



## The Studenski Memorial Award

The Studenski Memorial Award is a grant of up to \$6000 established in the memory of Paul Studenski, a Caltech student who was killed in an automobile accident while traveling across the United States in 1974. It is awarded to a Caltech undergraduate who having reached a crossroads in life and would benefit from a period away from the academic community to obtain a better understanding of self and to explore possible directions for the future.

<b>Applications Due:</b> April 8 <sup>th</sup> by noon	<b>Finalist Interviews:</b> Thursday, April 14 <sup>th</sup> between 3pm and 6 pm
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### Who is Eligible

- Applicants must be enrolled Caltech Undergraduate students in good academic standing.
- Applicants choosing an international destination must be 18 years or older. There is no age restriction for domestic destinations, however a parent/guardian will be expected to sign a waiver.

### What is required of Recipients

- Meet with Y staff to review and sign a contract outlining expectations and deadlines
  - Coordinate and complete the proposed experience as outlined and approved. If your plans change, please notify Y staff as soon as possible.
  - Submit a 1-2 page report sharing what was learned / gained from the experience, along with pictures, that can be shared with donors, and used for reports and promotional materials.
- Recipients may also be asked to provide an optional presentation summarizing the experience to members of the Y Staff, Board of Directors, and/or donors, as well as interested students as available.

### Proposal Guidelines

If you are an interested Caltech undergraduate who is in good academic standing, you should submit the itemized budget form with anticipated expenses and an application that provides:

- Demographic information
- A concise written narrative describing the “crossroad” in which you find yourself, what you are proposing to do and how what you are proposing will help you find clarity. Consider the following questions when articulating your proposal: What are the choices you face? How will time away from Caltech and the academic community help you better understand yourself and your future plans? How will you use this award to explore the world outside of Caltech and your home? How will this award help to expand your horizons?
- Added details, if travel is proposed
- Acknowledgement of the agreements that recipients will be expected to sign

### Application and Selection Process:

- A review committee consisting of Caltech Y Board Members, students, faculty and staff will review proposals, nominate and interview finalists, select the recipients, and determine award amounts based on need, and funding available. Partial funding may also-be offered.
- Awardee(s) cannot hold multiple travel awards (e.g. Bishop, San Pietro, ACT, etc).

## What Awardees Receive

- Awardees may request up to \$6,000 to cover expenses for the educational experience, including registration and program fees, travel, lodging, food and incidentals. The selection committee will determine award amounts based on need, and funding available. Partial funding may also be offered.

## Questions?

The Caltech Y is here to help! Applicants with questions about the award or application process are encouraged seek input via phone 626-395-6163, email [caltechy@caltech.edu](mailto:caltechy@caltech.edu), or in-person at the Caltech Y.

## Past Recipients:

- 2022 47<sup>th</sup> Studenski Award Recipient – To Be Determined
- 2019 Jake Mattinson studied narrative-based scientific communication with Jet Propulsion Theatre in Italy
- 2019 Anise Rau studied Dance and Theatre in New York City
- 2018 Amanda Lin studied cooking in Japan
- 2017 Jessica Cheng studied ceramics in New York City
- 2016 Dan Ilyin studied improv with the renowned Second City Improv in Chicago.
- 2016 Mara Green volunteered with One Circle through the LA County Sherriff
- 2015 Alice Michel was a wildlife conservation volunteer with Operation Wallacea in South Africa.
- 2014 Margaux Lopez helped prototype exhibits at the Exploratorium in San Francisco.
- 2013 Teo Wilkening traveled for service and leadership development with NextGen Academy.
- 2011 Laura Decker trained and competed in fencing.
- 2010 Katie Brennan volunteered in a nutrition program in Malawi.
- 2009 Sara Hunt studied majority world technologies in Guatemala.
- 2008 Erin Flanigan volunteered on a traveling medical team in Tanzania.
- 2007 Elena Hartoonian studied the art of Flamenco dancing in Spain.
- 2006 Herschel Mukherjee studied environmental policy in Tunisia.
- 2005 Felicia Katz volunteered in a rural medical clinic in Nicaragua.
- 2004 Libin Zhang volunteered with a sea turtles project in Suriname.
- 2003 Iram Bilal studied filmmaking in England.
- 2002 Katie Homann volunteered in a rural medical clinic in Guatemala.

**Note:** The Studenski Award is not a paid vacation, a chance to get in touch with your roots, an opportunity to pad your resume, or a way to choose between two scientific career paths. It is also not a community service grant although doing service can be proposed if it helps you address the crossroad you face. **The Studenski Award is intended to help the recipient find clarity of purpose.**

- The Caltech Y reserves the right to revoke the award at any point due to safety and security concerns or changes in recipient eligibility or proposal.
- Awardee(s) cannot hold multiple travel awards (i.e. Bishop, San Pietro, etc.) during the summer and the SURF program does not allow students to have other commitments during the time of their SURF – even on evenings or weekends. Activities that occur before the SURF begins or after the SURF ends are eligible.