

## Tagore Scholar Passport Operating Scholarship

*The Tagore Society of Houston and the University of Houston Department of English and Creative Writing Program are pleased to announce the establishment of a Tagore Scholar Passport Operating Scholarship of \$5,000 to support advanced study by a University of Houston graduate student pursuing research and/or creative work that will advance understanding and appreciation of the unique transcendental ideas/works, universal values and the intellectual and spiritual legacy of Rabindranath Tagore.*

The Fellowship will support up to one semester's research, writing, and study, preferably involving travel to Visva-Bharati University, or any other institution of repute devoted to Tagore Studies. Full-time University of Houston graduate students in any field are eligible & encouraged to apply. On completion of the research or study, the award recipient will be expected to share the results of their study through a lecture or reading and other community events sponsored by the Tagore Society and the University of Houston's Department of English and Creative Writing Program.

**Mission and Objectives:** Rabindranath Tagore, the 1913 Nobel Laureate from India, is recognized as one of the greatest poet and philosopher that ever lived. With the Tagore Scholar Passport Operating Scholarship, the Tagore Society of Houston and the University of Houston's Department of English and its Creative Writing Program honor the importance of Rabindranath Tagore's rich and varied legacy to advancing the arts, multi-cultural values and understanding, spiritual and social values in a global community.

**Background:** Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), a native of Bengal, the Nobel Laureate in Literature in 1913, and friend of Gandhi, was a poet, novelist, and playwright, as well as a political and social reformer and educator who worked to foster values of multi-cultural understanding. At the height of his influence he had traveled to all major continents, had intellectual associations with many noted philosophers, scientists and poets around the world, penned the national anthems of two countries, written over 6000 poems, stories and literary drama, innovated new art, dance and dramatic genres (which continue to be the bedrock of artistic expression in his native India and Bagla Desh), and founded a major international center of learning called Visva-Bharati, dedicated to the principle of borderless thinking, peaceful coexistence with nature and world communion. Eminent Alumni of this University include Nobel Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen, former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi, noted Filmmaker Satyajit Ray, and others such as Charles Freer Andrews, Stella Kramrisch, and Leonard Knight Elmhirst have also been students and/or visiting professors. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth will be celebrated worldwide in 2011 as a sign of respect to his genius and legacy. This Scholarship is dedicated to a renewed discovery of his greatness and intended to foster understanding and appreciation of his legacy.

**The Fellowship and Eligibility:** the Tagore Scholar Passport Operating Scholarship will support one semester's research or creative work and study that will advance the understanding and appreciation of the intellectual, artistic, and spiritual legacy of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Applications are invited from full-time University of Houston graduate students in the creative and performing arts, literary studies and the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Applicants should have a well-defined creative or scholarly project that contributes to the appreciation and understanding of some aspect of Tagore's legacy. This might be in such areas

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as environmental studies, the literary or performing arts, transcultural studies reflecting his vision of a borderless society, or the interrelations between Eastern and Western philosophy and spirituality. The grant will support scholarly and creative work broadly conceived that explores ideas central to Tagore's work or is influenced by Tagore's many creative and intellectual pursuits. Examples of such projects would be: student travel and study in India at the Visva-Bharati University, which was founded by Tagore, or travel and study to a university or library that archived the work of Tagore, study with a prominent Tagore scholar, scholarly or creative projects that take as their starting point the intellectual or creative work of Tagore or develop further some of his interests. Students proposing study abroad in India will be eligible for an additional \$1,000 travel support from the University of Houston; the University and the Tagore Society will help facilitate arrangements for their travel and study abroad. Applicants must have a faculty mentor familiar with their work and proposal, who is prepared to advise the student during the period of the award. At the completion of the tenure of the award, Tagore Scholars will be expected to share the results of their study through a lecture or reading and other community events sponsored by the Tagore Society and the University of Houston's Department of English and Creative Writing Program. Scholarly or creative work supported by a Tagore Scholar Passport Operating Scholarship must acknowledge in publication or public performance the assistance of the Tagore Scholar Passport and the Tagore Society.

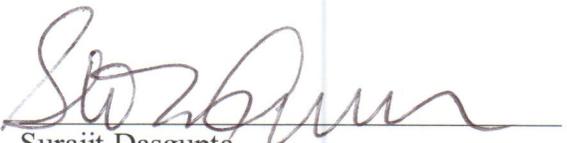
**Application Process:** Full-time University of Houston graduate students in any field may apply. They must be eligible for a visa to travel to India. Applicants should submit a letter of application describing the creative or research project that they will be pursuing during the period of the award and how it will contribute to and benefit from the intellectual legacy of Rabindranath Tagore. With their letter of application they should submit a timetable for completion of the project; a budget outlining anticipated travel and other expenses; copies of their University of Houston transcript; a sample of their research or creative work (no more than twenty pages in length); and a letter of recommendation from their thesis director or other faculty member familiar with their work and willing to mentor them as a Tagore Scholar.

**Selection Process:** Applications will be evaluated by a panel of outside judges chosen by the Department of English, the Creative Writing Program, and the Tagore Society. The selected candidate is expected to be advised by a faculty of his choosing or nominated by the Dept.

**Submission Deadline:** Applications should be submitted to the Office of the Chair, Department of English, Rm. 205 Roy G. Cullen Building, University of Houston, by 1 September 2010.

Tagore Society by:

University of Houston by:

  
Surajit Dasgupta  
Vice President, Tagore Society of Houston

  
John Roberts  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences