

5-day Duke University Spirituality and Health Research Workshop
Full Scholarships 2025

(for promising graduate students **in developing countries**)

READ FIRST

Ask yourself the following three questions:

1. Are you in a position to conduct research, i.e., *quantitative* scientific research on religious involvement and health, that has the potential to be published in a scientific journal someday?
2. Are you a graduate student at a University (in a post-doctoral program or graduate student working on a PhD) and will you have the potential someday to obtain grants or receive funding from other sources in order to support the quantitative research that you will be conducting in the future?
3. Are you currently a graduate student living and working now in an underdeveloped country outside of the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Western Europe, or Australia-New Zealand?

If the answer to any of those questions is NO, then it will not be worth your effort to apply for this scholarship. If YES to all three questions, then proceed.

With funding from the John Templeton Foundation, we are pleased to announce the 2025 Templeton Scholarship Program designed to assist international graduate students from economically disadvantaged area of the world to attend our 5-day Duke University Spirituality and Health Research Workshop on August 11-15, 2025. This Duke University workshop compresses into 5 days the material previously presented in our 2-year post-doctoral Duke University fellowship, and is the only place in the world where specific training on how to conduct research on religion, spirituality and health can be obtained from researchers active in the field for more than 35 years. In 2025, this will be the 21st year the workshop is being offered, with more than 1000 attendees in past years, many of whom have become academic leaders in the field of spirituality and health (for more information about the workshop and past attendees, see <https://spiritualityandhealth.duke.edu/index.php/5-day-summer-research-course/>).

In 2025, we are offering up to 8 full scholarships (**\$3,700 each**) for promising graduate students (post-doctorate or pre-doctorate seeking a PhD) in developing countries and economically-disadvantaged areas of the world. Each scholarship will cover:

- (1) Full cost of workshop tuition plus individual mentorship¹ plus a 500-page syllabus (\$1300)
- (2) Economy class roundtrip airfare (\$1500 or less; if greater than \$1500, scholarship winner will have to make the difference him or herself out-of-pocket)
- (3) Seven nights of lodging in modest accommodations (total cost \$500 or less)
- (4) Reimbursement for meals and expenses related to local transportation to and from workshop (total cost \$400 or less)

The costs above (1-4) must add up to no more than \$3,700 (the maximum value of each scholarship), or scholarship winner will have to pay additional amounts him or herself out-of-pocket.

¹ Scholarship recipients will have an individual 30-minute mentorship session with Dr. Koenig and possibly with other workshop faculty (depending on availability).

Eligibility criteria include the following (all 1-8 must be completed):

1. Residence in any country except those with high-income economies (<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>) will qualify. In addition, those residing in economically-disadvantaged area of the world such as Africa, South or Central America, Mexico, Asia, Middle East (depending on country), Russia, and Eastern Europe will also qualify. Residents from other areas of the world considered “developed” (including China, Russia, India, Brazil, etc.) may qualify depending on socioeconomic status of region & quality of applicant. Passport from that country (scanned copy of main passport page emailed to Dr. Koenig at Harold.Koenig@duke.edu) as part of the application is required for proof of residence.
2. Scanned copy of valid U.S. visa emailed to Dr. Koenig as part of single PDF below in #7. If needed, after receiving your scholarship application below and determining that your application is competitive, we will provide a letter of invitation to facilitate this process. If you are seriously interested in applying for this scholarship, please complete the application below, submit to Dr. Koenig, and immediately begin the process of obtaining a US visa, which can take 6-9 months or longer to obtain. **The final decision on the scholarship and travel arrangements will not be made until proof that a US visa has been obtained.**
3. Proof of university faculty appointment, graduate or undergraduate student status, or position in government, healthcare system, national media, or funding institution. A signed letter from the university administration (or government body or other institution) on official letterhead will be required for documentation (scanned and emailed to Dr. Koenig as part of the single PDF application specified below in #7).
4. Applicant is in a position to conduct research and, preferably, has a history of conducting and publishing research, and is specifically interested in doing research on religion, spirituality and health. This will be judged based on applicant’s Personal Statement and resume (curriculum vitae).
5. **Fluency in the English language (workshop presenters speak English only). At least one letters of recommendation (below in d) must state and document this fact.**
6. Completion of **Scholarship Application** as follows:
 - (a) A *Personal Statement* that describes personal and professional reasons for wishing to attend the Spirituality and Health Workshop (**2 pages single-spaced maximum**);
 - (b) A preliminary *Research Proposal* with (1) background for study, (2) specific aims, (3) hypotheses, (4) research methods (type of study, characteristics of sample, description of questionnaire or intervention, statistical methods), (5) timeline of project activities, (6) plan to obtain funding support for the study, (7) if funding obtained and research completed, plans to publish the findings in peer-review journal and disseminate findings to the general public through the media, and (8) references cited in the proposal. The research proposal should be **limited to 5 pages** single spaced, Times Roman size 12 font, 1-inch margins.
 - (c) *Future Plans* in terms of practical use of the information learned during the workshop should be described (e.g., plans to conduct research, apply for grant funding to support research, teach at university level, apply to clinical practice, advocate for public policy changes at the

national level, dissemination of research on spirituality and health to the general public through the media, etc.) (**1-page single-spaced maximum**).

(d) Three scanned letters of recommendation e-mailed to Dr. Koenig (including #3 above).

(e) Curriculum vitae (resume) with publications, grants, training, current position, prior academic positions, etc.

(f) Signed statement indicating that applicant has (a) financial hardship and could not attend the workshop without the scholarship; (b) will attend all 5 days of the workshop and complete pre- and post-workshop assessments; and (c) will complete a post-workshop assessment of accomplishments 1 year after attending the workshop. This document should be signed, scanned, and included at the end of the application.

7. a, b, c, d, e, and f above (including copy of U.S. visa in #2 above if available) should be scanned into a single PDF and emailed to Dr. Koenig at Harold.Koenig@duke.edu. Failure to do this will result in automatic rejection of the proposal.

Scholarship Winners

The following individuals are encouraged to apply (in order of likelihood of being awarded a scholarship): graduate students (students in a post-doctoral program or in a pre-doctoral program involving a PhD) in the health or social sciences with a history of prior research and publications.

Those receiving a scholarship will work directly with our travel agent who will arrange for economy class airfare. Lodging will be arranged directly by our Center. Payments will be made directly to the travel agency and hotel. For miscellaneous travel expenses while here in the U.S., i.e., meals and local transportation to and from the workshop (expected to be less than \$500, depending on other travel costs), original receipts will need to be turned in to Dr. Koenig for reimbursement.

Note: Expect that reimbursement of expenses may not occur for up to 3-4 months after the workshop since it takes time to collect copies of receipts and submit them to Duke business office and to have checks mailed out to recipients. **Plan for this delay.**

Miscellaneous Information

This workshop has been previously approved for 32.5 continuing medical education credits from Duke University School of Medicine, and while it currently provides no CME or CEU, many attendees have gotten their certifying bodies to approve the course for CME/CEU based on the course syllabus and prior approval. No formal degree is being offered for those who complete the workshop, other than a certificate of completion provided by Duke University's Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health, and signed by Dr. Koenig.