



# Affording Study Abroad



*Scholarships, Grants and Funding for Study Abroad*

2020/21



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*Grants and scholarships*

*Financial aid*

*Alternative funding*

*Low-cost programs*

Have you been thinking about studying abroad but are concerned that it is too expensive? It may be far more affordable than you think. No matter how tight your budget, by choosing the right program and using all of the resources available, you can afford to study abroad.

If you are overwhelmed and not sure where to start, AIFS is here to help. We are providing you with this information to help guide you. Please take a few moments to read through it; the pages that follow will simplify the process of financing your study abroad experience.



# *Important Things to Consider*

## **Academic Planning**

The importance of getting an early start on planning your study abroad experience is essential. Working with your academic advisor to discuss the courses you can take while studying abroad will help ensure the credits you earn will count toward your degree.

## **Semester vs. Short-Term Study Abroad**

You may think a full semester abroad will automatically be more expensive than a summer option because of the program length and corresponding fee. However, if you plan well your semester abroad can replace a semester on your home campus. The courses you take, whether they are courses in your major, general degree requirements or electives should keep you on track to graduate on time. Your semester abroad need not be at an additional cost. Keep in mind that financial aid and loans are more readily available to you during the academic year. Semester study abroad also allows you to work during the summer and save toward your educational costs.

On the other hand, short-term study abroad, whether it is a summer, January or inter-term program, may present a better opportunity for you to study abroad. Your major may make it difficult to stay on course to graduate on time if you try to study abroad for a full semester. A short-term program may also offer a specific academic focus that directly supports your major. These opportunities do cost less than semester-long study abroad, simply by virtue of their shorter duration. With many calendar options available, you may also be able find an inter-term opportunity that will still allow you to work during the summer.

The most important decision is that you go! Regardless of program length your study abroad experience will set you apart from the crowd. Only a fraction of U.S. college students study abroad for academic credit. Be sure to be one of them!

## **Home School Tuition and Fees**

As you look at study abroad program options and costs, consider what you are currently paying at your home institution. If you attend a private college or are an out-of-state student at a public university, you may well be paying considerably more per semester than you would pay for a semester-long study abroad program.

If you are an in-state student at a public institution, in many cases the cost of a study abroad program is comparable, when you consider tuition and fees, housing, meals and other expenses. Consider commuting costs, along with out of pocket personal expenses you incur while attending your home institution and any gap that exists shrinks further.

## **Federal Financial Aid and Loans**

If you are eligible for Federal Financial Aid and/or loans these funds should be yours to use on your study abroad program. If the academic credit you will earn abroad is approved by your home institution your financial aid is available to you. AIFS will work together with you and your study abroad and financial aid offices to help facilitate the use of these funds.

## **Home Institution or Private Source Grants and Scholarships**

Scholarships or grants that you receive from your home institution may be available to you to use on a study abroad program. However, often times these funds are only available if you participate on a program run by your home institution. You should discuss the availability of institutional aid with your financial aid office. Grants or scholarships that you receive from sources other than your home school can often be used for study abroad. Check with the source of those funds to inquire about eligibility.

## **AIFS Grants and Scholarships**

Over 50% of our study abroad participants receive financial support from AIFS in the form of scholarships or grants. Funds are available for academic year, semester, summer and inter-term programs.

### **Sir Cyril Taylor Legacy Scholarship**

- ✓ Eligibility 3.0 GPA
- \$ Per student \$1,000 semester/\$500 summer and January term

Awarded each term in honor of AIFS Founder, Sir Cyril Taylor. AIFS offers semester, summer and January term scholarships to students who demonstrate high academic achievements and articulate their objectives in a required essay.

### **Generation Study Abroad Scholarships**

- ✓ Eligibility 3.0 GPA
- \$ Per student \$1,000 semester/\$500 summer or inter-term programs

In support of the Institute of International Education's Initiative, AIFS offers semester, summer and January term scholarships to students who demonstrate high academic achievement and articulate their academic objectives in a required essay.

### **Affiliate Grants**

- ✓ Eligibility Student's school must be an AIFS Affiliate
- \$ Per student \$400 semester/\$200 summer or inter-term programs

AIFS is affiliated with more than 400 colleges and universities. Students from these affiliated schools may be eligible to receive a \$400 grant for a semester program or a \$200 grant for a summer or inter-term program. If a student is enrolled at an affiliated institution that awards the affiliate grant directly to its students, it will be automatically applied to the student's AIFS account. Visit [www.aifsabroad.com/affiliates](http://www.aifsabroad.com/affiliates) for more information.

### **Russel R. Taylor Foundation Scholarship**

- ✓ Eligibility 3.5 GPA and financial need
- \$ Per student 50% of program fee

The Russel R. Taylor Foundation is committed to providing study abroad scholarships for students who have demonstrated academic excellence and who have significant financial need. Scholarships covering up to half the program fee are available each semester and summer. To apply students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5. Students should apply by the published deadlines prior to their semester of choice, providing an essay stating their academic objectives together with supporting documentation of financial need. (Pell Grant eligible students will be given priority).

### **Diversity Abroad Achievement Scholarships**

- ✓ **Eligibility**      3.00 GPA/minority and other under-represented students
- \$ **Per student**      \$5,000 (fall or spring semester)

AIFS has partnered with DiversityAbroad.com to offer special scholarships for AIFS students. Each semester, AIFS offers two \$5,000 scholarships to outstanding students from underrepresented groups. Applicants must demonstrate high academic achievement and/or participate in community service activities. Completed scholarship and program applications must be postmarked by April 15 for Academic Year/Fall Semester or October 1 for Spring Semester.

### **HACU-AIFS Scholarships**

- ✓ **Eligibility**      Hispanic students who attend a HACU member institution
- \$ **Per student**      up to 50% off program fee

In association with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), AIFS offers scholarships for Hispanic students from HACU member institutions. Students will receive a scholarship of up to 50% of the AIFS semester or summer program fee. Awards will be made in conjunction with the HACU advisory board. Refer to our website for additional information or visit [www.HACU.net](http://www.HACU.net) to see if your institution qualifies.

HACU is an international association of higher education institutions and is based in San Antonio, Texas. Established in 1986, the association represents more than 450 colleges and universities.

### **John S. Linakis Scholarship**

- ✓ **Eligibility**      AIFS student with limited financial resources who also demonstrates an interest in and commitment to social justice.
- \$ **Per student**      \$5,000 for Spring semester only

This scholarship will be awarded annually to an AIFS student with limited financial resources who also demonstrates an interest in and commitment to social justice.



### **AIFS Study Again Grant**

✓ **Eligibility**      Students attending more than one semester/summer/inter-term program

\$ **Per student**      Minimum \$500

Students enrolling for a full year (two semesters) at the same campus receive an automatic fee reduction of at least \$1,000 towards their second semester fee.

Students who participated in an AIFS summer, January/inter-term or semester program will receive a \$1,000 fee reduction towards a semester or academic year program or \$500 towards any subsequent AIFS summer or January term program.

Students who wish to enroll for a full year at two different campuses will receive a reduction of \$1,000 on the second semester fee. Contact AIFS to find out the exact fee reduction available.

### **AIFS Family Grant**

✓ **Eligibility**      Students whose immediate family have attended or have used an AIFS program

\$ **Per student**      \$500

AIFS Study Abroad offers a \$500 program grant to students whose immediate family members (siblings or parents) have participated in or used other AIFS programs, including the Summer Institute for the Gifted, ACIS, Au Pair in America and Academic Year in America.

In addition to funding listed in this catalog, there are numerous federal and state grants, awards and loans that are available for your AIFS study abroad experience. Please check with your financial aid and study abroad office for additional information.

# *Additional Funding Opportunities*

## **Diversity Abroad Overseas Ambassador Grant**

- ✓ **Eligibility**      2.75 GPA/minority and other under-represented students
- \$ **Per student**      \$500

DiversityAbroad.com, in cooperation with AIFS Study Abroad, offers five \$500 scholarships each fall and spring semester. Scholarships are available for students studying abroad for a semester on any program offered by a DiversityAbroad.com member organization. African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic/Latino and Native-American students are encouraged to apply. Visit [www.diversityabroad.com/scholarships](http://www.diversityabroad.com/scholarships) for application information.

Diversity Abroad was founded in 2000 with the vision of a former study abroad student, Andrew Gordon, to boost the participation of minority and low-income students in study abroad.

[www.diversityabroad.com](http://www.diversityabroad.com)

## **Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship**

Founded in 2000, the Gilman Program offers scholarships for students who have been traditionally under-represented in education abroad. Students must be Pell Grant "eligible" to qualify. Gilman scholarships are awards of up to \$5,000. Students studying "critical need" languages may be eligible for an additional \$3,000. Gilman recipients studying on an AIFS semester program will receive an additional \$500 grant (\$250 for summer or January Term) from AIFS. For eligibility requirements and application procedures please visit: [www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program](http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program)

## **U.S. Veterans Grant**

For students eligible to receive GI Bill education benefits, AIFS will provide a \$500 grant toward an AIFS semester programs and \$250 toward summer or January term programs.

## **Boren Scholarship Match**

AIFS will award an additional \$500 to each student who receives a Boren Scholarship and uses it toward an AIFS semester or academic year catalog program, or \$250 toward a summer or January Term program. More information about Boren Scholarships is available at <https://borenawards.org>.

## **Fund for Education Abroad Scholarship Match**

AIFS will award an additional \$500 to each student who receives a Fund for Education Abroad Scholarship and uses it toward an AIFS semester or academic year catalog program. More information about Fund for Education Abroad Scholarship is available at <https://fundforeducationabroad.org/apply/>

# *Scholarship Resource Websites*

**GoAbroad.com:** [www.goabroad.com](http://www.goabroad.com)

**Studyabroad.com:** [www.studyabroad.com](http://www.studyabroad.com)

**Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program:** [www.iie.org/gilman](http://www.iie.org/gilman)

**Hispanic Scholarship Fund:** [www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net)

**Fund for Education Abroad:** [www.fundforeducationabroad.com](http://www.fundforeducationabroad.com)

**Scholarships.com:** [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

**The College Board:** [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search)

**Collegenet:** [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)

**Fast Web:** [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

## *Creative Fundraising*

In addition to loans and scholarships, there are several ways for students to fund their time abroad. Below is a list of some basic activities to get started.

### **Letter writing campaign**

- Reach out to companies and organizations you would like to potentially work for and explain how this experience would be of benefit to them
- Family and extended family
- Co-workers
- Family co-workers
- Church
- Social organizations (4-H, Kiwanis, Rotary, etc)
- Greek organizations
- Students on your campus
- Friends at other universities

## **Lifestyle**

- “Keep the change” savings accounts that round up to the nearest dollar on your purchases and put funds directly into a separate savings account
- Review and alter your daily spending habits to find ways to cut back on your discretionary spending
- Ask families to give you money or travel-related gifts for holidays and birthdays
- Consider a part-time job

## **Crowdfunding**

One of the most popular and creative fundraising ideas currently is crowdfunding, which is the practice of raising small money from numerous people to fund a project (in this case study abroad). Previous AIFS students have found success from this practice and have raised thousands of dollars toward their program fees. Most sites charge either a per-donation or one-time fee for using their service and students should research the crowdsourcing platforms available online to determine which site best suits their needs. Once you have a personalized crowdfunding website you should share the link on your social media platforms to spread the word and consider getting business cards made that you can pass out to everyone. Strangers are often willing to donate to your cause if you have a compelling story and are only asking for \$2. Keep in mind that every dollar counts.

## *Why AIFS?*

With the ever-rising cost of higher education, it is no surprise that students are concerned about how to pay for study abroad. Choosing the program that is right for you academically and financially is essential. In addition to comparing program prices it is equally important to compare what is included in the program fee.

For more than fifty years AIFS has provided college students with study abroad programs of the highest quality that include everything you need. We will help you plan your experience every step of the way. AIFS Study Abroad programs include:

- Academic program
- Housing
- Meal plan or subsidy
- Admissions advising
- On-site Resident Director
- Organized activities and field excursions
- Comprehensive Insurance and 24/7 assistance
- Academic Transcript
- Published program fees guaranteed not to increase
- Optional air travel arrangements with London stopover included on many programs
- Grants and Scholarships

# Low Cost Program Options

AIFS is committed to providing you with program options that are of high academic quality and exceptional value. Here are some of our program options. For price information and details for all AIFS programs visit [www.aifsabroad.com](http://www.aifsabroad.com).

## Semester Programs under \$14,000

San Jose, Costa Rica .....	\$9,995
Seville, Spain.....	\$10,795
Granada, Spain.....	\$10,995
Salamanca, Spain .....	\$11,995
Viña Del Mar, Chile .....	\$12,495
Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	\$12,995
Athens, Greece.....	\$12,995
Budapest, Hungary.....	\$12,995
Hyderabad, India .....	\$12,995
St. Petersburg, Russia.....	\$12,995
Barcelona, Spain .....	\$12,795
Prague, Czech Republic .....	\$13,495
Grenoble, France .....	\$13,995
Madrid, Spain .....	\$13,995

## Summer Programs under \$6,000

Salamanca, Spain.....	\$4,295
Florence, Italy .....	\$4,495
Rome, Italy .....	\$4,495
Budapest, Hungary.....	\$4,795
Buenos Aires, Argentina .....	\$4,995
San Jose, Costa Rica.....	\$4,995
Grenoble, France .....	\$4,995
Barcelona, Spain .....	\$4,995
Granada, Spain .....	\$4,995
Prague, Czech Republic.....	\$5,295
Paris, France.....	\$5,495
Limerick, Ireland.....	\$5,495
London, England .....	\$5,695
Berlin, Germany .....	\$5,995
Cannes, France.....	\$5,995
Belfast, Northern Ireland.....	\$5,995
St. Petersburg, Russia .....	\$5,995

## Study and Travel Programs

LGBTQ+ in the UK .....	\$5,795
War and Society .....	\$5,995

## *Study Abroad: You Can't Afford Not To!*

Consider the career implications of what may be a once-in-a-lifetime educational experience. In today's global economy students who study abroad add a dimension to their education that sets them apart as they compete in the job market. Now more than ever, employers realize the added value of prospective candidates who have international experience. Success in today's global marketplace demands increased adaptability, cross-cultural sensitivity, political awareness and intellectual flexibility. Study abroad programs can provide you with a road map for developing these skill sets. When a college study abroad experience is on your resume, it not only tells employers something about your academic achievements, but also about your personal ambition and determination.



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