



LEX Language Project

Kumi Greissman Exchange Scholarship

Purpose: The Kumi Greissman Exchange Scholarship -- established in 2003 in honor of the memory of Kumi Greissman -- promotes intercultural friendship and understanding as well as language acquisition by helping LEX Language Club members in the U.S. to participate in international exchange programs. These exchanges have two objectives:

1. Language acquisition

Although it is possible to acquire languages through LEX without traveling, homestay travel is a strong catalyst that speeds and deepens the language acquisition process. In addition to benefits felt by the exchangee, other members of her or his club receive similar, though less direct, benefits.

Because humans acquire languages from others, when exchangees stay with host families they are able to take the sounds of that language, which they have stored up inside from listening to the LEX audio materials, and really understand their meaning and make them part of themselves. Even a short homestay has this effect. Language acquisition continues even after returning home, as experiences and language heard in the host family are remembered. Exchangees are able to share what they have learned with other members.

2. Friendship and understanding across cultures

While there are clear language-acquisition benefits of exchanges, perhaps more important is the opportunity to increase friendship and understanding across cultures. This benefits not only the exchangee and her or his family, but also other members in the clubs in the area and the club as a whole.

To these ends, scholarship recipients are expected to actively participate in their club both before the exchange (while preparing for the exchange) and after (to share the benefits of their experiences).

The guidelines are subject to change if we see that the purpose of the scholarships is not being fulfilled.

1. Eligibility:

a. Regular paying member (or included in the family membership) of any U.S. club who has been a regular member (not frozen or long distance) for at least six months (at least two of these months must immediately precede the month of the exchange). The member must be a regular paying member the month(s) of the exchange, and for at least two full months following the exchange. Fellows and staff with at least six months active participation with LEX are also eligible.

AND

b. the individual has not received the scholarship in the calendar year of the exchange or in the previous calendar year. The scholarship is considered to be received on the first date that direct travel out of the country as part of the exchange is scheduled to begin.

2. Amount of the Scholarship:

Up to one-half the program fees per member (depending on available funds).

3. Eligible Exchanges

The scholarship is applied only towards the cost of an eligible exchange. Eligible exchanges are to countries other than the U.S., operated out of the LEX America office, and include airfare and program fees, among other costs. LEX America reserves the right to define an eligible exchange.

4. Post-Exchange Report

All recipients of the exchange scholarship are required to report back to their Club about their experiences (in age-appropriate ways).

LEX America / LEX Language Project does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age or handicap.