



# DISTRICT GRANT SCHOLARSHIP CANDIDATE APPLICATION

This application may be used by clubs and districts to select global grant scholarship candidates. Scholar candidates should complete all sections of the application and return it to the sponsoring Rotary club or district.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

First name: Elizabeth

Family name: Stephani

Citizenship: United States of America

Date of birth: 12-08-1996

Gender:  Male  Female

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Email address: estephan@uwyo.edu

Street address or P.O. Box: 716 Ord St

City: Laramie

Postal code: 82072

Country: United States of America

Primary telephone: 303-917-8113

Secondary telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

List all the languages you speak, including your native language:

Language	Written Proficiency	Spoken Proficiency
Spanish	Intermediate	Intermediate
French	Beginner	Beginner

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

First name: Robert

Family name: Stephani

Relationship: Father

Email address: robertowenstephani@gmail.com

Street address or P.O. Box: 4821 S Clarkson St

City: Englewood

Postal code: 80113

Country: United States of America

Primary telephone: 303-917-4425

Secondary telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PRIOR EDUCATION**

List the two educational institutions you have most recently attended.

### **Most recently attended:**

Name of institution: University of Wyoming College of Law

Degree received: Juris Doctorate

Place of study: Laramie, Wyoming

Field of study: Law

GPA: 3.87

### **Previously attended:**

Name of institution: Smith College

Degree received: Bachelor of Arts

Place of study: Northampton, Massachusetts

Field of study: Government

GPA: 3.47

## **SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES**

In 2-3 short sentences, tell us your objectives for this scholarship (program of study/degree sought, [Rotary area of focus](#), etc.).

To gain local perspectives on environmental conflicts in Chile, I propose to study in Santiago, Chile at for January of 2022 at the Universidad Adolfo Ibanez in partnership with the University of Wyoming College of Law. I believe that learning from Chilean scholars and students will give me invaluable insights to propose a constitutional amendment that would balance multi-national corporate interests in the Chile with indigenous rights to natural resources. Specifically, this amendment would integrate the traditional environmental knowledge of the Mapuche people into the new Chilean constitution to promote peace and sustainable development.

In 200 words or less, please summarize your qualifications to receive this scholarship. (volunteer/work/academic experience, philosophy and perspective, etc.)

Prior to attending the University of Wyoming College of Law, I worked in Mamelodi, South Africa. While there, I wrestled with systemic injustice and racism as I met and befriended white, black, and colored South Africans. I listened to the narratives surrounding Mamelodi, which is a township formerly designated for black occupation by Apartheid legislation. Still today, Mamelodi is predominantly black, impoverished, and seldom visited by white South Africans. I experienced the legacy of the Apartheid government as some people warned me not to go, to hire a driver, to be careful. When I started to get to know the people of Mamelodi, however, I listened to new narratives. Words like “community,” “greatness,” and “devastated” stuck out as my former perceptions of danger, risk, and instability unraveled.

This experience inspired me to pursue a legal career focused on promoting peace. As an American, I could listen to the competing narratives in South Africa and begin to facilitate bridge building between communities. Eventually, the City of Tshwane, a local recycling business, church staff from a nearby congregation, and community activists came together to create a recycling initiative.

## **AREAS OF FOCUS**

What is your area of focus?

- Peacebuilding and conflict prevention
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Community economic development

Which goals of your selected area of focus will your scholarship activities support? Refer to the [Areas of Focus Policy Statements](#) for more information.

I will practice engaging the conflicting environmental interests in Chile by partnering with local organizations and universities. My studies and experiences will support a legal career in **promoting peace** between parties in conflict by exposing me to diverse legal philosophies in environmental peacebuilding.

How will you meet these goals?

I will take a course in comparative law at Universidad Adolfo Ibanez, covering topics of Human Rights Law in Chile and case studies of natural resource conflicts in South America. I will also intentionally engage with Chilean lecturers and students. Gathering local perspectives, I will study environmental conflicts specific Chile and propose solutions that promote peace between all stakeholders.

## **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

Provide the following information about the academic program you plan to attend:

Name of institution: University of Wyoming College of Law and Universidad Adolfo Ibanez

City: Santiago, Chile

Language of instruction: English

Website: <https://www.uwyo.edu/law/summer/chile/index.html>

Academic program: Comparative Law in Action

Academic program start date: 3-01-2022

Academic program end date: 14-01-2022

Planned departure date: 27-12-2021

Planned return date: 17-01-2022

List the classes you plan to take and provide any relevant links to information about the program. Explain how the program and courses align with Rotary's goals in the selected area of focus and your future career plans.

Comparative Law in Action

The Chilean Constitutional Convention elections in May of 2021 mark a pivotal moment for the country to recognize environmental resources as a public commodity. I propose incorporating Mapuche environmental perspectives into the new Chilean Constitution as an innovative solution to increasing Mapuche representation in the Chilean national government while promoting sustainable business practices in Chile. Many studies have documented the mistreatment of the Mapuche people, including construction of a hydroelectric dam on

Mapuche ancestral land.<sup>1</sup> Thoughtful and collaborative research that balances the interests and rights of the Mapuche people as well as international investors could create a framework for lasting peace in Chile.

How does your previous and current educational, professional, and/or volunteer experience align with Rotary's goals in the selected area of focus (500 words or less)?

In law school and through my professional and volunteer experiences, I have sought to promote peace through creative problem solving. One issue that has intrigued me for the past few years is the phenomenon of illegal dumping in impoverished communities. Five years ago in Pretoria, South Africa, I taught English and Speech & Debate for three weeks with the Mamelodi Initiative. Driving into the township of Mamelodi, I saw piles of burning trash pervade the local landscape. I'd never seen anything like it before and the issue remained on my heart long after I left.

As an undergraduate student, I built upon my firsthand experience in South Africa with academic coursework in environmental science and policy. I spent two years as a geological research assistant at Smith College and Harvard University and developed a deep appreciation for the environment and public spaces. During my junior year, I applied my academic and experiential knowledge as an intern for Bridges Weekly, a trade and sustainable development publication for the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development. My success as an intern stemmed from my ability to research and write articles on a weekly basis relating to international trade and global sustainable development efforts.

Upon graduating from Smith College, I was awarded the Ruth Tuttle Dietch Prize in International Studies to address the illegal dumping activity in Mamelodi. I spent four months working with local non-profits, civil societies, and local government officials to create a "Swap Shop" or social enterprise that incentivizes recycling while ethically distributing aid. Children and adults connected to the Thandanani Drop-in Centre, an organization started and supported by Mamelodi residents, could trade in recyclable material in exchange for school supplies. In turn, a local recycling company would buy the collected material, diverting waste from dumps and ensuring that Children have the tools they need to succeed in school. Government officials from the City of Tshwane, which encompasses Mamelodi, conducted a recycling workshop for Thandanani children while surrounding civil societies funded the Swap Shop's operations.

I left South Africa inspired to continue approaching problems with an open mind and eagerness to learn. This year, I applied these lessons in authoring an article entitled "Wind River Dumps: Trash to Treasure" for the Wyoming Law Review. I discussed efforts to eradicate the open dumps on the Wind River reservation as well as the conflicts between the Environmental Protection Agency, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Fremont County Waste District, Northern Arapaho tribe, and Eastern Shoshone tribe. Through

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<sup>1</sup> Zia Akhtar, *Mapuche Land Claims: Environmental Protest, Legal Discrimination and Customary Rights*, 20 INT'L J. ON MINORITY GROUP RTS. 551 (2013); Diane Haughney, *Defending Territory, Demanding Participation: Mapuche Struggles in Chile*, 39 LATIN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES 201 (2012); Heather Brady, *Native Community Fights to Defend Their Sacred River from Dam*, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (July 27, 2018) <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/sacred-san-pedro-river-dam-mapuche-chile>.

interviewing these stakeholders and researching the law, I ultimately offered waste-to-energy technology as a viable solution to illegal dumping that would benefit all interested parties. In South Africa and on the Wind River Reservation I sought to include all impacted parties in solution-focused discussion. Creative problem solving showcased in my experiences in South Africa and in-depth legal research on the Wind River Reservation, which required bringing together conflicting parties, aligns closely with the Rotary goal of promoting peace.

What are your professional and/or academic plans immediately after the scholarship period (500 words or less)?

I hope to secure a Federal Judicial Clerkship for the year immediately following my graduation from law school. I believe that in order to become a good international lawyer I must first work towards being a good lawyer generally. I can think of no better place than a judge's chamber to learn about good lawyering. As a clerk, I would be exposed to many different styles of legal writing reviewing legal briefs and motions prepared by seasoned legal practitioners. I would also be exposed to many areas of the law as I'd be involved in crafting decisions for cases involving issues in bankruptcy to public lands. Beyond wide exposure, I'd spend intentional time perfecting my legal writing and reading skills. In preparing bench memorandums and drafting decisions, I'd get continual feedback from a federal judge on best practice in legal writing and research. Therefore, to ensure that the knowledge I acquire in law school is maximized to promote peace, I will pursue a Federal Judicial Clerkship.

Following a Federal Judicial Clerkship, I plan to practice Energy, Environmental, and Natural Resource Law with Holland & Hart. This summer, I will work as a Summer Associate for the Holland & Hart Cheyenne Office and hope to gain greater exposure to environmental issues in Wyoming. I am interested in the intersection of protecting private property rights and utilizing natural resources effectively to benefit society. As a lawyer, I would like to explore creative solutions in balancing individual property rights, natural resource management, and the interest of the public. Holland & Hart represents a range of clients in the Energy sector and works to ensure proper environmental regulation compliance. Their pro-bono practice has included representing Indigenous communities in Wyoming on environmental issues. In 2013, for example, Holland & Hart ensured the EPA's approval to treat the Wind River Reservation as a state under the Clean Air Act. This significant regulatory change allows the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes greater autonomy and discretion in environmental permitting on their land. These are exactly the kinds of issues I hope to be involved in as an attorney. I believe that studying environmental conflicts in Chile will provide fodder for more in-dept, collaborative, and effective pro-bono work representing Indigenous communities in the future.

How do your long-term professional goals align with Rotary's goals in the selected area of focus (500 words or less)?

Long-term, I hope to bridge gaps between the developed and developing world, facilitate conflict resolution, and ultimately work towards building a more collaborative and peaceful world. I believe that the practice of environment and natural resource law is at the center of

collaboration between the developed and developing world. Therefore, I aim to spend my legal career promoting peace between these parties and thereby protecting our shared environment and natural resources.

As an undergraduate, I wondered about how to balance interests and rights to benefit society as a whole. I declared a major in government with a minor in environmental science and policy and began to explore water as a shared resource. During my semester abroad in Geneva, Switzerland, I worked as an Intern for the Bridges Weekly publication of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development. I wrote on various topics including a coming trade deal between Indonesia and Australia, New Zealand and Australia's next steps in the Trans Pacific Partnership, and the global shift toward banning the domestic sale of ivory. My weekly articles culminated in a 23-page research practicum entitled "South Africa's Global Status and Water Sustainability" where I explored water management and economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Upon graduating from Smith College, I narrowed down the law schools I'd apply to, and was ecstatic to attend my first choice: the University of Wyoming College of Law. I could think of no better place to learn environmental and natural resource law, where public lands are abundant and resources plentiful. In coming to law school and finishing my first semester, Property Law unsurprisingly captured my attention and quickly became my favorite class. I'm so grateful for a space to consolidate my questions about resource allocation and correlative rights, while gaining the legal acumen to contribute to the energy industry in the future. Almost immediately, I joined the Rural Law Center. Even just by gleaning the surface of the challenges in balancing private property rights and the development of migration corridors for wildlife, I am committed to pursuing legal questions pertaining to property, resource management, and energy.

Therefore, I am seeking training from the Universidad Adolfo Ibanez to supplement the content I'm learning in Wyoming. In my legal career, I'd like to facilitate environmental collaboration, similar to creating the Thandanani Swop Shop, but on a much larger scale. We all have something to offer and everything to gain by collaboratively pursuing the long-term goal of environmental stewardship. I want to spend my career opening doors for underrepresented people to be heard so that solutions can be reached and peace promoted. As an attorney, I want to facilitate communication between groups that offer radically different perspectives to achieve more innovative solutions to environmental issues and promote peace.

## **BUDGET**

Select the local currency for your budget and enter the current rate of exchange to 1 U.S. dollar.

Local currency: \_\_\_\_\_ Exchange rate to 1 USD: 0.71

Detail your proposed expenses. Note that the total budget must be equal to the total financing of your scholarship grant amount. Attach any documents, such as price sheets, bids or estimates, to support the expenses listed.

#	Description	Category	Local cost	Cost in USD
1:	Tuition	Tuition	\$ 2,173.00	\$ 2,173.00
2:	Program fees	Accommodations	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
3:	Airfare to Santiago	Travel	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
4:				
5:				
6:				
7:				
8:				
9:				
10:				
11:				
12:				
13:				
14:				
15:				
Total				\$ 6,173.00

**FINANCING**

The scholarship amount is US\$XX,XXX. You are personally responsible for all expenses in excess of the scholarship amount. Please list and describe your sources and sufficiency of addition funds that will cover the balance of your budget:

I will apply for a Center for Global Studies research grant that would reach a maximum amount of \$2,500. I will also apply for a Cheney grant that would reach a maximum amount of \$1,000. Any amounts that are not covered either through the Cheney of Center for Global Studies grants will be covered through student loans or through income saved from my summer internship at Holland & Hart LLP.