The Luce Scholars Program aims to enhance the understanding of Asia among potential leaders in American society. The program provides stipends, language training, and individualized professional placement in Asia for 15-18 Luce Scholars each year, and welcomes applications from college seniors, graduate students, and young professionals in a variety of fields. USC can endorse up to three applicants each year.

The program is unique in that it is intended for young leaders who have had limited experience of Asia and who might not otherwise have an opportunity in the normal course of their careers to come to know Asia. Successful candidates should have a record of high achievement, outstanding leadership ability, and clearly defined interests with evidence of potential for professional accomplishments.

**PHASE ONE**

- Research the Luce Scholars Program via its website and thoroughly read information about Eligibility and Criteria, the Application Process, Placement details, and FAQs.
- Begin a Luce Scholarship application online. The application is downloadable as a fillable PDF and requires a personal statement that discusses long-range career interests, an applicant’s understanding of leadership, and their reasons for applying to the Program.
- Request a meeting with AHF Director Erica Lovano McCann to discuss the application process.

**PHASE TWO**

- Request four letters of recommendation. Letters must be received in sealed and signed envelopes. See page 2 of this document for more details about recommendation letters.
- Request a follow-up meeting with the AHF Director to discuss progress.
- Submit the Luce Scholars application, four letters of recommendation, and an Official USC Transcript by the USC Campus Deadline: 4:30pm, Wednesday, October 14, 2015. Applicants must meet this deadline to be considered for USC endorsement which is required for Scholarship consideration. A passport photo is not required at this time. See page 2 of this document for more details on the endorsement process.

**PHASE THREE**

- Applicants who meet the conditions of eligibility as stated in the application materials will have their materials reviewed by USC’s Campus Endorsement Committee. Superb applicants will be invited to interview with the Committee for endorsement consideration. Interviews will be held October 19-20, 2015. See page 2 of this document for more details on the endorsement process.
- After receiving official USC endorsement, applicants will make final revisions and re-submit their paper application to STU 300 by 4:30pm, Tuesday, October 27, 2015. AHF will mail a hard-copy of each endorsed USC student’s materials in advance of the National Luce Scholar Deadline, November 1, 2015.

For more information, please contact:

USC Academic Honors and Fellowships
Erica Lovano McCann lovano@usc.edu
STU 300 (213) 740-6680
Academic Honors and Fellowships

USC Luce Scholars Competition

Recommendation Letter Instructions

- For the campus endorsement, applicants must request letters in sealed/signed envelopes so that they may be submitted by the applicant along with the other application materials by the campus deadline of October 14, 2015.

- Important: Only hard-copy letters received by the campus deadline will be reviewed by the campus endorsement committee. Applications that are not complete with all four required recommendation letters will be at a serious disadvantage in the campus endorsement process. Late recommendation letters will not be reviewed.

USC Endorsement Process

The Luce Scholars Program requires that universities endorse their applicants for the national Luce Scholarship competition. USC may endorse up to three applicants each year and applicants are strongly encouraged to prepare for their campus interview as if it were for official Scholarship consideration.

How to Prepare:

- Questions asked during the interview often reference application materials, an applicant’s capacity for leadership and/or personal achievements, and career interests and goals. Other questions may be related to knowledge of topics outside of the application process such as national or global affairs or an applicant’s non-academic interests.

- Additionally, if an applicant is not comfortable in an interview setting, AHF Staff and Career Center Counselors will arrange for a mock-interview.

USC and Luce Interviews:

- After an initial faculty review, superb applicants will be invited to interview with the campus endorsement committee October 19-20, 2015. Students will be notified of the committee’s endorsement decision within one week following the interview. Endorsed applicants will make recommended revisions to their application and submit a final hard copy, along with two passport photos labeled with their name on the back, to AHF STU 300 by 4:30pm October, 27, 2015

- Endorsed USC Luce Scholar applicants will each be interviewed by the Luce Foundation before the winter break. In early January/February the Luce Foundation will conduct interviews of finalist candidates and a final decision on the 15-18 Luce Scholars will be announced in mid-February.

If applicants or recommenders have questions, please contact:

Academic Honors and Fellowships
(213) 740-9116  ahfstaff@usc.edu
www.usc.edu/aif/fellowships