



THOMAS & RUTH RIVERS INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Invitation

Final year graduate and undergraduate students in Leisure Studies, Recreation, Leisure Services, Leisure Resources and Tourism Studies.

Apply for the

THOMAS AND RUTH RIVERS
INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Participate in the

2025 World Leisure Congress
Breda, The Netherlands

Sponsored by

World Leisure Organization (WLO)
Taylor & Francis (T&F)

Application Deadline:

May 23rd, 2025 23:59 Central European
Time (CET)

Introduction

The Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award was established in 1970. The Scholarship is awarded biennially in conjunction with the World Leisure Congress. Funding for the scholarship is provided by World Leisure Organization, sponsorships, and individual contributions.

Purpose

The Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award is intended to provide opportunities for senior or graduate students, who are studying recreation, leisure studies, leisure services, leisure resources or tourism studies in college or university programs, to attend and present a scholarly paper at the biennial international World Leisure Congress. The focus of the paper should be on any aspect of recreation, leisure and/or tourism from a worldwide perspective. It is envisioned that students will gain a broader perspective of world leisure, recreation and tourism trends, issues, philosophies and problems. Upon return to their respective institutions, the scholarship recipients are expected to share their experiences with fellow students, colleagues and professors.

The Scholarship

The Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award provides the scholarship recipient the opportunity to attend and participate in an international congress. The recipient is provided a world-wide forum for the presentation of a scholarly paper.

The scholarship recipient is awarded a scholarship of **USD \$1.000** to cover the costs associated with attending the 2025 World Leisure Congress to be held in Breda, The Netherlands, from August 25th to 28th, 2025. The recipient will also receive **free registration** to the Congress, and **Premium Student Membership** for 2025-2026.

The scholarship recipient is expected to provide the funds to cover additional costs.

Eligibility

To be eligible as the scholarship recipient, the applicant shall:

1. be a final year graduate or undergraduate in a college or university program, from any country of the world, with a major in recreation, leisure studies, leisure services, leisure resources or tourism studies
2. have a cumulative grade point average of: 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, if an undergraduate, or 3.8 on a 4.0 scale, if a graduate
3. be recommended by two faculty members in his or her college or university department
4. have exhibited interest in recreation, leisure and/or tourism internationally
5. have had either volunteer or paid work experience in the recreation/leisure services or tourism fields
6. be a member of World Leisure Organization (go to <https://www.worldleisure.org/become-a-member/> to join under the free membership)

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7. submit an abstract through the 2025 World Leisure Congress website. If not done yet, follow these steps:

- Access the 2025 World Leisure Congress website: <https://worldleisurenl.com/>
- Scroll down and click on the "Submit your abstract here" button
- Create a new account at the Call for abstracts portal
- Follow the instructions given and fulfill the required information

**Please note that Abstracts must be clearly written in English and be a maximum of 300 words excluding the title and authors.*

8. if the college or university does not have a major in recreation, leisure studies/services or tourism, the applicant shall obtain a letter from his or her major professor indicating the major area of study as such; and

9. if the college or university does not require course work, the applicant shall obtain from his or her major professor, a letter indicating the applicant's required learning/research activities and a performance evaluation of the applicant.

Selection of Recipients

After reviewing the application and supporting material of each scholarship applicant, the final selection of the recipient will be made by the Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee. Selections will be made without regard to race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. Alternates will be designated in the event the successful applicant is not able to attend the Congress.

Application Procedures

Students applying for the Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award shall:

1. Complete Part I of the Application Form and submit the Supplemental Documentation requested in Part II of the application.
2. Submit your abstract along with their application, adhering to the [WLC 2025 Abstract Submission Guidelines](#). The TRRIS Committee will then evaluate the submitted abstracts together with the full application.
3. Submit the Faculty Validation of Student Applicant form (see page 4) to a faculty member or advisor in the student's college/university department and request that it be completed and emailed to the Program Manager of the Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee, along with a letter from the student's major professor.
4. Email the Scholarship Application Form and all supporting documentation to:

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World Leisure Organization is a non-profit organization registered in the State of New York
WLO Scientific and Technical Office, Calle Arenal 1, Segunda Planta, 48005 Bilbao, Spain
Contact: (phone) +34 94 605 6151, (email) secretariat@worldleisure.org, www.worldleisure.org



Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award
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Cari E. Autry, PhD., LRT/CTRS

Program Manager, Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee
Department of Recreation Sciences
2403 Belk Building; Mail Stop 540
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858-4353
AUTRYCA18@ECU.EDU

Please put World Leisure Organization Secretariat in CC when e-mailing the application documents:

secretariat@worldleisure.org

Dates:

Submission deadline : May 23rd, 2025 23:59 Central European Time (CET).

Sponsor

The Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award is sponsored by the World Leisure Organization (WLO) and Taylor & Francis (T&F). The WLO is a world-wide non-governmental membership organization dedicated to improving individual and collective well-being through recreation and the positive use of leisure.

The WLO has consultative status with the United Nations and performs its services globally through cooperation with other international associations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, affiliated regional associations and national organizations in more than 100 countries.

The World Leisure Organization membership is open to all concerned persons and to public, voluntary, private, professional and corporate organizations. For further information about the World Leisure Organization or an application for membership, write to:

World Leisure Organization (WLO)

Scientific & Technical Secretariat
Arenal 1, Segunda Planta, 48005 Bilbao, Spain
E-mail: secretariat@worldleisure.org
Web Site: www.worldleisure.org

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Taylor & Francis curates high-quality peer-reviewed research from leading experts in specialisms across Science, Technology & Medicine and Humanities & Social Sciences. We have a range of highly regarded imprints, including Routledge, CRC Press, F1000, Taylor & Francis and Dove Medical Press.

For more information of Taylor & Francis, please visit its website: <https://www.tandfonline.com/>

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FACULTY VALIDATION OF STUDENT APPLICANT

Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award

This document is to be completed by faculty members in the applicant's department and emailed, with the written evaluation, to the Program Manager of the Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee at the address below.

Cari E. Autry, PhD., LRT/CTRS

Program Manager, Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee
Department of Recreation Sciences
2403 Belk Building; Mail Stop 540
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858-4353
AUTRYCA18@ECU.EDU

Name of Applicant:	
Dept/Program:	
Educational Institution:	
Institution Address:	

1. During the 2025 academic year, this scholarship applicant:

1. is a ☐ senior ☐ master's student ☐ doctoral student
2. has _____ as a major area of study
3. has a cumulative grade point average of _____ on a _____ point scale
4. has completed _____ credits towards his/her degree.

2. Please write an evaluation to address the following:

1. the applicant's ability and motivation to profit from participation in an international congress

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2. the applicant's ability to write and present a scholarly paper at an international congress, and
3. the applicant's potential to meaningfully interpret his or her experience to others. Also, please outline how the department will facilitate this interpretation.

3. How would you rank this student in comparison with other students in the recreation, leisure studies/services, resources or tourism program at the same level of study? Please rank applicant from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest rank:

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

4. It is desirable that this validation represent the opinions of at least two (2) faculty members. The information furnished will be given considerable weight by the Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee. All information will be treated in a confidential and professional manner.

This validation was prepared by:

Name:	
Title:	
Signature:	
Date:	

Name:	
Title:	
Signature:	
Date:	

APPLICATION FORM

THOMAS AND RUTH RIVERS INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Students must complete Part I and submit supplemental documentation as outlined in Part II.
 Please read eligibility requirements before submitting application.

PART I

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
E-mail Address:	
Name of Educational Institution:	
Name of Department/Program:	
Institution Address:	
Matriculated for degree of:	
Major area of study:	
Number of credits completed toward degree:	
Years attending this institution:	

1. List other post-secondary educational institutions attended, and degrees received:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

2. List honors, awards, and foreign language skills:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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3. List vocational preferences in order of choice:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

4. Will you be able to provide funds to cover transportation to and from appropriate departure point, meals and local transportation at the Congress and miscellaneous personal expenses?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Name two recreation or tourism professionals familiar with your accomplishments. Ask each to write a letter of recommendation, indicating your professional qualifications and personal characteristics and how you will benefit from participation in an international Congress. The letters of recommendation are to be emailed to the Program Manager of the Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee.

Name:	
Title:	
Address:	

Name:	
Title:	
Address:	

PART II

Each scholarship applicant is required to submit the following supplemental documentation:

1. A personal letter addressed to the Program Manager of the Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee to include the following:

1. how you became interested in recreation, leisure or tourism internationally
2. how you expect to benefit from attending an international congress

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3. how you expect to share the benefits of this experience with others at your institution
 4. what you hope to gain from your education in recreation, leisure services/studies, resources or tourism
 5. how you will use the experiences gained from attendance at the congress to enhance your professional growth and development
 6. any other additional information that will enable the Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee to judge your professional, scholastic and personal qualifications.
2. A list of current and previous employment and volunteer experience. Please indicate name and location of agencies, title of position and number of years at agency.
3. In addition: make certain the form, Faculty Validation of the Student Applicant, and your two references from recreation professionals are emailed to the Program Manager of the Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee.

I understand that the Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee cannot assume responsibility for scholarship applications or documents received after the indicated deadline date or for the loss or delay of applications, references, and that the Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee will not consider incomplete applications. I declare that all of the information contained in this application and the supplemental documentation are true and accurate.

Signature of Scholarship Applicant Date

Email Part I and Part II of the Application Form, together with the abstract, including the supplemental documentation, to the Program Manager of the Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee at the address below:

Cari E. Autry

Program Manager, Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship Award Committee
Department of Recreation Sciences
2403 Belk Building; Mail Stop 540
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