AIA Education Research Scholarship

Application Deadline: 12:00 p.m. EDT May 21, 2012

The AIA Committee on Architecture for Education (CAE) is proud to offer the 2012 AIA Education Research Scholarship. This program asks one selected emerging professional (defined below) to conduct research on learning environments for comparison and analysis. See Research & Scope section below for details.

- The Scholar will spend their summer conducting comprehensive professional research on Architecture for Education case study projects.

- The Scholar will have their completed work published on AIA websites.

- The Scholar will be funded for their research and work in full equivalent to a 12 week summer architectural internship at $7,000.

Research Topic & Scope

The CAE Design Awards is an Internet-based marketplace of ideas. Through this forum the CAE disseminates quality ideas on educational facility planning and design to clients, architects, and the public.

Applicants submit projects representing state-of-the-art early childhood learning environments, elementary, middle/junior high and high schools, alternative schools, innovative learning centers, two-year community and technical colleges, schools of higher education, corporate or other specialized training centers; and non-traditional learning environments.

Each application contains very substantive information about the project. The CAE's goal is to transform this information into a searchable, online (or downloadable) database that will allow our members to find and compare projects of interest. An analysis of trends in the design of educational facilities will be included in the executive summary.

The proposed topic – or scope of work - for the research scholar would be to:
- prepare a literature review that examines research on learning environments and methodologies for studying such environments
- develop questions, based on the literature review that will be explored in this research project
- identify three projects from the National AIA CAE design awards from the last three years (preferably projects that you could personally visit as a part of the research design)
- develop a research project where these three projects would be compared and contrasted along the following topics
  - spatial design
  - pedagogy
  - planning
  - design
  - user satisfaction
- develop a budget and timeline for starting and completing the work
- prepare a report for AIA CAE with literature review, findings, analysis of findings and recommendations for future study

The work would be carried out under the supervision of a mentor from CAE, who will review the work on a weekly basis (via email or in person if feasible) to ensure it is meeting CAE objectives

Eligibility
The scholarship application is open to all emerging professionals defined as:
- Undergraduate and graduate students in NAAB-accredited architecture programs,
- Architectural interns active pursuing licensure, and
- Young architects (architects with 10 years or less of licensure).

The scholar must be a member of the AIA or AIAS during the term of their scholarship. (If the scholar does not hold the required membership due to financial hardship, CAE may offer to cover the AIAS membership cost for this year. Please include explanation in your application.)

Application Requirements and Deadline
Please submit one PDF document to CAE@aia.org no later than **12:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, May 21.** The PDF should contain the following while not exceeding 5mb in size or 15 pages in length:

- Resume or Curriculum Vitae with complete contact information;
- A short description of your research experience and why you would be a good candidate for this research project (not to exceed 1000 words);
- One Letter of Recommendation;
- A list of courses taken & other educational experience relevant to the research to be completed;
- A small sample/portfolio specifically demonstrating your experience for this type of research.

Selection
Applications will be evaluated by a jury of practicing architects and AIA staff. A scholar will be selected following the application deadline. The 2012 recipient will be announced on the AIA KnowledgeNet website the week of May 28, 2012.

Following the selection process, the Scholar will be put in touch with a mentor to develop a work plan together for the project duration between June 4, 2012 and September 3, 2012.

Funding
The selected research scholar will be paid $7,000 for their summer research effort and work product. This is equivalent to a 12 week internship at 40 hours per week. This money can pay for the scholar's research expenses, cost of living, and in essence, their time spent working on this project. The scholarship funds will be distributed over the course of the work period.

Research Products
The scholar will be required to deliver a final report of their findings in a format agreed upon by the scholar and mentor. The scholar will be invited to submit to a presentation on their findings at AIA conferences, contribute content to the Architects Knowledge Resource, and participate in AIA multimedia presentations such as audiocasts or webinars.

Questions?
Contact CAE@aia.org.