



## **Iris Owen Fund Emergency Grant Guidelines**

### **Background**

The Iris Owen Fund was established to accommodate special requests for WAAIME support that fall outside the WAAIME Division committee structure and normal budget process. All special requests must be aligned with the Divisions Vision and Goals. An annual budget is allocated to the Fund by the Executive Committee so that the Division can financially support worthy causes in unanticipated or emergency situations. The WAAIME Vice Chair serves as the Chair of the Iris Owen Fund and makes recommendations to the Executive Committee to support worthy causes within budgetary limits. All funding allocations from the Fund must be approved by the Executive Committee.

### **Current WAAIME Scholarship Program**

WAAIME encourages students to explore all avenues of financial support to assist them through their university experience. WAAIME's scholarship program is designed to assist deserving students in offsetting some of the normal costs of their education and thus does not offer large-amount or full-ride scholarships.

WAAIME scholarships are based on financial need and academic merit. Students seeking WAAIME scholarships need not have extraordinary grade point averages. Any full-time student is eligible to receive for a WAAIME scholarship provided that 1) the student is a sophomore, junior or senior -level undergraduate or a master's degree candidate<sup>1</sup>, 2) the student has formally declared a major course of study that is directly applicable to a future career in the extractive industries<sup>2</sup> 3) the student is a member or student member in good standing of one of the four AIME Member Societies<sup>3</sup>, and 4) the student arranges for WAAIME to receive a letter from his/her department head attesting to items 1 and 2 above.

### **Financial Shortfalls that are NOT Eligible for an Iris Owen Fund Grant**

Normal education costs are predictable and can therefore be anticipated, planned, budgeted, and saved up for by the student before entering the university system. Students should make themselves aware of the normal costs of education and be responsible for planning, budgeting, and allocating their financial resources according to the anticipated cost and expenses of the

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<sup>1</sup> WAAIME will give undergraduate applicants preference over master's candidates due to their reduced ability to obtain supplemental employment by the university. PhD and special degree candidates are not eligible for WAAIME scholarships.

<sup>2</sup> Such extractive industry majors may include mining, metallurgical, mineral processing, geological, or petroleum engineering, and/or related scientific fields.

<sup>3</sup> AIME member societies include the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME), Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), the Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST) and The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS)



university they choose. Normal costs typically associated with obtaining a university degree include, but are not limited to:

#### **Normal Education Expense Examples (Predictable)**

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|---|---|
| ✓ Books   | ✓ Living expenses (food, laundry, clothing, dependent expenses, insurance, etc.)          |
| ✓ Dorms or off-campus housing (refrigerators, microwaves, home furnishings, etc.) | ✓ Phone and internet service  |
| ✓ Entertainment   | ✓ School supplies (paper, writing utensils, notebooks, desk accessories, backpacks, etc.) |
| ✓ Equipment and study needs (computer, printer, lamps, etc.)                      | ✓ Transportation (vehicle maintenance, insurance, public transportation fares, etc.)      |
| ✓ Fees (field and local activities, parking, graduation, etc.)                    | ✓ Travel (weekend or Fall/Spring Break getaways, trips home, etc.)                        |

Shortfalls in these areas due to the student's failure to manage predictable costs and appropriate spending do not constitute a financial emergency and therefore are ineligible for a grant from the Iris Owen Fund.

There are many online resources available to students to assist them in anticipating the cost of their education and selecting an affordable university that offers the career training they seek within a budget they can afford. A few include [Best Colleges for Mining/Mineral Engineering Degrees](#), [College Scorecard](#), [budgeting tips for students](#), [anticipating college costs](#), [expense considerations beyond tuition](#).



### **Financial Shortfalls that are Eligible for Iris Owen Fund Emergency Grants**

Grants from Iris Owen Fund are for emergency purposes only. Emergency funding examples may include, but are not limited to:

#### **Emergency Expense Examples (Unpredictable)**

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| ✓ Death of an immediate family member that directly affects the student's ability to cover normal costs                  | ✓ Loss of income or scholarship through no fault of the student                              |
| ✓ Extraordinary damage to home/property from fire or extreme weather events not otherwise covered by insurance or others | ✓ Unanticipated but necessary health care costs not otherwise covered by insurance or others |

### **Applying for an Emergency Grant from the Iris Owen Fund**

Students who wish to apply for an emergency grant from the Iris Owen Fund must write a letter to WAAIME explaining their emergency and provide a detailed reconciliation of their financial shortfall and funding request. Such letters should be sent to:

If by mail:

Attn: WAAIME Staff Liaison  
Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration  
12999 E. Adam Aircraft Circle  
Englewood, CO 80112

If by email:

WAAIME@smenet.org

Please call SME at +1-720-738-4085 and ask to speak with the WAAIME Staff Liaison if you have questions or require clarification regarding this program.

WAAIME will not entertain personal approaches to individuals on the WAAIME Executive Committee, WAAIME Scholarship Committee, or at-large WAAIME members regarding an Iris Owen Funding grant or any WAAIME scholarship.