



Simon Family Endowment

CARE | EMPOWERMENT | DIGNITY

Building and enhancing programs and services
supporting adults diagnosed with autism spectrum
disorder or other intellectual disabilities

Simon Family Endowment MSW Fellowship

The University of Washington Tacoma's Simon Family Endowment recognizes and supports graduate social work students as future professional providers of lifelong care for adult individuals diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or an Intellectual Disability.

Because there is dire need in the South Sound for such providers, the objective of the University of Washington Tacoma Simon Family Endowment is to offer Master of Social Work Fellowships and fieldwork practicum opportunities. The MSW Autism Field Placement unit will provide program workshops, seminars, and specialized classwork for its students to create well-prepared practitioners and advocates who can hone independence, social and employment skills, manage physical and behavioral health care and the many needs of each adult as an individual and important member of the community.

With the significant demand for this work across the United States, creation of the MSW Autism Fellowship and Field Education Unit represents a substantial opportunity for the UW Tacoma to make its mark not only in the South Sound but also as a "destination" MSW program providing pivotal life enhancement for the adults it will serve.

Graduate social work students selected for the Simon Family Endowment Autism Fellowship award amounts are \$6,000 for Foundation MSW students per academic year and are renewable. Fellowship award amounts are \$7,500 for Advanced MSW students per academic year.

Deadline

The deadline for applying for the ***Simon Family Endowment MSW Fellowship*** is April 30, 2019. For more information contact Dr. Ronnie San Nicolas (Tel. 253-692-5702 | Email: sannirj@uw.edu)

Eligibility

Enrolled graduate social work students at the UW Tacoma entering field placement. There is a strong expectation that first year foundation MSW students will have completed their autumn and winter quarters with the required grade point average.

After a student is selected he or she has one week to decide whether to accept the award. The Social Work Graduate Program reserves the right to offer the fellowship to other applicants should the first offers be declined.

Application Procedures

Part I: Application Materials

Applicants must complete (1) the biographical information sheet, (2) the release of authorization form, (3) provide a personal statement (4) secure two letters of recommendation (see below) and (5) attach an updated resume. The materials are to be submitted to the UW Tacoma Graduate Social Work Program.

Two letters of recommendations are required and should be from someone who knows the applicant and should discuss his/her potential to work with autistic individuals or living with an intellectual disability. In addition, the letters of recommendation should focus on the applicant's leadership and service capabilities to work with people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Part II: Personal Interview

Finalists will be selected from all the applicants completing Part I. The UW Tacoma Simon Family Endowment - MSW Autism Fellowship Committee, will interview finalists. Finalists will be announced at the end of the spring quarter.

Award Acceptance Policy

Selected Simon Family Endowment – MSW Autism Fellows will be notified by June.

The MSW Autism Fellows must inform the Social Work Graduate Program of their intention to accept or decline the award in writing by returning a Simon Family Endowment MSW Autism Fellowship Form within three weeks of being notified. Should a student decline the award, the Social Work Graduate Program reserves the right to offer the award to another applicant.

Simon Family Endowment – MSW Autism Fellows must also agree to have their names released publicly and to participate willingly in donor stewardship activities, which may involve letters, attending events, public – academic presentations etc.

Fellowship Renewal Criteria

To qualify for subsequent years of the fellowship, graduate social work students must show satisfactory progress towards the MSW degree by meeting the following minimum requirements:

- Maintain a cumulative graduate UW Tacoma GPA of 3.0.
- Be placed in a social work field placement site dedicated to serving autistic individuals or living with intellectual disabilities.

Application Materials

All application materials are to be submitted before or by April 30.

- By mail: 1900 Commerce St., Box 358425, Tacoma, WA 98402
- In person: Ronald J. San Nicolas, PhD (WCG 223.1) Phone: 253-692-5825
- Electronic: sannirj@uw.edu

Application materials include:

1. Biographical information form
2. Release of authorization form and statement of participation form (student signature required)
3. Personal statement
4. Two letters of recommendation
5. Updated Resume

Each application must be typed. Personal statements must have one-inch margins on all sides and be no less than 12-point type.



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Biographical Information

To be completed by the applicant.

Name: _____

Student ID number: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone (Day): _____ (Evening) _____

Email Address: _____

MSW Student Status: _____ Total Credits: _____
Foundation/Advanced *at time of application*

Release Authorization and Statement of Participation

I, _____, wish to be considered as a participant in the Simon Family Endowment Fellowship at UW Tacoma. I understand that this fellowship is primarily intended to support my MSW education. I understand that any portion of this application (i.e., Press Release, Name of Fellow) may be released to the public should I be offered and accept the award and that participation in donor stewardship activities and academic functions as outlined in the fellowship award acceptance agreement will be mandatory.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Personal Statement/Essay

Name of Simon Family Endowment Fellowship applicant: _____

The applicant is required to submit a personal essay of no more than 1,500 words. In the essay, you should first describe your experience in working with autistic individuals or persons diagnosed with intellectual disabilities. In addition, you should identify an urgent issue or problem impacting autistic or intellectually disabled adults in the state of Washington (i.e., South Sound/Puget Sound) and address the following questions:

- Describe what you believe to be an important problem or issue of concern impacting autistic or intellectually disabled adults.
- What are specific micro-macro interventions that you would propose (i.e., practice-policy specific) for addressing the problem or issue of concern?
- What barriers would you anticipate encountering and how would you advocate for overcoming the identified barriers and challenges?

Conclude your personal statement by answering the question: “Where do you see yourself 5 years from now and in what ways do you believe the Simon Family Endowment benefited you and the clients and families you will serve?”

Essays must be typed on a separate form, double-spaced with one inch margins and 12-point type.

Letter of Recommendation No. 1

Please discuss your experience with the applicant's potential, social work aptitude and capacity, personal integrity, leadership capacity and any other characteristics you believe will result in continued success working with autistic or intellectually disabled adults.

The recommendation should be completed on a separate sheet and attached to this form.

Name of Applicant: _____

Name of Recommender No 1: _____

Title: _____

Organization/Agency: _____

Email: _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

In what capacity: _____

Attach Recommendation No. 1 after this page.

Letter of Recommendation No. 2

Please discuss your experience with the applicant's potential, social work aptitude and capacity, personal integrity, leadership capacity and any other characteristics you believe will result in continued success working with autistic or intellectually disabled adults.

The recommendation should be completed on a separate sheet and attached to this form.

Name of Applicant: _____

Name of Recommender No 2: _____

Title: _____

Organization/Agency: _____

Email: _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

In what capacity: _____

Attach Recommendation No. 2 after this page.