



MATTHEW TOBIN CAPPETTA SCHOLARSHIP FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY
Deadline to Apply is January 31, 2024, 11:59 EST

The Cappetta Family created the Matthew Tobin Cappetta Archaeological Scholarship (the Scholarship) to honor and celebrate Matthew's life, which ended tragically in 2019 at the age of 30. Matthew followed his childhood passions to George Mason University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in anthropology. After college, he volunteered on a project in Peru and fell in love with archaeology, the Andes, and its people. Matthew returned to the United States and worked in CRM, during which time he developed a deep respect for the Native American Indian communities in the American Southwest. He decided to attend graduate school to better help Native American Indians uncover and preserve their past. Matthew passed away just as he was preparing graduate school applications.

The Scholarship Committee oversees the award, which provides funding for graduate students (Master's or Doctoral program) conducting advanced study in the archaeology or ethnoarchaeology of Native American Indians. The aim is to help graduate students achieve careers in archaeology, while instilling a deep respect and appreciation for Native American Indian culture and its important contribution to America's past. In 2024, the endowment will award \$10,000, divided equally between four (4) \$2,500 scholarships.

Online Application

The SAA online scholarship application has two parts. All students applying for SAA scholarships will be required to fill out the [Society for American Archaeology Scholarship Application 2024 - PART ONE](#). This collects your contact and other information. Based on the information you provide you will be directed to the scholarships for which you are eligible. You must save and submit Part I to move on. You will be able to go back and edit Part I. If you finish with Part I and want to wait to fill out the scholarship application, you will need to resubmit Part I again to move on to the Matthew Tobin Cappetta Scholarship application. Please contact Amy Rutledge at amy_rutledge@saa.org if you have any questions.

Who Can Apply:

- Master's- or Doctoral-seeking students from the USA or abroad who have research interest in the Americas;
- Students conducting advanced study of the archaeology/ethnoarchaeology of the Southwestern USA or the South American Andes, which are the two regions that most impacted Matthew's life. The Scholarship Committee will consider students working in other American regions if their research involves significant collaboration with Native American Indians;
- The same merited individual can receive the award in subsequent years, but that student must reapply each year because this is a single year grant;

- The Scholarship Committee strongly encourages applications from students who are affiliated with historically under-represented groups.

What the scholarship covers:

- The cost of tuition, course fees, and books for graduate-level classroom and field-based courses in anthropology, with emphasis in archaeology or ethnoarchaeology.
- The cost of en-route travel to attend field schools or directed study projects that lead to standard research papers, reports, journal articles, or advanced field research.

Required Application Materials:

- Biography (worth a possible 30 points): Briefly describe yourself, how your personal experiences led you to archaeology, and how those experiences impact your research interest(s). How do your career objectives align with the goals of the Scholarship? (No more than one page, single-spaced, 12 pt. font)
- Research Interests and Proposed Study Statement (worth a possible 60 points): Briefly describe the project/field school on which you plan to volunteer/work (include dates). Describe your research topic and what you hope to learn. How will you involve Native American Indian communities in your research design, and how will your research benefit those communities? How will that program advance your educational and professional goals? (No more than one page, single-spaced, 12 pt. font)
- Proposed Budget (worth a possible 10 points): Fill out the budget form and explain your financial need and how you plan to use the funds. If your budget exceeds the scholarship amount, explain how you plan to cover the balance. The budget and explanation of financial need should be realistic and well-justified. Each scholarship totals \$2,500. The budget template is available to download in the online application. It is also linked on the [SAA Matthew Tobin Cappetta Scholarship webpage](#).

Related considerations:

- Award recipients will send thank you letters to the Scholarship Donors.
- Scholarships do not cover conference fees/attendance, professional membership fees, or publication subscriptions.
- As part of each biographical narrative, all scholarship and award recipients must attest that they have not been the subject of a discrimination or harassment suit, and that they have not been involved in any other issues related to professional conduct/misconduct.

For questions about the application process, please contact the Matthew Tobin Cappetta Scholarship Committee Chair, Nicola O. Sharratt at nsharratt@gmail.com.