Steps for Applying to the Demers Foreign Language Fellows Program

Pre-application: Scour the fellowship website (bit.ly/demersURI) to get a sense of the program. Review the eligibility requirements and selection criteria to make sure you are a good fit.

1. Identify a program.

Select a study abroad program that fits your profile and goals well. (Is it language intensive, or are the content courses in the target language?) Make sure you are eligible for it, and, if you need credit, be sure to seek assistance from the Office of International Education (OIE).

• uri.edu/international
• studyabroad.com
• iiepassport.org

Note that you will be required to attend the program you have listed.

2. Ask recommenders.

Pick recommenders who can write about your passion for foreign languages and discuss your track-record and talent as a student of languages. They should also comment on the suitability of the proposed language program at helping you to achieve a high level of proficiency. i.e. Typically the pastor of your church or your Boy Scout troop leader is not the right person to write a recommendation for the Demers, unless they can speak to your foreign language skills with some legitimate expertise/authority.

Speak with faculty (or other appropriate individuals) as soon as possible regarding letters of recommendation. It is best to meet face-to-face and to provide them with a packet, which includes:

• detailed information regarding your proposed program of study
• your resume/brag sheet (Need resume help? Go to: web.uri.edu/career)
• your transcript (unofficial is okay; include high school if a frosh or soph)
• a description of the fellowship program, including the selection criteria
• the deadline
• instructions for letter writers (bit.ly/demersLOR)
• link to the fellowship website (bit.ly/demersURI)

3. Order or download transcripts. Unofficial transcripts from e-Campus are okay. (Make sure to wait until your Fall 2016 grades are posted.) Save the transcript as a PDF and make sure it is legible. Also include any transcripts showing language coursework from elsewhere (study abroad, transfer credits). *Be sure to follow instructions for naming the documents.
4. **Draft essays.** (Note: The questions in **bold** are the official essay prompts. The bulleted questions below are just to get your ideas flowing, you do not have to address them all.)

   **Essay 1:** Please tell us about yourself. Why do you wish to become fluent in another language? What experiences have you had that prepare you for foreign language study, including your academic background? (300 word limit)
   - Express your **DEDICATION** and **PASSION** for the language!
   - Why do you want to do this program?
   - Language Coursework: How many years total? Have you excelled? What level have you achieved thus far?
   - Have you taken related coursework on the region?
   - Have you already been abroad?
   - Personal connection?

   **Essay 2:** Please tell us about your proposed program of study. What do you plan to do? Where and when will this experience take place? What are you doing to prepare? How do you expect this experience to further your long-range goals? Please be specific. (300 word limit)
   - Describe **WHEN** and **WHERE** the program is.
   - Who is the program sponsor? Is this part of your academic plan (IEP, IBP, Flagship)?
   - What kind of coursework will you engage in? (*Emphasize the language component.*)
   - What else about the program will help you to achieve greater fluency? Host Stay? Intermingled with native speakers? Internship?
   - How are you preparing for this?
   - How will knowing this language impact your future goals? Will you be able to maintain the proficiency you gain?

   Once essays are drafted, review the selection criteria again. Have you demonstrated how you fit each criterion through your essays, online application and transcripts? Can your letter writers help? Send a copy to them. If there is something you couldn’t address, they might be able to bring it out.

   *(Optional) COME TO DEMERS REVIEW DAY! Tuesday, December 13, 1PM to 6PM in Lippitt Hall 303. Register in advance and submit draft.*

5. **Prepare program budget.** Consider having someone involved with the program administration review it. Be sure it is in synch with other applicants to the same program. Properly name the spreadsheet per instructions. e.g. JonesBudget.xls

6. **Prepare Financial Aid Worksheet and Student Aid Report.**

7. **Submit your online application** before the **NOON** (11:59am) deadline on January 13, 2017 (including uploaded documents). Letters are also due, but submitted separately.

8. **Apply to your proposed study abroad program** and follow up with the URI Office of International Education! *(Or do so as soon as possible after applying for the Demers.)*

9. Optionally, request confirmation of your acceptance into your proposed study abroad program (if not already submitted) and submit it to the RI Foundation.

10. **Thank your letter writers** and inform them of the outcome once you have heard (April).

**Bonus Tip:** *For technical problems or questions not addressed online (see FAQs) which cannot be answered on campus, contact the RI Foundation. Be courteous and professional!*