



College of Graduate Studies

Monte and Usha Ahuja International Student Faculty Mentorship Award (Graduate)

Cleveland State University seeks to recognize and honor the efforts of its faculty, who mentor international students and champion their success. The Monte and Usha Ahuja International Student Faculty Mentorship Award recognizes the time and energy faculty devote to international students each year and their efforts to build a community of support addressing students' social, academic, and cultural needs. CSU encourages its community members to nominate faculty members deserving of this recognition. Monte and Usha Ahuja, who support student scholarships at CSU through the Ahuja Endowed Scholarship Fund, were the inspiration behind the award. Their scholarship enables international students the opportunity to study at Cleveland State University.

Monte and Usha Ahuja International Student Faculty Mentorship Award

If a faculty member has provided you or other international students with outstanding help, guidance, mentorship, and support throughout the year(s), tell them how grateful you are by nominating them for the Ahuja International Student Faculty Mentorship Award. In addition, we specifically encourage CSU faculty and staff, committees, and departments to nominate faculty who have made an outstanding contribution to an international student(s), committees, activities, or the university as a whole.

Who can nominate?

A candidate must be nominated by one or more current/former student(s), a colleague(s), an administrator, a department, or a committee. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Who can be nominated?

To be eligible for this award, the candidate must have contributed significantly to the advising, mentoring, and fostering of an international student(s) at CSU. Nominations are open for full or part-time faculty at CSU.

NOMINATION PROCESS

All nominations must be provided in English and submitted via the **online nomination form**. In addition, they must include as supplementary material, a nomination letter, and at least two support letters. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed or eligible for the award.

- **CV** of the nominee (requested, not required)
- **Nomination letter** highlighting the nominee's advising, mentoring, and fostering of international students addressing categories such as:
 1. The time commitment and availability of the faculty member. Assess the mentor's time commitment to mentoring (motivation, career guidance, discussions, etc.) and their availability to students.
 2. What were the additional opportunities that the faculty member provides/provided? Please list examples of particular mentoring activities/efforts, such as meetings, leadership opportunities, and community interactions. Also, please provide information on the duration of their collaboration and the specific benefits for yourself and other international students.
 3. Assess the guidance and academic, social, or cultural support the faculty member offers. Please describe in detail how the faculty member's help was essential to the student(s) development. Preferably, use examples of particular growth and possibilities presented by this mentor.
 4. How does the faculty member encourage international students to network? Using examples, explain how the faculty member helped students to become more involved in a college, department, or CSU community. If possible, list the networking possibilities the faculty member has provided and describe how they have helped strengthen international students' connections.
 5. Include any additional information that you consider important to share. Please provide information about the faculty member's activities that you consider essential to the overall assessment that does not fall under any of the above categories.
- **Minimum of two support letters** from another student(s) or colleague(s) who also benefited from the nominee's support.

Nominations are due by noon on Thursday, January 9, 2025. All nomination materials must be submitted using the following link:

<https://csuohio.sharepoint.com/sites/009/gradawards/SiteAssets/Ahuja.aspx>

Monte and Usha Ahuja International Graduate Student Achievement Award

The Monte and Usha Ahuja International Student Achievement Award was created to acknowledge the outstanding achievement and leadership of international students enrolled at Cleveland State University. This Award honors Monte and Usha Ahuja, who enable international students to study at Cleveland State University through the Ahuja Endowed Scholarship Fund and were international students on their academic journeys. The award will be given each year to a graduate student who has demonstrated excellence in academic achievement and shown a commitment to campus and/or community engagement in fostering the international learning experience. The Award is a recognition of the outstanding contributions of international students to the Cleveland State University community.

The recipient will also receive a cash award of \$250.

Award Criteria

Nominees should be international students who have distinguished themselves in various ways, including:

- Academic excellence; minimum GPA requirement is 3.0.
- Leadership or significant involvement in campus activities, international and cultural programs specifically.
- Demonstrated commitment to celebrating and promoting different cultures, identities, and international perspectives.
- Openness about their personal experiences and perspectives in support of global understanding and inclusion within their community and field of study
- Leadership in fostering collaboration and coalition-building between people and groups from international backgrounds
- Ability to use their own international education experiences to empower their peers to enrich their global perspectives and pursue international learning opportunities.
- Completed one semester at CSU and be enrolled full-time.

NOMINATION PROCESS

- Faculty, administrators, staff, student organizations, and students are invited to nominate students for this Award.
- Self-nominations will not be accepted.
- Nominators must provide a letter describing how the student exhibits the criteria outlined above. Please provide the student's full name and, if possible, their CSU ID number.

Nominations are due by **noon on Thursday, January 9, 2025**. All nomination materials must be submitted using the following link:

<https://csuohio.sharepoint.com/sites/009/gradawards/SiteAssets/Ahuja.aspx>