



# FINANCING YOUR EXPERIENCE ABROAD



Using Financial Aid & Scholarships for Learning Abroad

## THE LEARNING ABROAD CENTER'S MOST UTILIZED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA UNDERGRADUATES:

### Study Abroad Scholarship

Awards of \$500–\$2,000 for students going on most credit-bearing programs

### Diversity Scholarship

Awards of \$750–\$3,000 for students of diverse backgrounds and identities

### Financial Need/First Generation Scholarship

Awards of \$1,500–\$3,000 for students with demonstrated financial need

## MORE INFORMATION

Find information on additional scholarships at [UMabroad.umn.edu/students/finances/scholarships](http://UMabroad.umn.edu/students/finances/scholarships).



## SCHOLARSHIPS PROCESS

Before applying for scholarships, you need to know which ones you're eligible for. The steps below will help you narrow down your search and provide links to the scholarship applications.

### 1. Review recommended scholarships

The Learning Abroad Center (LAC) recommends a number of scholarships, listed at [UMabroad.umn.edu/students/finances/scholarships/recommended](http://UMabroad.umn.edu/students/finances/scholarships/recommended).

All University of Minnesota (UofM) students going on a UofM sponsored program are eligible for the Study Abroad Scholarship, but you should also dig deeper to see which other scholarships can help fund your experience abroad.

### 2. Consider additional opportunities

Use the UofM's Study Abroad Scholarship Search ([web-app.gps.umn.edu/lac-funding](http://web-app.gps.umn.edu/lac-funding)) to find additional scholarship and funding opportunities available to you.

### 3. Attend an info session

At our popular You CAN Afford to Study Abroad info session, you'll get an overview and tools that will help you choose a program and apply for scholarships and financial aid—all important parts of making your dream of studying abroad a reality.

### 4. Seek out essay-writing tips

Learn how to write an effective personal statement from the UofM National & Internships Scholarship Advising Office ([honors.umn.edu/scholarships](http://honors.umn.edu/scholarships)).

Schedule an online or in-person appointment to get your scholarship application reviewed by the UofM Center for Writing ([writing.umn.edu](http://writing.umn.edu)).



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LEARNING ABROAD CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



# Financial Aid & Scholarships

## FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid (loans and grants) can make a difference in your ability to study abroad.

### What to know about financial aid

- Financial aid is available for credit-bearing experiences abroad.
- Most financial aid, including state and federal loans and grants, can be applied toward study abroad.
- Even if you have not received aid in the past, consider applying for financial aid for the academic year you plan to go abroad.

### Basic steps for acquiring financial aid

- Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- If you plan to use federal financial aid, arrange a financial aid preview meeting with the Office of Student Finance at One Stop—612.624.1111.

Learn more about the financial aid process at [UMabroad.umn.edu/students/finances/abroad](http://UMabroad.umn.edu/students/finances/abroad).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Are there many scholarships available for study abroad?

Yes. There is significant financial support available for study abroad. Most scholarships will not fund an entire program but can help reduce the financial burden.

- University of Minnesota (UofM) students are eligible for \$1.5 million dollars in UofM study abroad scholarships.
- Many program providers offer discounts and scholarships for UofM students.

### What is important to know about applying for scholarships?

- Many scholarships are awarded based on the quality of an essay rather than financial need or academic merit.
- You are eligible to receive multiple scholarship awards, so plan to apply for several.
- In most cases, you do not have to be accepted into a program before applying for scholarships but should have a program in mind.

Visit [UMabroad.umn.edu/students/finances/scholarships](http://UMabroad.umn.edu/students/finances/scholarships) for details about available scholarships and tips for applying.

### Funding Non-Credit Programs

The Learning Abroad Center and our affiliate providers offer grants and fee reductions for UofM students participating on variety of noncredit-bearing programs.

Visit [UMabroad.umn.edu/students/choosingprogram/wiv/funding](http://UMabroad.umn.edu/students/choosingprogram/wiv/funding) to learn more about funding opportunities for these programs.

### Funding Graduate Programs

You can use financial aid for credit-bearing graduate programs abroad. The Global Programs and Strategy Alliance provides information on additional funding such as grants, fellowships, and scholarships.

Visit [global.umn.edu/funding/grad.html](http://global.umn.edu/funding/grad.html) to learn more about funding opportunities for graduate programs abroad.

“I treasure the international opportunities that studying at the University of Minnesota offers me. The Learning Abroad Center awarded me with scholarships that lightened my financial burden and made my study abroad program possible. This allowed me to focus on the most important aspects of my study abroad program without having to stress as much about money. I’m so thankful to have had this experience made possible for me.”

— Marcos MSID—Senegal

