

MAFA Travel Scholarship Announcement

The Mount Athos Foundation of America (MAFA), newly founded in 2017 by the American Membership of the Friends of Mount Athos, is pleased to announce two scholarships (travel bursaries) of up to \$1000 each to support research projects related to Mount Athos. It is MAFA's preference to issue one grant to a man and one to a woman, provided that there are viable applications appropriate to the purposes of MAFA from both men and women.

Eligibility

Applicants must be conducting research related to Mount Athos that requires travel either to Mount Athos, or to a dependency of one of the Athonite monasteries, or to one or more institutions such as museums or research institutes essential to the completion of the applicant's research project.

What the Application Should Include

Applications should include:

- the completed MAFA application form
- a 500-1,000 word project description
- a project budget that includes itemized travel costs

The budget should be for the entire project, not just the travel covered by this award, and should indicate what parts of the project are covered by, or projected to be covered by, other funding sources. The project description should clearly state the objectives of the research to be conducted at the destination, and the significance of the project to contemporary research in the applicant's research field.

Appropriate Research Fields

There is no restriction on what fields of research will be supported. For example, they may be ones that are traditional for Mount Athos, like byzantine and post-byzantine history, art, architecture, musicology, diplomatics and manuscript studies; Eastern Orthodox theology, literature, hymnology, monasticism, monastic spirituality, patristic studies, etc. They may also be in scientific or social-scientific subject areas like botany, geology, forestry, anthropology or sociology, or an interdisciplinary field. This list is by way of example only; other fields of research are acceptable, as long as the project is focused on Mount Athos and the significance of the project to the applicant's field of research is made clear.

Obligations of Award Recipients

Applicants must commit to the following:

- to submit a confirmation of acceptance of the travel grant via an Acceptance Letter (provided by the Foundation along with its award notification) within thirty (30) days of receipt of the award notification.
- to prepare an illustrated final report suitable to presentation at the Byzantine Studies Association of North America (a 20-minute presentation) or other professional organization appropriate the applicant's research field (to be proposed by the applicant and approved by MAFA) appropriate to the content of the research project.
- to submit a printed version of the final report suitable for publication by MAFA or the Friends of Mount Athos in one of their annual publications or on the MAFA website.
- to submit receipts for travel expenses promptly following payment of those expenses, accompanied by an itemized explanation of those costs.
- to submit periodic financial and progress reports during the course of the project, the frequency and schedule of reporting to be determined, based on the length of the project time frame and/or the timing of reporting required by other grant agencies sponsoring the research project.
- to return to MAFA any unexpended funds at the close of the grant period.

Research Project Time Frame

The research project may be for any time period, but the dates of the travel funded by this award should be specified in the application. These dates may be changed later, if necessary.

Deadlines

The deadline for the submission of applications for MAFA travel grants for 2018 is **April 30, 2018** (based on the postmark or the dateline on electronically submitted applications. Awards will be announced by MAFA by **May 15, 2018**.

Related MAFA Policies

MAFA will issue an initial check to the recipient based upon the travel expenses projected in the recipient's application. MAFA will fund the *actual* costs of travel for the specified research project, up to a maximum of \$1,000. In any cases where the actual cost of travel as documented by receipts turns out to be less than what was initially projected in the application, the recipient of this award may be required to return the difference to MAFA.

If a recipient's situation changes in the course of the scholarship application process so that the recipient is no longer qualified to receive the scholarship, the offer of the MAFA scholarship will terminate.

If, in any given year, the Foundation does not receive an application that meets the Foundation's criteria for quality and viability (MAFA Scholarship Policy, Section V, Criteria for Selection) and clearly fulfills the charitable purposes of the Foundation, the Foundation will not issue an award.

Application packet includes:

- MAFA Scholarship Announcement for the current year
- Scholarship Application form
- MAFA Scholarship Policy
- MAFA Grant Agreement (contract)

Contact MAFA

Applicants may download the Application Packet from MAFA's temporary website:

www.athosfriends.org/mafa/

If you have questions after reading this announcement and the Travel Scholarship Application Packet, please contact the [MAFA Grants Administration Committee](#) via the MAFA temporary website.