



**2014 Project Amazon Application
Guidelines, Eligibility, and Conditions
Application Deadline: June 15, 2014, Midnight ET**

In 2014, the Oticon Hearing Foundation and American Academy of Audiology Foundation will support a humanitarian trip to the Oticon Clinic in Parintins, Brazil in the Amazon River basin. Planned for November 2014, one licensed audiologist and one audiology student will be selected to participate; students who have completed at least two years in an AuD or PhD program by June 2014 are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to applicants (1) with extensive hearing aid fitting experience in both adult and pediatric populations, and (2) who have a demonstrated commitment to audiology-related service work with local, national, and/or international organizations. Applications will be evaluated on audiological experience, past volunteer experiences, and a recommendation from a coworker/clinical preceptor/professor. Additionally, one alternate clinician and one alternate student will be selected.

Parintins is located in a remote area of Brazil, and conditions are basic by U.S. standards. Please review the "Important Facts" information before beginning the application process.

The AAA Foundation's Educational Grants Review Committee and representatives from Oticon, Inc. will review applications and select the final candidates. Award notifications will be made in August 2014.

Applicants are required to submit the following to Tara Conte (tconte@audiology.org) by June 15, 2014 at midnight ET:

1. Completed application (attached)
2. Resume/CV
3. Letter of Support
Clinicians: Letter of support from supervisor or coworker which addresses hearing aid fitting experience, clinical flexibility and creativity, and commitment to audiology volunteer activities.

Students: Letter of support from clinical preceptor or academic professor/advisor which addresses hearing aid fitting experience, clinical flexibility and creativity, and commitment to audiology volunteer activities.
4. Personal Statement. This personal statement should not exceed 500 words and must address:
 - a. Professional ("educational" for students) experiences that especially qualify you to evaluate and treat patients in the Amazon.
 - b. Personal characteristics that make you a great candidate for Project Amazon.
 - c. Any practice focus or area of expertise (students: clinical experiences and/or classwork) that might be appropriate as you see patients during this trip.
 - d. A summary of your hearing health-related volunteer service, both pertaining to treatment and/or advocacy on behalf of patients in your community and/or the international community, and service to professional organizations in audiology.

Questions? Contact Tara Conte at tconte@audiology.org or 703.226.1048.



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Due: June 15, 2014, Midnight ET

I am applying as a **Student** **Audiologist**

First Name: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Organization (if applying as an audiologist): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

For Students ONLY

University Name: _____ Degree Sought: _____

Circle Year (for 2014-15): 3rd 4th 5th 6th Anticipated Month/Year of Graduation: _____

University Advisor Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Yes, I have attached:

- Completed Application
- Resume or C.V.
- Letter of Support
- Personal Statement

Yes, I have read the attached Project Amazon guidelines, eligibility, and conditions information. I meet all criteria and agree to abide by all terms. I also understand that the AAA Foundation reserves all rights to use the information I provide in this application in any and all promotional materials.

(Students Only) I authorize _____ (university) to release my academic records to the AAA Foundation verifying enrollment and/or academic standing.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

<p>Email completed application to: Tara Conte, Foundation Program Specialist tconte@audiology.org 703-226-1048</p>

IMPORTANT Facts to Know Before You Apply

About Parintins:

Parintins is a city in the middle of the Amazonas basin, with a population of more than 100,000 people with average annual income of \$280 USD. It is the second largest city in the state, and acts as a regional center for more than 300 local communities. Only one ENT works one day a week in the area covering all ENT services including audiology.

Viva o Som Clinic location:

Rua Gomes de Castro, 611 – Centro – Parintins, Amazonas, Brazil.

Transportation:

The volunteer audiology team will travel together from Miami International Airport (MIA), leaving from MIA for Manaus, Brazil. Airfare covered would include round trip flights to/from MIA and to/from MIA to Manaus, Brazil, (one night stay in Manaus); air transportation to Parintins will be arranged for the following day. Your return to Manaus from Parintins will be via boat to get a true Amazonian experience! Ground transportation in Brazil will also be included. (Note: This itinerary is subject to change; however, modifications will not impact funding for volunteer travel.)

Expenses covered include:

Airfare, ground transportation, meals, and reimbursement of costs for Visa to enter Brazil. In addition, Oticon will supply a computer and wireless card, and volunteer team members must agree to post a daily online blog of their journey on the Oticon Hearing Foundation website.

Expenses NOT covered:

Volunteers will be required to purchase international health and travel insurance at their own expense. See attached information on International Insurance Plans.

Liability:

There are risks associated with international travel, and those who participate will be required to submit a waiver of liability.

Accommodations:

There is a reserved area to accommodate volunteers with a room with four beds, a bathroom, a living room connected to a kitchen and dining room, and a laundry area. On the outside of the clinic, there is a barbecue area and lawn for recreation. Refer to www.vivaosom.com for photos.

Climate:

The climate in the Amazon is considered tropical humid, with increased rainfall during the summer (December to March) and average annual temperature of 30°C (86F). The weather is constantly warm in the city. There are no cold days during the winter (June to September).

Passport and Visa:

A valid passport AND a Visa are required to enter the country. Out-of-pocket cost to obtain a Visa would be reimbursed.

Immunizations:

No immunizations are mandatory. However the CDC does recommend that you are up-to-date with routine shots such as MMR. In addition, they recommend HEP A, HEP B, Typhoid, Yellow Fever, and Malaria 8 weeks prior to departure. For more information and updates please go to:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/brazil.htm>

What to wear: Pack clothing for warm humid weather, plus a jacket for rain. Please pack a lab coat if you have one for your work at the clinic.

Currency:

In Parintins there is not a currency exchange agency. Therefore, you should exchange money to Brazilian Real at the international airport in Manaus.

Around Parintins:

The city is surrounded by forest and rivers. If you want to explore the region the best way to get along is by local boats. It is worth visiting the Amazon Village for their Indian reserves, archaeological sites, and historic buildings; the beaches of Uaicurapa; and the nursery of the Aninga, Parananema, and Macurany birds.

International Insurance Plans (Attachment A)#

Why Insurance Matters

The world is getting smaller, and as audiologists and audiology students travel the globe, health and safety issues grow more complex. Insurance coverage creates a safety net for volunteers as they work in international medical systems. As global mobility continues to expand, insurance has become an essential component of preparing to work, study, volunteer and/or represent the American Academy of Audiology and/or the American Academy of Audiology Foundation in another country. *The Academy and AAA Foundation require participants in Project Amazon to show proof of international health insurance.*

The following is a list of companies who provide international insurance.

1. CMI – www.cmi-insurance.com
2. The Lewer Agency, Inc. – www.lewermark.com
3. CISI (Cultural Insurance Services International) – www.culturalinsurance.com
4. Aetna – www.aetnastudenthealth.com
5. The Harbour Group – www.hginsurance.com
6. Wallach & Company, Inc. – www.wallach.com
7. International Student Identity Card (ISIC) – www.myisic.com
8. Co-ordinated Benefit Plans, Inc. – www.cbpinsure.com
9. Compass Benefits – www.compassbenefits.com
10. Gallagher Koster – www.gallagherkoster.com
11. iNEXT Travel Insurance – www.inext.com
12. International Student Insurance – www.internationalstudentinsurance.com
13. ISO – Student Health Insurance – www.isoabroad.com
14. On Call International – www.oncallinternational.com
15. Rust International Associates – www.rustinernational.com
16. Summit America Insurance Services – www.summitamerica-ins.com
17. Trawick International, Inc. – www.studentinsure.com
18. UnitedHealthcare Student Resources – www.UHCSR.com

*Note: This information is being provided as a guide for those required to obtain international health insurance coverage. The Academy and/or AAA Foundation are in no way endorsing any of the above listed companies.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

For information only. Only those chosen for Project Amazon will need to complete this form.

THIS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AGREEMENT AND RELEASE ("Agreement") is entered into this _____ day of _____, 20____, between the American Academy of Audiology Foundation ("Foundation") and _____ (name of individual).

In consideration of the mutual undertakings of the parties as set forth herein, the Parties, hereto agree as follows:

1. Grant Assistance The Foundation agrees to assist _____ in efforts to obtain grant funding for international travel from corporate contributors.
2. International Health Insurance _____ agrees to obtain international health insurance as described in Attachment "A", and provide proof of such health insurance coverage to the Foundation prior to the awarding of any grant money as provided in paragraph 1.
3. Release _____ hereby releases the Foundation and the American Academy of Audiology from any and all claims, recoupments, demands, damages, actions, causes of action, suits at law or in equity, of whatever kind and nature, whether based on alleged tort or alleged contract or any other legal or equitable theory of recovery, whether known or unknown and whether past or present or future arising out of or related to the grant made under this Agreement and/or arising out of or related to the international travel resulting from such grant.
4. Severability -To the extent that any portion of this Agreement is held unenforceable by any court, tribunal or arbiter of competent jurisdiction, the parties mutually agree that the balance of this Agreement, including the release set forth hereinabove at paragraph 3 shall remain binding and enforceable.
5. Binding upon Successors and Assigns This Agreement is binding upon the heirs, successors and assigns of the parties, and inures to the benefit of the heirs, successors and assigns of the parties.
6. Jurisdiction – This Agreement shall be governed by Virginia law.

THE ABOVE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN READ AND FULLY UNDERSTOOD AND EACH SIGNATORY HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH LEGAL COUNSEL WITH RESPECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THIS AGREEMENT.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have set their hands and seals as of the date written below.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY FOUNDATION

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

GRANT/AWARD RECIPIENT

By: _____

Date: _____