

# JOHN W. KURTICH FOUNDATION TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS OVERVIEW

## **Q. Who is John Kurtich?**

An invaluable member of the SAIC faculty from 1968 to 2004, John W. Kurtich, former William Bronson and Grayce Slovet Mitchell Endowed Chair, held a Bachelor's degree in Theater and Cinematography (UCLA), Bachelor's in Architecture (UC Berkeley), and an M.S. in Architecture and Urban Design (Columbia University). He also studied at the St. Louis Conservatory of Music. He taught filmmaking, environmental design, interior architecture, architecture, art history, and performance. Professor Kurtich was instrumental in bringing an interdisciplinary approach to SAIC's curriculum, and especially to the Department of Interior Architecture, a department whose title is derived from a book he co-authored with fellow SAIC Professor Garrett Eakin.

Professor Kurtich had an avid interest in archaeology and participated in yearly excavations as the staff architect to NYU's archaeological expedition in Samothrace, Greece. He was a licensed architect, an accomplished pianist, a gourmet cook, a photographer, and a theater producer. As an artist and thinker, he linked the ancient past with the present through a poetic blending of media.

His work, travels, and eagerness to learn and live fully touched his colleagues, friends, and three decades of students, many of whom described John as their intellectual inspiration.

## **Q. What are the Kurtich Scholarships?**

The scholarships are up to 18 awards of \$5,000 awarded each year (usually nine pre term) to selected students—Kurtich Scholars—who participate in international SAIC faculty-led study trips during the winter or summer terms.

## **Q. Who is eligible?**

Full-time degree-seeking students planning to register for any of SAIC's international faculty-led study trips may apply for the scholarship to assist with costs. The study trip class must be taken for credit towards a degree.

Applicants must also meet all academic and all other requirements for study trip participation.

## **Q. Do any students get preference in the selection process?**

The program is open to everyone. The scholarships are merit-based; however, preference will be given to AIADO and HPRES students.

## **Q. Who are AIADO and HPRES students?**

Graduates admitted to: MFA-INARC, MFA-DESOB, MFA-DET, MDDO, MARCH, MARCH/IA, and MSHP. Undergraduates admitted to BIA, and other undergraduate students who have taken multiple AIADO classes.

## **Q. Who selects the scholarships winners?**

A committee composed of SAIC faculty appointed by the Dean of Faculty.

## **Q. Is there an appeal process?**

No. The committee's decision is final.

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## ELIGIBLE STUDY TRIPS

### **Q. Which SAIC study trips apply to Kurtich Scholars?**

Only faculty-led study trips with international destinations.

### **Q. What if I haven't decided what trip I want to go on? Can I list more than one trip in my application?**

Your application should be for one trip only so you should make a definite plan before applying.

**Q. Can the scholarship be transferred to a different study trip or deferred?**

No. The scholarship is connected to the study trip in your application. If an awardee does not participate in the proposed trip, the scholarship is forfeited. You may re-apply for the next round of scholarships.

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## **APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE**

**Q. What is the application deadline?**

Deadlines for submissions are announced each semester. For winter study trips, the deadline is usually in mid-September; for summer trips it is mid-February.

**Q. What is the application process?**

Students from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) may apply for a Kurtich Scholarship for approved international winter or summer study trips only. Kurtich Scholarships do not cover exchange programs or any other off-campus classes.

Scholarships are open to:

- all graduate students
- undergraduate students who have completed a minimum of 30 credit hours at the time of their application.

All applicants must be degree-seeking students in good academic standing. Preference will be given to AIADO and HPRES students.

Applications require:

- 1) an online portfolio
- 2) 250-word travel proposal, and
- 3) online application form

Following the deadlines, a faculty committee will review the applications and select up to 9 finalists per term from among the applicants. All finalists will be presented to the Kurtich Foundation for approval.

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## **FINANCIAL**

**Q. When are Kurtich Scholars notified?**

Scholars are notified by email during the week prior to study trip registration.

**Q. Should students who apply for the John W. Kurtich Scholarship complete the Student Financial Services winter/summer institutional aid application?**

Yes. In the event you do not receive a John W. Kurtich Scholarship and are typically eligible for need-based and/or merit aid, the winter/summer institutional application is required to determine your eligibility for funds during the winter and summer terms. If you do receive a scholarship, you may also be eligible for additional financial aid (typically loan eligibility), depending on the costs associated with the trip and the number of hours you enroll in.

**Q. Can Kurtich Scholars be eligible for financial aid in addition to the \$5,000 award?**

Yes they should apply for financial aid as normal by completing online study trip pre-registration in Self-service. If a Kurtich Scholar's aid for the winter/summer term has already been packaged prior to the award, the aid will be re-calculated to include the scholarship. In some instances, this may result in an adjustment to certain funds in the initial award package.

**Q. How will I know the costs associated with the trips and whether or not I can afford to attend the trip, even with the John W. Kurtich Scholarship?**

Information on costs associated with study trips is available online as well as at the study trip information sessions offered through the Study Abroad office. The main expenses related to a study trip are tuition, program fees, airfare, and extra personal expenses not covered by the program fees. Financial aid award eligibility, including John W. Kurtich Scholarships will be available prior to the study trip registration period. Advisors in the Student Financial Services office can assist you in reviewing your budget for a study trip.

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## **KURTICH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: REGISTERING FOR THE STUDY TRIP & CHANGE OF PLANS**

**Q. Will the scholarship funds be available to Kurtich Scholars for the study trip deposit payment?**

No. The funds will not be added to your account until later in the semester so you must be prepared to pay the \$525 deposit to secure your place.

**Q. How do I register for the study trip to secure my Kurtich Scholarship?**

Your award notification will outline the process for you to register and secure your place. You will be allowed to register on the first day of online study registration. You confirm your place by paying your \$525 study trip deposit within 24 hours of registration.

IMPORTANT: Study trip places will not be held for scholarship awardees if they do not secure their places according to this timeframe.

**Q. What if my proposed study trip is cancelled by SAIC?**

The committee will consider your amended application to transfer to another approved study trip during the same term.

**Q. What happens if I withdraw from the trip after I have signed up?**

You will forfeit the scholarships funds. When you register you complete a form acknowledging that you are fully committed to the trip. If you subsequently wish to withdraw, any requests for refund of tuition or program fees must be made to the Refund Review Board (RRB). The RRB has the authority to determine whether a refund (if any) will be made. If your withdrawal comes too late to cancel reservations or to arrange for a replacement, you may still be charged up to 100% of the fees.

**Q. Is there anything else required before or after the study trip?**

Yes. As a Kurtich Scholar you are an embodiment of Professor Kurtich's legacy, so your study trip project should demonstrate one or more attributes of his industriousness, scholarship, refinement, and joie de vivre. Before departure, you will meet briefly with friends and colleagues of Professor Kurtich who will speak to his persona and sensibilities as a source of inspiration. You are required to document your work and will give a short presentation to members of the Kurtich family about your experience.