

ELIZABETH KERR MACFARLANE  
SCHOLARSHIP IN HUMANITIES  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2016 RECIPIENT

Your photo here

Student: Name  
Hometown: Anytown, State  
Class Year:  
Major: Philosophy and  
Political Science

Dear Title(s) Donor Name(s),

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the generous scholarship that you have awarded me, and to share with you a little about myself and the experiences I have had over this past year, which in many ways were facilitated by the Elizabeth Kerr Macfarlane Scholarship in Humanities.

I was born in Jerusalem, Israel, and after moving to the United States with my mother at age seven, I returned to Israel three times per year to visit my father and sisters who remained there (this was the custody agreement between my parents until I turned eighteen). In essence, I grew up between two very culturally different countries, and I believe that the insights I garnered (and continue to garner) from this upbringing helped situate and nurture my deep interest in philosophy and political theory. From an early age I was conscious that the world is a large and complicated place, and I was sensitive to the fact that different peoples have different histories, customs, norms, belief systems, and languages. What captivated my imagination in an introductory philosophy course during my first quarter at UW, however, had less to do with this particular world, and more with our capacity as humans to transcend it (albeit to a limited extent). That is, I was fascinated to learn that our world is in many important ways contingent rather than necessary, and that alternative visions are attainable. I was, therefore, naturally drawn to studying critical race and feminist theory during my sophomore year, which in turn spawned my deep interest in studying the concept of power during my junior year. It was not until this past year, however, that I solidified my central political-theoretical interest: global justice. Along with the rest of my Political Science Honors cohort, I began thinking about my honors senior thesis at the start of this academic year. What motivated my research was a strong feeling that a predominant sentiment in our world—that it is permissible for certain individuals to amass and retain appalling amounts of wealth while others starve to death daily—is fundamentally mistaken. Do we really

have no robust and binding obligations to others, particularly to those in need? I was also very much concerned with climate change, and the impending climate refugee crisis.

Being a beneficiary of the Elizabeth Kerr Macfarlane Scholarship in Humanities enabled me to do more research on these matters than I would have otherwise been able to do. I began reading books on human rights, refugees, the Westphalian system, globalization, international relations, and a number ethical systems including Care Ethics. Having additional free time allowed me to explore and think about topics that I had not previously encountered in classroom settings, which helped me realize that I am interested in understanding and addressing global injustices. While I am proud of my thesis and the work I put into it, I am also very much conscious of the fact that I have only scratched the surface with regard to understanding matters of global cooperation. I will soon graduate, and it feels wonderful to have an idea of my primary professional interest, and I am not sure I would have attained this clarity without your generous scholarship and the time it gave me to parse through a significant amount of literature. Ultimately, I hope to pursue a PhD in political theory, specializing in global justice.

Thank you very much,

Student Name

GRADUATE SUPPORT FUND  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2016 RECIPIENT

Your photo here

**Student:** Student Name  
**Hometown:** Anytown, State  
**Class Year:** 2024  
**Major:** Chinese Literature

Prepare. Inspire. Engage. These are three words that you have given me.

Confucius said that learning never stops. Your financial support has enabled me to live this dictum. I have been a passionate student of Chinese language and literature for a long time. As a high schooler passionate about Latin, I took a class called East Asian Thought, and encountered my first Tang poem. The love that sprouted that spring, has continued to grow and bloom.

I began the study of Chinese in earnest at the George Washington University in 1985. Very quickly after I began that first class with Professor Wang, I knew that I needed to travel to China to really study the language. "Taiwan is the place to learn," professors and older students told me from their experience. That summer and the following academic year, I engaged in a rigorous program at Tunghai University. With this learning experience, I was able to return to Washington D.C. and take graduate level classes in Tang and Song poetry with Jonathan Chaves.

I received my B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature, and still wanted more learning in Chinese. I moved to Seattle in 1992 to pursue a Ph.D. I worked hard for three years, but before I could reach that goal, I found it necessary to leave the Asian Languages and Literature Department, after completing my M.A. in 1996. I had always seen school as an oasis where I could pursue my intellectual passions. Chinese literature had long been one of these. Basic training at 30 was my next challenge, I served with the U.S. Army Reserves in Sarajevo, Bosnia, as a Public Affairs Specialist. Still, I did not forget my dream, nor lose my desire to earn a Ph.D. I moved to Berkeley, and was able to audit a graduate Chinese class. I earned my teaching credential at San Francisco State, where I took a graduate Chinese linguistics course. Then I returned to the Seattle area, I audited a class with Dr. Bill Boltz, studying the Dunhuang Zhuangzi and manuscript variations. In between, I married, had a family, and over the years, worked hard to maintain my Chinese. Recently, for three years, I worked with Lakeside School in Seattle, leading high school students to China for service learning projects. In many ways, this reignited my love for Chinese culture and the satisfaction of exchanging the love of literature and history of great thought that can be found in Zhuangzi's philosophy and Wang Wei's poetry of nature and contemplation. Still, I missed the deep study of Classical Chinese, so I decided to return

to the University of Washington and work for my Ph.D.

As a graduate student this year at the University of Washington, I began again my study of Sanskrit. I took Professor Zev Handel's basic linguistics class, The Chinese Language, Chinese 442, a requirement for the Ph.D. I took Professor Wang Ping's literature class, Chinese 561. Now, my knowledge of ancient and medieval Chinese is better than my Modern Standard Mandarin, but both need lots of work.

Your support has helped me re-engage in my studies again at a high level. As a GNM student, I was able to assess my ability to pursue a Ph.D. Plus, I was able to establish relationships with professors of whom I will ask for current letters of recommendation, if I apply to the department of Asian Languages and Literature as a Ph.D. student.

Thank you for reminding me that education is a lifelong process. You have inspired me to ask the right questions, engage in the process, and commit to creating opportunities into the future.

Sincerely,

Student Name