



**PEN-International**

*For Students Who Are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing*

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**Program Description and Application Process**

**2008 Summer Leadership Institute  
For Postsecondary Deaf and Hard of Hearing students**

**To:** All NTID Technical, Baccalaureate and Graduate Students  
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PEN-International would like to encourage you to apply for one of four very exciting scholarships. These scholarships will support student travel to England from 9-16 August 2008 to participate in an international Summer Leadership Institute for a total of 24 deaf and hard of hearing students from the USA, China, Japan, Russia, the Philippines and England.

Included in this memo is the program description and application process. We will use the criteria outlined to choose four outstanding NTID/RIT students to participate. These four students, one faculty chaperone, and 2 interpreters will form the NTID delegation representing the USA at the Summer Leadership Institute, which will take place at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex, England ([www.queensu.ca/isc](http://www.queensu.ca/isc)).

### Who is the Summer Leadership Institute for?

Four student representatives from each of the following PEN partner and affiliate institutions:

- National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology, USA
- Bauman Moscow State Technical University, Russia
- National-Tsukuba University of Technology, Japan
- Tianjin University of Technology, China
- De La Salle College of St. Benilde, Philippines
- University of Wolverhampton, England

### Who is hosting the Summer Leadership Institute?

The Nippon Foundation of Japan has provided NTID with funding to establish and run PEN-International—an international postsecondary education network of universities and colleges around the world educating students who are deaf ([www.pen.ntid.rit.edu](http://www.pen.ntid.rit.edu)).

This program is a first-of-its-kind international partnership of colleges and universities serving deaf and hard of hearing students, utilizing web technology, faculty training, telecommunications technology, and information and instructional technology to improve teaching and learning, increase the use of technology, and expanding career opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing students. PEN currently has partner institutions in China, Japan, Russia, and the Philippines, and also works in Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, Hong Kong, and the Czech Republic.

### What is the Summer Leadership Institute?

An exciting component of PEN-International is a Summer Leadership Institute for deaf and hard of hearing students. To the best of our knowledge, this is a one-of-a-kind multinational leadership institute for postsecondary men and women who are deaf.

In August 2008, six delegations composed of four students, one faculty sponsor, spoken language interpreters, and sign language interpreters from PEN-International partner and affiliate institutions will convene for one week at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex, England. A total of approximately 50 people are expected to participate.

For an overview of the 2006 Summer Leadership Institute, check:

<http://www.pen.ntid.rit.edu/events/exchanges/2006/summer-institute/>

### What is the purpose of the Summer Leadership Institute?

The major goal of the Summer Leadership Institute is: to promote development of leadership and advocacy skills among student leaders from PEN-International partner and affiliate institutions regarding community service, general access, support services and employment. Deaf cultural awareness will also be a part of the summer institute. Because of globalization of the world economy, an international exchange of students is considered an excellent way to expose students to the realities of the world they will face after graduation.

Students who attend the institute will participate in presentations, discussions, and hands-on activities offered primarily by deaf faculty and professionals.

### What will be covered?

Participants will be provided with room, board, airline transportation, airport transfers, local transportation and admission for planned activities as a part of the Summer Leadership Institute. In addition, the cost of visas and supplemental health insurance for travel abroad will be covered by the scholarship. Participants will be responsible for all their own incidental expenses. All members of the delegation will travel together to and from the home university on the same itinerary. No provisions for other travel arrangements will be permitted.

### What are the dates for the Summer Leadership Institute?

9 - 16 August 2008

### How can a student be eligible?

Four (4) students from NTID/RIT's technical, baccalaureate or graduate programs will be selected to participate.

1. Deaf or hard-of-hearing NTID/RIT students may apply.
2. Priority will be given in selection to US Nationals and Permanent Residents.
3. Priority will be given in selection to students who have been at NTID/RIT for two years or more.
4. Priority will be given in selection to students not graduating until May 2009 or later.

What are the criteria for selection?

In order to apply a student must:

1. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher and maintain that average.
2. Have no record of judicial misconduct.
3. Have demonstrated the ability to deal with diverse people and situations, and possess a demonstrated characteristic of personal flexibility.
4. **Submit an application packet which includes:**
  - A. Completed application form
  - B. A 500-word written essay or a 5-minute videotape/DVD. The essay or videotape/DVD must:
    - \* Outline your extracurricular activities and contributions to the NTID/RIT community that demonstrate leadership ability.
    - \* Describe what you can offer during the Institute, and what you expect to gain from participation.
    - \* Describe how you plan to contribute to the NTID/RIT community after returning to the USA.
  - C. Two letters of recommendation from NTID/RIT faculty or staff members.
  - D. A current academic transcript.

The entire application packet should be submitted at the PEN-International Office in **A.G. Bell A-260** no later than **4:00 p.m. 2 November 2007**. Late submissions will **not** be accepted.

What is the selection process?

The following steps will be followed in the selection of finalists and alternates:

1. Announcement of competition is published at NTID during Summer 2007
2. The application packet (application form, essay or video, transcript, two letters of recommendation and contact information) are due to the PEN-International Office (LBJ-1615) no later than **4:00 p.m. 2 November 2007**.
3. The selection committee will review all materials and selects the top 10-12 candidates, placing them in rank order--completed by **January 2008**. The selection committee will be composed of PEN-International staff who will accompany the delegation to England.

4. The selection committee will select four student finalists and two alternates, and submit the names to the director of PEN-International for final approval by **February 2008**.
5. Notification of students will occur in **March 2008, with acceptance requested within 5 days**.
6. Selected students and alternates need to acquire and show proof of passports by **May 2008**.

What are the expectations for the student ambassadors?

1. Student ambassadors will participate in mandatory orientation sessions held at NTID prior to the Summer Leadership Institute. The inability to participate may result in replacement as a student ambassador.
2. During the Summer Leadership Institute:
  - Student ambassadors will conform to RIT's code of conduct.
  - All "free time" activities will be planned and carried out by the delegation as a group. There will be no "on your own time activities".
  - Each delegation will be expected to develop and conduct group presentations and projects.
3. Each student ambassador will develop a journal of his/her trip (written, photo, or video). These journals will be posted on the PEN-International WWW site.
4. Student ambassadors will work as a team to prepare and offer a delegation presentation to the NTID community during fall 2008.
5. Each student ambassador will submit a final report to the PEN-International Office after the Summer Institute is completed.
6. Student ambassadors may be asked to assume other duties and responsibilities as determined.