The Department of Geography at Western Michigan University ([www.wmich.edu/geography](http://www.wmich.edu/geography)) is pleased to invite prospective applicants for its Milton and Ruth Scherer Fellowship in Geography for **fall 2020**. The Scherer Fellowship is a two-year award for students pursuing master’s degree program in Geography with a research focus on Asia in the Department of Geography at Western Michigan University. The department has a strong research focus on China and East Asia. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding academic achievements and shall exemplify the values of the Milton and Ruth Scherer Endowment Fund by demonstrating a strong commitment to completing Master’s research in Asia (Southwest, South, Southeast, and East Asia).

**Application Procedure**

Scherer Fellowship applicants must visit <http://www.wmich.edu/geography/academics/apply> and follow the instructions for application for admission to the master’s program in Geography. They must also complete the Milton and Ruth Scherer Fellowship application form on the website <https://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u235/2017/geography-financial-assistance-form.pdf> and e-mail it to the Department of Geography at geog-info@wmich.edu. The application deadline is **February 15, 2020.**

**Eligibility**

Scherer Fellowships are awarded only to students who have been admitted to the Geography master’s program and only to applicants who are embarking on an **initial** master’s degree.  Applications must have a tentative thesis research plan that includes in-country research in Asia.  At the time of accepting a Scherer Fellowship, a student may not have completed more than 9 **non-geography** credit hours toward a graduate degree at WMU.  No fellowship will be awarded if there is lack of qualified applicants.

**Award**

The fellowship is valued over $70,000 including

* A stipend plus 40 credit hours of tuition (up to nine credits in the fall and spring semesters for two years, and up to four credits during intervening summer sessions).
* One round trip ticket to Asia for in-country research during the summer following the Fellow’s first academic year in the program.
* Travel to one national conference to present thesis research.
* Fellows will work 10 hours weekly as a graduate assistant in teaching, research, or service as a required component of their degree.

A GPA of 3.5 and completion of a thesis research proposal by the end of the first year, and participation in the academic activities of the department and the university will be required for continuation of funding.