



2022-2023 Spouse Education Fund (SEF) Learn more about SEF

How can an international spouse, who has put her or his career on hold, feel useful and productive while her or his spouse is pursuing studies at Stanford? There are many ways, but one of the most rewarding is supported by the community at large through their interest and donations to the CCIS Spouse Education Fund.

Education grants, up to \$500 per grant, are awarded annually to international spouses who have participated in a rigorous application and interview process conducted by The Spouse Education Fund Committee of CCIS. For the 2021-2022 academic year, the community generously donated funds to allow grants to be awarded to 25 spouses from over 20 countries. Due to COVID, grants were once again used for a wide variety of online courses and opportunities including Business, Medical Statistics, Computer Science, and Art, often offered by institutions on this site: [Local Education Opportunities list](#)



How did such an educational fund for Stanford international spouses get started? It began in 1985 with contributions and the sale of note cards by Helen Gibson, followed by an endowment gift of \$1,500 in honor of past Bechtel International Center Director, Lee Zeigler. The first two SEF grants were made in 1987, from a total of five applicants.

SEF grant recipients are often already engaged in volunteering in the community around Stanford or on campus and they are participating in Bechtel International Center activities. The grant recipients are talented individuals in their own right. Some were students themselves at home and others have put their own careers "on hold" to accompany their partner to Stanford. Their notes of appreciation ([read testimonials from grant recipients](#)) illustrate the importance of the grants in restoring their sense of self-worth as being more than "just a spouse" or dependent. The impact of simply being recognized and awarded one's **own** education grant goes far beyond the monetary value of the SEF grant.

Grant Instructions and application information: <https://ccisstanfordu.org/spouse/education.html>

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