PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

Westminster Seminary California is committed to preparing men and women for gospel service in the United States and around the world. We believe there is great need for training pastors and teachers from foreign countries who will then be able to return to their home countries to strengthen the ministry of their churches. We also recognize the financial challenges international students face in coming to the United States for the purpose of study. Recognition of these facts led to the establishment of the International Student Aid Fund for nonimmigrant students who plan to return to their country of origin after completing their degree.

AMOUNT AND SCOPE OF THE AWARD

The Financial Aid Committee can provide only a few awards ranging from 25-100% of tuition to international students for each academic year. Awards are limited to actual tuition and fees incurred at Westminster Seminary California (WSC). Awards do not cover books, housing, food, local transportation, personal incidentals or any additional expense incurred by the student or the student’s dependents. All international students must provide evidence of sufficient financial resources to cover their expenses for at least one year and have a reasonable expectation that they will be able to cover expenses for the remaining year(s) of their degree program.

This award does not provide for any transportation from/to the country of origin. Nor does it cover the cost of health insurance which is required for International students.

Awards from the International Student Aid Fund are provided in the form of a loan. When a student returns to their home country, the loan is forgiven at a rate of one year of financial support per year of ministry. If the student desires to minister in a country other than the country of origin he/she may petition the Financial Aid Committee to approve such a ministry as fulfilling the loan obligations. Under no circumstances may ministry in the United States be approved as meeting that obligation. Upon approval by the WSC PDSO, a student may be allowed to complete an Optional Practical Training prior to returning to their home country. If a student does not return to their country of origin and does not receive approval from the Financial Aid Committee to minister elsewhere in fulfillment of his loan obligations, the student will be expected to repay the loan in full twelve months after completion of his/her studies at Westminster Seminary California.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID FUND

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicants who have been admitted to the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) or Master of Arts (M.A.) program and intend to enroll full-time (12 academic units per semester) will be considered for this award. Due to the processing time associated with the Application for Admission, international students who intend to apply for financial aid must complete their Application for Admission by April 1 for the upcoming academic year.

- The WSC Financial Aid Coordinator must receive the completed Westminster Application for International Student Financial Aid by April 15. Applicants can expect a response from the WSC Financial Aid Committee regarding their decision by May 1. If funds are available, late applications may be considered on a case by case basis at the discretion of the WSC Financial Aid Committee.

- Applicants for the International Financial Aid Fund award must plan to complete their M.Div. in 3 years or their M.A. in 2 years. To complete the degree in the prescribed time frame, it is generally necessary for students to begin their studies with Greek I in the summer term (beginning mid-July each year). Students who intend to begin in the spring semester will not be considered for the International Financial Aid Fund.

- To receive the award, applicants must meet all requirements outlined in the WSC Academic Catalogue pertaining to international student applicants and must be eligible for the F-1 Student Visa. Awarding an International Student Aid Fund scholarship does not guarantee that the recipient will be issued a Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status (Form I-20) from WSC which is necessary to obtain an F-1 Student Visa. Because awards from this fund are intended for students planning to return to their home country, awards are only available to students applying for an F-1 Student Visa.

- Returning students who have been granted an award from the International Student Aid Fund for their first academic year may re-apply for the award in successive years. Renewals are generally limited to 2 years for the M.Div. and 1 year for the M.A. Renewals are based on the following conditions:
  
  o Submission of a WSC Application for International Student Aid by April 15 each year
  o Maintenance of a minimum cumulative 2.3 grade point average
  o Continued enrollment as a full-time student with satisfactory academic progress
  o Eligibility for an F-1 Student Visa
Westminster Seminary California must receive this signed agreement no later than June 1 for an International Student to enroll in the fall semester. WSC will not issue your Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status (Form I-20) until this form has been received by the Director of Enrollment Management. All forms should be returned to the following address:

Director of Enrollment Management  
Westminster Seminary California  
1725 Bear Valley Pkwy  
Escondido, CA 92027

Please read carefully and sign the form below.

1) I understand that this award has been provided to me on the condition that I will return to my home country upon the completion of my studies. Failure to do so obligates me to repay all tuition and fees covered by this award.

2) I understand that this award is only applicable to my actual tuition and fees at Westminster Seminary California and will not exceed the amount designated on the financial aid award letter provided by the Financial Aid Committee.

3) I understand that any tuition and fees not covered by the International Student Aid Fund or other WSC financial aid resources as well as the cost of travel to and from the United States and living expenses for me and my dependents are my responsibility or my sponsor’s.

4) I understand that this award does not guarantee that I will be eligible for an F-1 Student Visa. I understand that I am required to submit all documentation required by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (outlined in WSC Academic Catalogue) before Westminster Seminary California can issue a Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status (Form I-20). This includes submitting documents such as bank statements, affidavits of support, or donor pledge forms certifying that I have sufficient financial resources to cover my cost of attendance at Westminster Seminary California.

5) I understand that the International Student Aid award is determined on an academic year basis, that I must reapply each academic year, and that I must meet the renewal criteria. I also understand that failure to meet these requirements may forfeit my award and jeopardize my eligibility for the F-1 Student Visa.

6) I understand that I am required to carry health insurance for myself and any dependents that accompany me. This cost is my responsibility or my sponsor’s.

I have read, understand, and agree to all of the above provisions related to the International Student Aid Fund award.

Applicant Signature ___________________________ Date ____________

Applicant Name (printed or typed) ___________________________