



MATTHEW TOBIN CAPPETTA SCHOLARSHIP FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY
Deadline to Apply is January 31, 2025, 11:59 EST

Matthew Tobin Cappetta was an archaeologist who spent a decade in the American Southwest, working with Native American tribes on archaeological sites. He instilled trust and humor in those around him. Matthew intended to attend graduate school to get advanced training in archaeology before his tragic death in 2019.

The Matthew Tobin Cappetta Archaeological Scholarship provides funding for graduate students studying archaeology or ethnoarchaeology of the American Southwest and the South American Andes. Students working in other American regions, whether they are from the United States or other countries, will be considered if their research involves significant collaboration with Indigenous peoples. The scholarship covers tuition, course fees, and books or course materials for graduate-level classroom and field-based courses in anthropology, with emphasis in archaeology or ethnoarchaeology. It also supports travel to attend field schools or directed study projects that lead to research papers, reports, journal articles, or advanced field research. Both Masters and Doctoral students are encouraged to apply.

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. In 2025, the endowment will award \$10,000, divided equally between four (4) \$2,500 scholarships.

Online Application

All applications must be in English

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, which will be online shortly. 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:

1. Master's- or Doctoral-seeking students enrolled in universities accredited by the countries in which they reside;
2. Students conducting advanced study of the archaeology/ethnoarchaeology of the U.S. Southwest or the South American Andes, which are the two regions that most impacted Matthew's life. The Matthew Tobin Cappetta Archaeological Scholarship Committee

(hereafter referred to as “the Scholarship Committee”) will consider students working in other American regions if their research involves significant collaboration with Indigenous peoples of that region;

3. The Scholarship Committee welcomes applications from all students with research interest in the Americas, whether those students are from the United States or other countries;
4. 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;
5. The Scholarship Committee strongly encourages applications from students who are affiliated with historically underrepresented groups.

What the scholarship covers:

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

Required Application Materials:

1. Biography: Briefly describe who you are, how your personal experiences led you to archaeology, and if and how those experiences impact your research interests. How do your career objectives align with the goals of the Scholarship? You might discuss particular challenges or successes that have shaped your educational and career trajectory (max 350 words). NOTE: 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.
2. Research Interests Statement: Describes your research and what you hope to learn. If you are applying for funds to attend a project or field school directed by another archaeologist, describe how this program will advance your educational and professional goals. If you are a MA student, describe how Indigenous communities are involved in your research, and how will your research benefit those communities. If you are a PhD student, you should describe your past experiences with collaborative archaeology as well as how Indigenous communities are involved in your research, and how your research will benefit those communities. (max 650 words).
3. Proposed Budget: 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 (max 200 words for explanation). Each scholarship totals \$2,500 for 2025. It is also linked on the [SAA Matthew Tobin Cappetta Scholarship webpage](#).

Related considerations:

1. Scholarships do not cover conference fees/attendance, professional membership fees, or publication subscriptions.

2. Award recipients will send thank you letters to the Scholarship Donors. Letters are due within one year of the award notification.
3. Awardee will submit a brief report (no more than 2 pages) to the Scholarship Committee that describes the highlights, accomplishments, and challenges that you experienced during the funded research. The Scholarship Committee encourages photographs and alternative report formats, such as websites or exhibits. The SAA reserves the right to use these reports to promote the scholarship program. The report is due within one year of the end of the funded project.
4. The Scholarship Committee will critically evaluate each applicant to understand their interest in archaeology and their proposed program of study, their previous accomplishments, and the contributions that research might have to the discipline's future. Scoring is based on the completeness of the application, the coherence and clarity of the biography and research interests statement, and a reasonable and justified budget.

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