

Scholarship and Barter For Elfin Permaculture Workshops and Courses

Information Sheet for Participants

[Note: This Information sheet was drafted mainly for our live programs. We believe that it mostly applies to our email programs as well, but if you have questions, please let us know. Anything that you can do to help us make this document clearer is appreciated.]

Eligible Programs

Scholarships are available in all Elfin Permaculture workshops and courses, but not for lectures. Barter may be proposed *in advance* for any Elfin Permaculture event. We will not consider barter offers at the door.

Requirements—Barter

Elfin Permaculture will consider barter for our share of the workshop or course fee. The barter offer must be made before we leave home to teach the event. Obviously, the barter must be goods or services that we need and that can be delivered in advance of the program in question. Based in experience, we no longer accept barter for goods and/or services to be delivered during after the workshop or course. Assistance given to the program host is between the student and the host. We receive no benefit from such arrangement and do not consider them as barter for our share of tuition.

Barter offers must be typewritten double-spaced on a single side of a single sheet of paper or less than 250 words if sent by email. Generally, a barter offer is considered for its cash value to us. In workshops where we are paid a flat fee by the host, we cannot consider barter. Contact the host. Otherwise, our share of workshop fee is all that we can barter. Generally, in programs of 10 days or longer, we receive about 1/2 of the fee that participants pay, although this does vary infrequently. We will reply as soon as practical. We must receive the bartered goods and/or services **in full** before we leave to teach the program. Be sure to ask when we will leave. If paid enrolment is low, we may not be able to consider barter.

Workshops

Workshops are a form of barter in which the student performs agreed upon tasks. The general provisions for barter, apply. Work need not be at our site. For

example, translations, entering some of our publication into digital format, artwork, and other tasks that can be done where you live are more often bartered. More often than not, the workshop task is one that benefits the permaculture movement as a whole, rather than the instructors from Elfin Permaculture. Most such services are performed by volunteers. We probably will not barter for services that unpaid volunteers also provide.

The host of the event may also be open to offers to work in exchange for some of the tuition Requirements—Scholarships. This is between you and the host and is unrelated to our teaching fees. Avoid agreeing to tasks that will take place during our workshops, as you will lose out on a great deal because of the conflict of work and program participation. Our programs are generally intensive and participants work on designs or other projects at all hours except when asleep. Usually, teams even eat together to discuss their project. You cannot fully participate in the program and work off your tuition at the same time.

Scholarships

All Elfin Permaculture programs except lectures or one-day workshops offer scholarships. We assign priority to indigenous people to the region, women, and disadvantaged minorities, in about that order. The principal requirement for a scholarship is that the recipient is unable to pay through no choice of his/her own. People in voluntary poverty, e.g. most college students, people choosing a limited lifestyle, etc., are not considered unable to pay, though they may lack funds, unless other circumstances also apply. Exceptions may be made for people on an established path of service on a case-by-case basis. We define inability to pay to mean that you would deprive yourself and/or dependents of biological necessities if you were to pay the full fee.

Scholarship applications must be typewritten on a single side of an 8-1/2 X 11 (or metric equivalent) sheet of paper or no more than 500 words if submitted by email. Applications in any other format will be returned or discarded. State that you are unable to pay the full fee and also how much you can pay. You need not state why you cannot pay unless your circumstances suggest that you are unable to pay through choice. (E.g. a college student may wish to point out that she is from a poor village in India so could not pay even if she had not accepted a college scholarship.) Any resident of an industrialized country, however, must substantiate the "unable to pay" claim. We may ask for clarification if we are uncertain of your need. Also on the sheet describe briefly your background without giving undue weight to "credentials." They are of interest, but not more so than other details. State why you wish this training. Finally, state what you will do with it. Applications

that exceed the space limit will be discarded. The most important data is the info about your ability or inability to pay.

Based on your application, the composition of the workshop, and available slots, we will approve or disapprove your scholarship. We will not offer a scholarship for less than you said that you can pay. If you require a full scholarship and we can offer only a half scholarship, we will give the half scholarship to someone else or leave it unfilled. Please do not try to use this process to bargain with us. You will get nothing whatsoever that way.

Application Deadlines for Online Course

We accept scholarship applications for our annual online course only between July 1 and Aug. 1 of each year. These are for the next course cycle, regardless of when it will be held. Scholarships do not include reading materials which typically will run between \$400 and \$500US. See the latest version of the course reading list for exact figures. For all other programs, contact the host, not us. The host will forward your scholarship application if s/he feels that it is worthy. If you try to do an end run around the host, you will not get a scholarship.

Koha

All Elfin Permaculture Scholarships are based on the Maori *Koha* concept. The *Koha*, is, roughly speaking, a gift given in consideration for a gift received. It is not an exchange. It is an acknowledgement of the law of gifts: 'Love is the harmony between giving and receiving.'

The *Koha* is a way to support people who provide services without placing undue strain on their basic resources. It enables people to get services that they need—healing or teaching, for example—independently of their material resources. Elfin Permaculture has found that in Western societies, the *Koha* is culturally alien and it is not possible for us to conduct our work solely on this basis. So we only offer as many scholarships as we can afford on a *Koha* basis and almost never to a resident of an industrialized country.

Each scholarship is given without strings. If, after our workshop or course, you wish to contribute something as a gift, it is welcome. A gift can be money, goods or services. The giver of a *Koha* bases it on the importance of the gifts they have received from the event and what the person has to give. (Obviously, the *koha* is meaningless if the gift is of no use to us.) There is no such thing as a large or small *Koha*. We do not keep track of who gives *Kohas*. Our only responsibility is to give the best service that we can. Consideration of the *Koha* is the responsibility of the person receiving the services—we do not trouble ourselves about it.

Kohas such as food or help that support the workshop itself are generally *Kohas* to the organizer only, not to Elfin permaculture as we rarely are involved in these details. When Elfin Permaculture gives workshops and courses on the road, we are limited in the objects and services that we can accept. If what you have to offer is clearly not suited to our circumstances, please direct that gift in a way that will further permaculture and the welfare of Mother Earth. There is no time limit on the giving of a *Koha*.

In applying for a scholarship from us, you implicitly agree to accept the *Koha* principle.

We like *Koha* better than setting fees. We hope that this explanation makes a small contribution to spreading the practice of *Koha* in Western society.