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# Esalen Scholarship

## Package

Submit by  
October 30<sup>th</sup> for Spring  
May 30<sup>th</sup> for Fall

**Questions?** *Contact Marisol Nealon, Director of Financial Aid @ [mnealon@ciis.edu](mailto:mnealon@ciis.edu)*

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# Esalen Scholarship to CIIS Students

## Research Projects and Application Process

### I. Research Projects.

This program has two aims: first, to advance specific research projects such as those listed below; and second, to promote the broad empiricism developed by William James, Frederic Myers and other scholars who aimed to extend the reach of mainstream science with respect to post-mortem survival and the further reaches of human nature.

#### *1. Projects Studying Post-Mortem Survival*

- Studies of past-life memories, e.g., to explore avenues of further research related to Ian Stevenson's data regarding memories of previous incarnations. Such studies could draw upon the 2,600 case studies now housed at the Department of Perceptual Studies (DOPS) at the University of Virginia Medical School, relying on guidance from the researchers now studying that material. Michael Murphy, who is working with those researchers in his capacity as Director of Esalen's Center for Theory and Research (CTR); Ed Kelly, a neuroscientist and key researcher at DOPS; Jim Tucker, a research psychiatrist and lead researcher associated with the Stevenson archives; and Bruce Greyson, the Director of DOPS and editor of the *Journal of Near-death Studies*, are prepared to help guide those interested in such inquiry. They and others associated with CTR and DOPS can recommend various lines of research.
- Studies of the materials to be found in the *Journals and Proceedings of the British and American Societies of Psychical Research* (SPR). Such studies would rely primarily upon analysis of these materials, which would be provided by the British or American SPR's, DOPS, or Esalen's CTR, or which can be found in the Stanford University and other libraries, and would be guided by the various questions raised by previous researchers relating, for example, to the physiological and psychological attributes of gifted mediums, the role of their "controls," and supposed communications with the dead.
- Studies to complement research into living mediums now being planned by DOPS and Esalen's CTR, which could for example use EEG's, personality inventories such as the MMPI, and interviews to assess their physiological and psychological attributes, telepathic gifts, and capacities for contemplative experience.
- Studies of near-death experiences, veridical apparitions, and other phenomena related to theories of post-mortem life.

- Studies of post-mortem scenarios from the contemplative traditions and shamanism
- Studies of subtle bodies as they are reported in the contemplative traditions, shamanism, and modern life.

### ***2. Projects Studying Supernormal Functioning***

- Studies of supernormal experience in sport, musical performance, love-making, surgery, and other kinds of intense activity. These can be done through interviews with the people involved in such activities to gather data in the spirit of natural history. Frederic Myers's *Human Personality*, William James's *Varieties of Religious Experience*, Michael Murphy's *The Future of the Body*, and Marghanita Laski's *Ecstasy*, which are based upon collections of such experience, could be used as guides for this kind of research;
- Studies of transformative practices, their basic elements, modalities, outcomes, and particular strengths or weaknesses, using comparative analysis of scientific and scholarly studies of them, as well as the lore of shamanic, yogic, and contemplative traditions available now in countless books;
- Studies of record-breaking in sport that reveal aspects of super normal functioning;
- Studies of cultural supports for supernormal functioning (that is, which attributes of various cultures support or extinguish particular types of such functioning) through comparative analysis of the outcomes produced by particular practices in various times and places.

### ***3. Projects Studying Extraordinary Bodily Transformations***

- Studies of observable bodily changes produced by athletic, martial arts, yogic, shamanic, and other kinds of training, including gains in pain-tolerance, health, strength, flexibility, coordination, balance, sensitivity, kinesthetic awareness, dexterity, running speed, and endurance.

## **II. Application Process**

An Esalen Scholar Grant consists of an award of up to \$2,500 per semester for tuition support to doctoral students writing doctoral dissertations. Normally, Esalen Scholar Grants to doctoral students will not exceed four semesters. Master level students may also apply for Esalen Grants if they can complete a research project as an independent study course within one semester. Applicants must demonstrate the relevance of their research to one of the projects listed above.

Please read the CIIS independent study policy for more independent study guidelines.

All applicants will write proposals limited to two pages to the Esalen Scholar Grants Review Committee consisting of Prof. Don Hanlon Johnson (chair) and Prof. Robert McDermott. In their proposals, applicants must demonstrate the relevance of their research to one of the projects listed above. The committee will forward its recommendations to the CIIS President who in turn will submit them to Michael Murphy, Director of Esalen's CTR, for his approval. Students apply for Esalen Research Grants prior to submitting their proposals to CIIS for dissertation approval or course credit approval. Applicants who receive approval from Esalen's CTR, will qualify for funds when their proposals are approved by CIIS provided that their proposals remain consistent with their proposals submitted to the Esalen Scholar Grants Review Committee. Doctoral Grants will be continued beyond the first year subject to a review of the scholar's progress by the Esalen Scholar's Review Committee and Esalen's CTR.

**Students must submit the following documents to be considered for this scholarship:**

1. Esalen Scholarship Application
2. Up to two page Proposal
3. Master Level students must additionally submit a complete and signed Independent Study Contract approved by the Department's chair. You can obtain a copy of this form in our Registrar Office or by requesting it at [registrar@ciis.edu](mailto:registrar@ciis.edu).

Submit ALL required documents electronically to [mnealon@ciis.edu](mailto:mnealon@ciis.edu) October 30<sup>th</sup> for the Spring semester and May 30<sup>th</sup> for the Fall Semester.

For additional information, please contact Marisol Nealon, Director of CIIS Financial Aid Office, at [mnealon@ciis.edu](mailto:mnealon@ciis.edu).



# Esalen Scholars Application

Application Deadline: October 30 and May 30

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## I. Personal Information

\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_

First Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City

\_\_\_\_\_

State

\_\_\_\_\_

Zip

(      )

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_

Student ID #

## II. Academic Program Information

CIIS Academic  
Program: \_\_\_\_\_

CIIS Degree Sought: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctoral Level Students: *Dissertation Proposal Topic and/or Title:*

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Master Level Students: Independent Study Title:

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**III. Declaration of Authenticity**

- I affirm that the information on this form is true, correct and complete. I have read and understand the eligibility requirements for the Esalen Scholars and affirm my responsibility to meet all of the criteria.
- I understand that CIIS has the authority to change the terms, conditions, and amount of the scholarship awards.
- I understand that CIIS is not responsible for my financial well-being should I incur unforeseen expenses.
- I understand that submitting false information can lead to CIIS revoking its decision to award a scholarship.
- I authorize the Financial Aid Office to share the information in my application with any individuals or departments at CIIS (and/or external donors) relevant to the evaluation of my scholarship application.
- If chosen as a recipient, I agree that the information provided on this application may be used by CIIS in publicizing awards.

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Signature of Student

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Date Signed

Note:

- ✓ Submit ALL required documents by email to:  
Marisol Mendoza, Financial Aid Director, mnealon@ciis.edu