

South East Alaska Friends of Montessori (SEAFOM) Teacher Training Sponsorship Application

Revolving Deadlines – See Information Below

Our mission is to support schools and individuals throughout Southeast Alaska by promoting, developing, implementing, and maintaining Montessori education, as created by Dr. Maria Montessori.

SEAFOM provides funding to eligible individuals to obtain Montessori teaching diplomas through the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) at all levels: Assistant to Infancy (birth to 3 yrs), Primary (3-6 yrs), Elementary (6-12 yrs), and Adolescence (12-18 yrs). Candidates for training must be admitted into an AMI training center and must possess credentials for teaching in Alaska's public schools (when applicable), or present an educational plan for achieving such licensing credentials, except that Assistant to Infancy (A to I) candidates are not required to hold teacher licensing credentials.

SEAFOM teacher training awards are considered "sponsorships" and include a multi-year obligation from the funding recipient to diligently pursue and maintain employment at a public or private Montessori school in Juneau or other established AMI-based school in Southeast Alaska. SEAFOM cannot guarantee the employment of teachers, but endeavors to prepare candidates who are committed to Montessori education and to living in Southeast Alaska to meet employment requirements.

Funding amounts and repayment conditions vary with available funding and the demand for trained Montessori teachers at specific grade levels. SEAFOM prioritizes support for tuition of training programs that lead to an AMI diploma. Funding for travel, non-tuition fees, living expenses, and equipment/materials is not guaranteed, but may be available in limited cases based on financial need and available funding. Repayment is only required if the candidate does not successfully complete the training, or does not accept or maintain an offered teaching position in an AMI-based school in Southeast Alaska. Larger funding allocations are tied to longer repayment contracts.

SEAFOM retains all rights to allocate funding to candidates of its choice, and under terms of its discretion without regard to previous funding awards or other conditions.

1. Schedule for Candidate Review and Selection:

AMI training courses vary in schedule and delivery methods. Currently, the most popular course format in the United States is called "blended" – it combines online learning with on-site learning, and spreads the coursework over many months/years to make it possible for teachers to attain their diploma while simultaneously teaching and/or observing during the school year. New course schedules are continually being developed. See <https://montessori-ami.org/training-programmes/diploma-courses> for course offerings at this time.

- A. **SEAFOM Teacher Training Applications are due no later than 120 days prior to the start of the candidate's selected course.**
- B. SEAFOM's Selection Committee will review applications promptly as they are received, and will conduct interviews within approximately 2 weeks of receipt of a complete application.
- C. SEAFOM will announce Sponsorship Awards (subject to SEAFOM funding approval) within 90 days of the start of the candidate's selected course.

2. Criteria for Candidate Selection:

- A. Must be a SEAFOM member at the time of application. Go to seafom-friendsofmontessori.org to

- join or renew your membership.
- B. Must be accepted to an AMI training center at the time of submission of this application unless the candidate has received written approval for a delayed AMI training center application by SEAFOM’s Teacher Training Coordinator prior to submitting this application.
 - C. Must hold a State of Alaska Teaching License for the teaching level that is consistent with the AMI diploma that is being sought, or demonstrate in the application a plan to obtain such (except for “A to I” candidates and Primary candidates who do not intend to work in a public school).
 - D. Must show ongoing commitment to working with children and families, and to Montessori education through work experience, volunteer efforts, etc.
 - E. Must have outstanding personal integrity and ethics, and demonstrate personal responsibility.
 - F. Should be a current resident of Juneau or other Southeast Alaska community, with intention to live and work in Juneau or other Southeast Alaska community with an AMI-based Montessori School.
- 3. Submit the 2-Part Teacher Training Application (below) and Personal Essay no later than 120 days from the start date of the candidate’s selected course.**
- A. Email electronic materials to Catherine Fritz, SEAFOM Teacher Training Coordinator at fritz@gci.net no later than 120 days from the start date of the candidate’s selected course
OR
 - B. Hand-deliver the application materials to Catherine Fritz, Teacher Training Coordinator at 109 Troy Ave, Juneau no later than 120 days from the start date of the candidate’s selected course.
OR
 - C. Mail materials to SEAFOM at PO Box 21142, Juneau, AK 99802. The application must be post-marked no later than 120 days from the start date of the candidate’s selected course **AND** send an email to Catherine Fritz at fritz@gci.net to indicate that the application has been postmarked by the deadline and mailed to the PO Box.

SEAFOM Teacher Training Sponsorship Application

PART 1: Applicant Information

Applicant Name: _____ Are you a SEAFOM Member? _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

If you do not live in Juneau, indicate the AMI-based Montessori School in your community where you would like to work:

School name: _____ Telephone: _____

Provide two personal references who know you well and can attest to your interests in Montessori education, your commitment to living and working in Juneau (or Southeast Alaska), and your ability to work with children.

Reference 1:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Reference 2:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Attach to this application, a **Personal Essay** that explains why you want to become a Montessori teacher. Include a summary of your work experience, college degrees, certifications, and specialized training that you believe will contribute to your effectiveness. Describe your current experience with Montessori education including classroom visits, interactions with Montessori students and/or teachers, self-study, etc.

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PART 2: Applicant's Training Program and Financial Need

Training Level that you plan to complete: _____

Training Center you are planning to attend: _____

Have you been accepted to the Training Center? _____ If no, explain: _____

Dates of Training: _____

Amount of your SEAFOM funding request \$_____. Summarize the expected costs of your proposed training as outlined below. Indicate scholarships, educational loans, personal savings, or funds from other sources that you are also seeking to assist with the cost of your teacher training program.

	SEAFOM Request	Other Funding
Tuition		
Fees		
Books, materials, supplies		
Travel		
Housing		

Have you ever defaulted on a student loan or any other type of loan? _____ If "Yes," explain.

Do you currently have an Alaska Type A teaching certificate? _____ At what level? _____

Are you "Highly Qualified" in accordance with State of Alaska requirements? _____

If "No," explain your plans to complete requirements to obtain a teaching license.

SUBMIT APPLICATION PART 1 & PART 2, AND PERSONAL ESSAY NO LATER THAN 120 DAYS FROM THE START DATE OF THE CANDIDATE'S SELECTED COURSE.

****SAMPLE CONTRACT****

(This sample is provided for informational purposes only. An actual contract will be executed with the selected sponsorship candidate).

SEAFOM Sponsorship Agreement. This document is a legal contract between two parties.

I, _____ (sponsee) undertake the following legally binding financial and teaching obligation to South East Alaska Friends of Montessori (SEAFOM) on this date _____.

I will enroll in the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) training course for Montessori teachers at _____ (location). Its required dates of attendance are _____.

I agree to undertake and pass all of the requirements required by the training center to complete and receive a _____ (grade level) diploma. In exchange, SEAFOM guarantees it will pay _____% of tuition costs required by the training center.

Payment will be made directly to the training center in the sponsee's name according to the payment schedule required by the training center. The SEAFOM Board of Directors may authorize alternative payments.

If offered a teaching position in the Montessori program by _____ (school), the sponsee further agrees to teach _____ (number) full academic years in the Montessori _____ (grade level) program. In exchange, SEAFOM will forgive the indebtedness of this agreement in accordance with the following schedule:

- After one full year of teaching, _____ % of the total amount granted above will be forgiven,
- After two full years of teaching, _____ % more of the total amount granted will be forgiven,
- ETC....
- At the end of _____ full years of teaching, the final amount of _____ will be forgiven.

If at any time, the sponsee does not complete the training or teaching requirements as outlined herein, s/he must immediately pay SEAFOM for the entire remaining debt.

For multi-year trainings or for sponsees who complete training but are not immediately employed by the Juneau School District (or other approved AMI-based Montessori school in SE Alaska), the sponsee will make an annual report to the SEAFOM Board concerning his/her progress toward the Montessori diploma and his/her status toward becoming a Montessori teacher, including applications made for employment as a Montessori teacher. Such annual reports are due: _____ (dates).

Sponsee: _____ Date: _____

SEAFOM President: _____ Date: _____