your hometown newspaper, or sections from your own journal. In whatever form it takes, the report should include the equivalent of at least a page or two on personal growth (i.e., what you learned about yourself along the way). In addition to the Final Report, awardees will normally be asked to present highlights of their summer experiences at subsequent informational meetings for prospective Beagle II applicants. We will also Awardees to play an active role in the selection of recipients for the next year of Beagle II awards.

Eligibility

All Stanford undergraduates—*of any year and any major*—are eligible to apply. Previous independent travel and research are not a requirement, but are often viewed as a "plus" by the Selection Committee. Beagle II recipients must return to the Stanford campus for at least one quarter of full-time study after completion of the voyage. Beagle II Awards may be combined with other departmental and university awards; check with the relevant departments and offices to be sure. Students may apply individually or jointly (i.e., as a team, for two awards) or to split one award (often viewed with favor by the selection committee). The Committee will consider awards of up to \$11,000 in the case of two or more students sharing the same voyage. If students intend to share one award, their application should make clear alternative sources of funding, received or pending, as may be needed to carry out the proposed plan of travel and study.

Further information on the Beagle II Awards, including examples of voyages, final reports from previous years, and some suggested readings and resource materials can be found at: www.stanford.edu/group/beagle2. Questions not addressed in this application packet or at the Beagle II web site can be directed to Anahid Sarkissian, Undergraduate Student Services Specialist (Anahids@stanford.edu, 50-51N), or Professor William Durham, Faculty Coordinator for the Beagle II, in 50-51C (with office hours normally 1:30 to 3:30 Thursdays).

Application Materials

To be considered for a Beagle II Award, please submit the following materials by email, as a single Word attachment, plus a .jpg picture file as explained below, by **February 15, 2014** to **both** Anahid Sarkissian, Undergraduate Student Services Specialist (Anahids@stanford.edu, Bldg 50-51N) **and** to Prof. Durham, eb.whd@stanford.edu. Applications will be treated as confidential, except for the autobiographical sketch and précis (item 1 below). They will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary Selection Committee of faculty, previous Beagle II awardees, and adults from the community at large.

1. **AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH AND PRECIS:** On a single “standard page” (i.e. double spaced, 10 or 12 point, standard font, one inch margins, 8.5 x 11 paper), please provide a one-paragraph autobiographical sketch and a one-paragraph précis of your proposed voyage and its goals. If the voyage includes two or more participants, please include a paragraph sketch for each on additional pages as needed. Please do the sketch(es) and précis with content and style that can be posted to the Web on the Beagle II site. Please include a digital photograph of each participant as a separate “.jpg” file: we will not post your photo online.

2. **PERSONAL ESSAY:** In no more than **TWO** standard pages (per participant), please tell us about one major instance of discovery in your past and how it affected you. What obstacles did you overcome along the way, and how? Are there connections between this past discovery and your Beagle II proposal? If so, please describe them briefly.

3. **VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY:** In no more than **THREE** standard pages, please describe the “voyage” of scientific discovery you propose (involving travel of any kind) and how it relates to your course of study in the natural or social sciences at Stanford. Please provide a title for your “voyage” (e.g., “Retracing Darwin’s Footsteps in the Southern Cone,” or “The Probable Route of the Earliest Americans,” or “Explorations in the Rift Valley” etc.), and describe at least two propositions or hypotheses that you would seek to test and document during your travels. *These hypotheses will be given special weight by Selection Committee in evaluating your proposal, so be sure to explain why they are interesting and important to you.* Discuss the methods you plan to use for collecting pertinent information and how and when you will analyze that information. Discuss also any special or unusual risks that your travels and research might entail—risks to you and/or to people who might help you along the way. (Please note: this request is for a preliminary assessment of risks. Later on, before you begin your Beagle II project, you will need to submit a “Human Subjects” application, if appropriate. Visit <http://humansubjects.stanford.edu/nonmedical/>). Last but not least, briefly describe the Final Report and/or other anticipated end products or outreach efforts that you would plan to complete by the end of the quarter after you return. Please bear in mind that the Selection Committee will favor proposals whose scientific focus is both realistic and feasible in the

time available. Avoid short stop-overs in many places; allow time to get adjusted, “take in,” and fully appreciate the places you wish to experience.

We also emphasize that the Beagle II Award is truly an award: it is an award honoring you, the applicant(s). It is an award honoring your accomplishments, your creativity, your pursuit of scientific discovery, and your spirit of adventure. It is *not* a grant, and although it may be paired with one or more grants at your discretion, please bear in mind these differences in the Beagle II. First, the Selection Committee will want to know how (in what ways) this is a genuine “voyage of discovery” for you. Especially if you have prior experience in the region of your ‘voyage,’ or with your general topic, the Committee will want to know what’s the “discovery” for you. Second, the Committee will want to be convinced that travel is somehow integral to your process of discovery—not just that you travel to this or that site, but that travel is part of the educational process of your “voyage.” Finally, although we *do* require a “final report” back from you, it can take *many* forms and can be quite creative. A straightforward research report is fine, but so are many other final products.

4. DETAILED ITINERARY: In no more than ONE additional standard page, please describe your proposed itinerary, identifying your estimated date of departure and return, listing the main destinations you would hope to visit, and defining your estimated length of stay in each place. Remember that the total period of travel should be *at least 8 weeks (56 days)*. As a general rule, the Committee likes to see proposals that include at least a few extra days of “break” for R&R in the middle. Please attach a map on a separate page showing the route you propose. Include the names and locations of any pertinent research centers, institutes, or contact personnel that you would plan to visit along the way. As a general rule, multi-site itineraries are a plus, particularly when woven into the discovery process and when at least a couple of weeks are spent at each significant location. Please include mention of something specific that you will give back to communities where you spend significant time, in recognition of their help (e.g., some kind of performance by you, culturally appropriate gifts, a presentation about your research, etc.) *Remember that the ideal Beagle II proposal integrates travel with the research and discovery process in creative ways.*

5. BUDGET. In no more than ONE additional standard page, please provide a budget of your estimated expenses, including travel, meals, lodging and anticipated research costs. Please note: this award is not intended to pay for the costs of major capital equipment (such as digital cameras, video recorders, specialized tape recorders, computers, etc.): if expensive special equipment is needed for your voyage of discovery, please describe how you will obtain or gain access to the necessary equipment in order to carry out your work. Some equipment--binoculars, headlamps, digital cameras, and the like--is available on loan from a small equipment pool maintained for this purpose by Prof. Durham: check with him on availability. If your voyage will require research permits, field station fees, or equipment of a more modest nature (e.g. special mountain gear, waterproof bags, etc) please include budget entries for these items. If you propose to share one award with one or more other students, be sure to give convincing evidence either that one award will suffice for your travel and study plans, or that you have—or are likely to obtain—additional research funding. Please explain what your “backup plan” will be if additional funding does not come through. **If your Beagle II plans would interfere with work for income that you would otherwise do this summer, you may include an entry for “summer earnings offset” in your budget. In that case, be sure to include a brief, confidential explanation of your need for summer earnings offset.**

6. **BACKGROUND AND PREPARATION.** In no more than ONE page per participant, please describe how your past and future course work at Stanford prepares you for the proposed voyage of discovery. Be sure to include: (A) a list of courses you have taken, or are taking currently, that specifically pertain to your voyage of discovery (please include year taken, Department, number and course title); (B) a description of language training you have had, or will have, pertinent to your travels, and/or a description of how you plan to work around any language barrier(s) that might affect your voyage; (C) a brief discussion about the advisor you have chosen to help you prepare for your voyage, including how long you have known this person, and any special expertise they may have for your voyage; and (D) a discussion of the specific steps you will undertake winter and spring of this year to further your preparation for this voyage, including the name and number of any preparatory course(s), such as Anthropology's "Pre-field Research Seminar." The Selection Committee looks favorably on applications that make a *specific commitment* to a course of study and preparation in the term before departure. Be sure to include your plans and timetable for applying for Human Subjects approval, if your research warrants such approval. Explain any other aspects of your training and background that have prepared you for such an undertaking.

7. Please attach a copy of an up-to-date RESUME and current undergraduate TRANSCRIPT (unofficial is OK) for each applicant.

8. Please put a COVER SHEET (see attached) for each applicant at the front of your application.

9. **FACULTY ADVISOR(S) STATEMENT.** Please include a short, signed statement from the main faculty member or members who will advise you on this project. The statement should indicate familiarity with and support of your proposal, as well as willingness to serve as your main advisor or consultant through to the end of your project. It should also explain how the faculty member's interests and expertise relate to your proposal. This need *not* be a full-scale letter of recommendation and it need not be confidential. The statement can be emailed separately to Anahid Sarkissian, Undergraduate Student Services Specialist (Anahids@stanford.edu, 50-51N, MC 2034), but **must be received by Friday, February 21, 2014** (a few days after your application is due). Applications lacking a faculty statement at the time of review are seriously disadvantaged.

COVER SHEET: 2014 BEAGLE II APPLICATION

Please submit this coversheet (one per applicant) as the first page(s) of your application. Please send the full application via email as a single Word attachment **no later than February 15, 2014** to Anahid Sarkissian, Undergraduate Student Services Specialist in Anthropology (Anahids@stanford.edu) and to Prof. William Durham at eb.whd@stanford.edu.

Title of Voyage: _____

Name: _____ Local Phone: _____

Major and Area of Concentration: _____

Year at Stanford: _____ Expected Date of Graduation: _____

Local Mailing Address: _____ Email: _____

Permanent Address: _____

I expect to enroll AND be in residence at the home campus for the following quarters of 2014-15:
(at least ONE quarter is required) ___ Autumn ___ Winter ___ Spring

CHECKLIST (Please check all of the following as they apply to you):

___ I am submitting a single Word document containing the following application materials:

___ Autobiographical Sketch and Précis, with Digital Photo (as .jpg file)

___ Personal Essay on Previous Discovery

___ Proposed Voyage of Discovery, including something to give back.

___ One-Page Itinerary, One-Page Budget

___ Background and Preparation

___ Resume and Undergraduate transcript(s)

___ Faculty Advisor Statement (need not be a full recommendation letter)

___ Included here.

___ Sent separately by Friday, FEBRUARY 21, 2014 to Anahid Sarkissian, Undergraduate Student Services Specialist (Anahids@stanford.edu, 50-51N, MC 2034)

___ Faculty Advisor's name, email address, and phone number:

___ I realize that all travel arrangements are fully my own responsibility.

___ I already have a passport valid for 6 months beyond my return date (as required by U.S. Law).

___ I will apply for (or renew) my passport well before my scheduled departure.

___ I understand that it is my responsibility to arrange for accident, illness, and equipment insurance (if applicable) for the time period of my travels.

___ I understand that it is also my responsibility to research and procure such immunizations or travel medicine as may be recommended or required for the places I will visit.

___ My plans ___ do/ ___ do not require Human Subjects approval. If required, I realize that it is my responsibility to apply well in advance of the time I would begin my travel and study.

___ If awarded a Beagle II, I am willing to take the following 3- to 5-unit prep course (number & name of course):

___ I agree to submit a Final Report equivalent to 20 pages or so of text by the end of my first quarter back on campus for the final \$500 of my award, and to speak about my Beagle II experiences at campus informational meetings for next year's applicants.

I hereby apply for a 2014 Beagle II Award. The information I have given in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

(Signed)