



**2015 Project Amazon Application
Guidelines, Eligibility, and Conditions
Application Deadline: June 15, 2015, Midnight ET**

In 2015, 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 2015, 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 2015 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 2015.

Applicants are required to submit the following to Rachael Sifuentes (rsifuentes@audiology.org) by June 15, 2015 at midnight ET:

1. Completed application (on page 4 below)
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 Rachael Sifuentes at rsifuentes@audiology.org or 703.226.1048.

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.



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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 2015-16): 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: Rachael Sifuentes, Foundation Specialist rsifuentes@audiology.org 703-226-1048</p>
