



Peter DeSimone Student Scholarship Program

“The Peter DeSimone student scholarship program put me in front of leaders in the responsible investing field, giving me friendly faces to reach back out to for advice, questions, collaborations, and ideas once I started my career.”

--Ali Edelstein, 2016 Scholarship Recipient

Overview

The Peter DeSimone Student Scholarship Program is offered by the US SIF Foundation in collaboration with its Diversity and Inclusion Initiative. Up to ten undergraduate or graduate students who are committed to or interested in a career in sustainable, responsible and impact investment (SRI) can receive scholarships to cover the registration costs for the US SIF Annual Conference, ***A New Climate for Investing in Impact***, including Member Day (May 10-12, 2017). We encourage applications from the broadest possible candidate pool. These scholarships are made possible through the support of [Campbell Soup Company](#) and the [Calvert Foundation](#).

The scholarship program is named for Peter DeSimone, a 20-plus year veteran of the SRI community. Peter worked at the Investor Responsibility Research Center (IRRC) in the mid-1990s, initially focusing on South Africa’s post-apartheid transition. He was a US SIF staff member for several years, inaugurating the position of Policy Director, and helped launch our first conference. He also helped found the Sustainable Investments Institute (Si2), which provides impartial research to institutional investors.

The main objectives of the Scholarship Program are:

1. To encourage students to enter the field of sustainable, responsible and impact investment upon graduation; and
2. To provide an opportunity for students to learn directly from leaders and experts in the field of SRI, enhance their knowledge, network and make professional contacts with US SIF member firms and organizations as well as other institutions attending our conference.

Scholarship recipients receive:

- ✓ A scholarship for registration for US SIF’s Annual Conference in Chicago, IL – May 2017 (does not include transportation, housing or coverage of incidental expenses, but we will help pair you with another scholar if you wish to share a room); and

- ✓ A scholarship to attend US SIF Foundation's in-person course, *Fundamentals of Sustainable and Responsible Investment*, which will take place during the conference.

Who Should Participate

The Peter DeSimone Conference Scholarship is designed for undergraduate and graduate students that are:

- Enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate program at the time of application;
- In good academic standing; and
- Committed to a career in SRI. Background in sustainability, finance & investments or economics, preferred.

How to Apply

To apply, please complete the **US SIF Foundation Peter DeSimone Scholarship Program Application** (attached) by **Friday, February 17, 2017**. Applicants will be informed of the results by March 17. If you have any questions, please contact Alya Kayal at akayal@ussif.org.

About the US SIF Annual Conference

The US SIF Annual Conference offers a unique opportunity to network with leaders of sustainable and responsible investing, to hear from leading investors, CEOs and policymakers, and to learn about new approaches, trends and policy developments in the field. The conference attracts representatives of investment management and advisory firms, research firms, financial planners and advisors, broker-dealers, community development institutions and asset owners such as pension funds and foundations, along with policymakers and corporate leaders. More information about the event, and our past five conferences, can be found at www.ussif.org/conference.

About US SIF

US SIF: The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment is the leading voice advancing sustainable, responsible and impact investing across all asset classes. Our mission is to rapidly shift investment practices toward sustainability, focusing on long-term investment and the generation of positive social and environmental impacts. US SIF members include investment management and advisory firms, mutual fund companies, research firms, financial planners and advisors, broker-dealers, community investing organizations, nonprofit associations, and pension funds, foundations and other asset owners.

US SIF Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. The objective and purpose of the Foundation is to support the activities and purpose of US SIF, its sole member, by assuming the responsibilities for, and the management of, certain educational, research and programmatic activities.

Additional information can be found at www.ussif.org.



Peter DeSimone Student Scholarship Application

US SIF invites you to apply for a Peter DeSimone Student Scholarship. Be a part of this unique opportunity to gain knowledge and skills in the sustainable, responsible and impact investment industry. We invite applications from a diverse candidate pool.

Eligibility

Eligibility to apply for a US SIF Foundation fellowship is limited to those who are:

- Currently enrolled in an accredited college or university program, at the undergraduate or graduate level, at the time of application;
- In good academic standing, as determined by grade point average, class rank, honors or other designations; and
- Committed to a career in SRI.

Benefits

- ✓ A scholarship for registration for US SIF's Annual Conference in Chicago, IL – May 2017 (does not include transportation, housing or coverage of incidental expenses, but we will help pair you with another scholar if you wish to share a room); and
- ✓ A scholarship to attend US SIF Foundation's in-person course, *Fundamentals of Sustainable and Responsible Investment*, which will take place during the conference.

Application Process

In order to apply, each eligible student or recent graduate must submit the following documents:

1. [A completed scholarship application form \(available on \[ussif.org\]\(http://ussif.org\) under "Conference"\)](#)
2. Resume or a curriculum vitae
3. A Personal Statement, no longer than two pages, which addresses previous accomplishments, outlines future career goals, describes your commitment to SRI and includes personal, academic, employment or other life experiences relevant to sustainable and responsible investment
4. Transcript (Unofficial transcript accepted)
5. List of two references with contact information

Applications are due via email to Alya Kayal (akayal@ussif.org) by midnight EST on February 17, 2017. Late applications will *not* be accepted. **No phone calls please.**

General Timeline:

December 22, 2016 – Application window opens.

February 17, 2017 – Applications are due by Midnight Eastern.

March 17, 2017 – Candidates will be notified if they have received a scholarship.

May 10-12, 2017 – US SIF Conference takes place in Chicago, IL.

Criteria for Selection

Applications will be evaluated by US SIF Foundation staff based upon a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the strength of the personal statement, interview skills and commitment to a professional career in this field. Potential candidates may be interviewed by US SIF Foundation staff via phone. **Scholars are expected to attend the entire conference.**

US SIF is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate in employment opportunities or practices on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, age, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Application Form

1. Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Gender: _____

Citizenship: _____

Ethnicity: _____

Name of College or University: _____

Major:

Minor:

Date of Graduation:

Cumulative GPA: _____

Do you currently have a job? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please indicate if full-time or part-time and the name of your employer:

The conference runs from approximately 9 AM on Monday, May 10th to 4 PM on Wednesday, May 12th. To obtain a scholarship, you must be able to attend the entire event. Will you be able to attend the entire conference?

Yes ___ No ___

2. **Personal Statement** (not to exceed two-pages, double spaced) that describes the applicant's background and experience, previous accomplishments, future career goals and commitment to SRI, as well as academic, employment or other life experiences relevant to sustainable and responsible investment.

3. **Resume or curriculum vitae (please attach)**

4. **Transcript (please attach or indicate if it will be sent separately via your university)**

5. Names and contact information of two references who are acquainted with your academic or professional work.

a) _____

b) _____

I hereby certify that the answers and statements contained in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and that this application is my own work. I also certify that I will attend the entire event May 10-12 and I will arrive to all sessions on time.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

**Application deadline: Midnight Eastern Time
February 17, 2017**