INTRODUCTION
Nalini Perera completed the Intermediate level from the Royal Institute of British Architects, London, and then earned a BA in Architecture and Planning and a MA in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Also, she won the gold medal in classical piano from the Trinity College of Music, London, and performed concerts for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Furthermore, she was awarded paid internships to the Mayor's Office in Manhattan and at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in New York.

After working as an architectural designer with a private firm in Ottawa, she embarked on a 37-year career with the federal government. At the National Capital Commission, she worked as an Urban Design Planner. Then, at the department now known as Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, she held the positions of Manager, Planning and Review Manitoba Region, and later Director, Corporate Planning and Evaluation. There she witnessed the socioeconomic gaps experienced by First Nations, Inuit and Métis and their struggle to address these issues. At the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), she worked as a Country Program Analyst to address poverty reduction. There she administered country programming, project planning, and discussed with the governments of Bangladesh, India and Nepal the implementation of programs through private sector firms, NGOs and universities. Also, while at the Canadian Partnership Branch of CIDA, she managed teams who liaised with non-governmental organizations and oversaw programs such as youth exchanges, scholarships, and environmental and climate change. As well, she led branch strategic planning and review. Her aim is to enable Canadian students to acquire knowledge and experiential learning, thus allowing them to compete for employment through paid internships with the public service of Canada, NGOs, universities, the private sector and organic farms.

PURPOSE OF FUND
The purpose of this fund is to provide support to undergraduate and master’s students at the Faculty of Social Sciences to spend up to four months in an Asian country(ies) to acquire knowledge, skills and experiential learning by volunteering or working at a Canadian or local non-governmental organization, or to conduct international field research as part of their program.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS
Eligibility Criteria

The applicant must:
1. be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident, or a person with the protected/refugee status;
2. be registered as a full-time undergraduate or master’s student at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ottawa;
3. be in good academic standing;
4. demonstrate a continuing interest in community service, and/or volunteer activities;
5. travel to Asia to either work or volunteer with a local Canadian non-government or a local non-governmental organization or conduct field research as part of their program of study; and
6. provide a budget outlining their expected travel expenses as well as sources of income.
Note: The donor intends that, over the years, scholarships will be awarded to individuals with varied research interests and locations.

Value of the award: $1,000 - $3,500
Number of awards: Variable
Frequency of the award: Annual
Level or program of study: Undergraduate or Master's
Application contact: Financial Aid and Awards Service
Application deadline: October 31

APPLICATION PROCEDURE
Applications must be made through Online Scholarships and Bursaries, which can be accessed through the uoZone portal, and should include:

1. the Curriculum Vitae on Online Scholarships and Bursaries;
2. a summary of the travel to be undertaken as part of the applicant’s program requirements;
3. proof of the applicant’s expected work or volunteering with a local Canadian non-governmental organization or a local non-governmental organization in Asia (if applicable); and
4. a budget outlining the applicant’s expected travel expenses as well as sources of income.