

BLAST.

Building Leaders, Authors, Speakers, and Teachers

Scholarship Request Information

I'm so glad you are interested in participating in the BLAST program!

As fellow missionaries ourselves (my husband served as the CFO of Mercy Ships International, requiring us to raise our own financial support for a significant period of time), we want you to know that we believe in you and what you are doing to serve the Lord. I count it a great privilege to have the opportunity to sow seeds into the lives of missionaries who are so sacrificially sowing seeds into the lives of others!

I understand that the financial restraints of being a missionary can hinder one's ability to participate in such a program as BLAST. This is why we occasionally consider scholarship applications from worthy candidates who make such a request for financial assistance. However, there are limitations on the scholarship funds available. For this reason, we ask that you submit a ONE-page letter of scholarship request detailing the following information:

1. What missions organization are you currently serving, and in what capacity?
2. Why do you feel you are deserving of scholarship funds to participate in the program?
3. What do you intend to do with the knowledge and experience you gain from the BLAST class?

Also, please be aware of the following policies prior to submitting your letter of request:

*** Only partial scholarships are awarded of up to 50% of the program fees.**

You may be wondering why full scholarships aren't awarded, so I'll explain. The "Rule of Perceived Value" states that people value things in direct proportion to the price they had to pay to attain them. We've seen this to be very true with the BLAST program. Although a few full scholarships were awarded to some of the first participants, what we observed is that those participants often failed to invest as much time and effort into the program as those who had to pay to participate. This occasionally created tension within small groups when someone was perceived to be "slacking." Therefore, our policy is



that everyone will be asked to invest financially in their own success. This way the motivation to get the most out of what you are paying for remains high.

*** Scholarships are NOT renewable for future classes.**

To keep you motivated to STICK WITH THE PROGRAM (which is the only way you'll truly benefit from it in the long run), scholarships are only offered ONCE. Should you choose to not make BLAST a priority over the next year and "drop out" of the class, your scholarship will not be renewable in the future. Exceptions will be made to this policy only in the event of extreme illness or extenuating circumstances beyond your control.

*** Scholarships are not to be disclosed to others.**

Please refrain from discussing your scholarship offering with current BLAST participants. I'm sure you can imagine how it would make those who are paying full price feel to find out that you are not making similar financial sacrifices to participate in the program. You don't need that kind of tension in your small group dynamics. To borrow the expression, "Don't ask, Don't tell" is a good rule of thumb to go by in these financial matters. ☺

THANK YOU!