The Alex Richardson Award was founded in 2009 to enable a student with a spirit of adventure to engage personally with the culture of a Spanish speaking country.

The Award was set up in memory of Alex Richardson, whose untimely death occurred midway through his junior honours year at St Andrews. Alex’s passion for life was unbridled and his interest in Spanish speaking cultures was fuelled by his own travels in Central America.

The Alex Richardson Award is open to all students in their second or third year intending to continue Spanish at Honours level. £2000 will be awarded to a student who demonstrates plans to undertake an imaginative project in any Spanish speaking country which will broaden his or her understanding of the culture.

To apply for the Alex Richardson Award you should provide both via email to spanishhod@st-andrews.ac.uk and hard copy to the Head of Department at the School Office, before 12 noon on Monday March 10:

• a detailed and imaginative travel plan (including dates)
• testament of how your travel plans will enhance your enjoyment of Spanish as an academic subject.
• thoughts on how you will embrace a new culture
• careful costing of the above, including how you will raise further funding, if necessary

Applications should be carefully formatted and presented. All applicants will make themselves available in St Andrews on Saturday 5 April for the formal presentation of the Award by the Richardson family.

The Alex Richardson Award is generously supported by Alex’s family and many friends. Enquiries about contributing to the Alex Richardson Award can be made to:

Development Office, University of St Andrews, North Street, St Andrews KY16 9AJ

The University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC013532.
Alex Richardson
1987 – 2009

Alex Richardson was born in Lexington, Kentucky, returning to live in the UK when he was just 30 days old. Educated at King’s School, Ely, Cothill House and finally Harrow from 2000 until 2005.

After a gap year (financed in part by a scholarship won whilst at Harrow) working in hotels in France and Spain and living with a native family in Costa Rica and teaching in a school there, Alex went up to St Andrews in 2006. His first year at St Andrews was helped by a grant from the Savoy Educational Trust, the trustees of which were impressed by Alex’s ‘charming personality, maturity and for his enthusiasm about his travels’.

Alex was a keen player of many sports, especially cricket, tennis and squash. He loved skiing and was a keen shot. Whilst at school he gained his Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award.

At St Andrews, Alex was at his happiest and made the most of every opportunity pursuing his love of languages, majoring in French and Spanish but gaining knowledge of Italian, Mandarin and Russian. During the vacations he worked in hotels in France and Spain always with a view to pursuing a career in hotel management. His dream was to run a hotel in Costa Rica.

Alex would be thrilled to know that the winner of the award in his memory was being given the opportunity to travel and explore, as this was always top of his agenda.