



**FUNDING YOUR**  
*Experience Abroad*

**Scholarships, Financial Aid, and Maximizing Money**



# AFFORDING AN EXPERIENCE **ABROAD**

## Scholarships, Grants & Funding for Study Abroad & Global Internships

Thinking about studying or interning abroad but concerned that it may be too expensive? It's more affordable than you think! By choosing the right program and using all the resources available, you can afford to study or intern abroad.



Maximizing  
Your Money



Scholarships  
& Grants



Financial  
Aid



Alternative  
Funding





"Every moment of studying abroad, from navigating a new academic system to engaging with diverse cultures, is a new adventure. Adapt to the unexpected challenges you encounter and embrace the unique perspectives that you find. You will be doing more than just building skills that you can put on a resume – you will also be shaping yourself into a more adaptable and open-minded individual. Studying abroad is much more than just earning academic credits or seeing sights around the world, though you can certainly do both. It's also an opportunity to grow as a person and gain a much deeper understanding of the world around you."

**- Alexander E. | University of Alabama | AIFS Abroad in Budapest, Hungary**



# MAXIMIZE THE VALUE OF GOING ABROAD



## Academic Planning

Credits cost money, right? So, ensuring the credits you need to graduate on-time is essential to study abroad planning. Work with your academic advisor to map out the courses or internship experiences that best fit your degree plan to maximize the value of an experience abroad.



## Semester vs. Short-Term Study Abroad

Due to its length, being abroad for a full semester seems like it is more expensive on the surface. **But if you plan well, the cost of a semester abroad could be similar to what you would spend on your home campus without significant additional costs.** Some students even find the daily cost of living (groceries, entertainment, public transport) is lower overseas! Financial aid and loans are more available for full semester and academic year terms, which not only covers more program cost but leaves your summers free for full-time work and savings.

If your academic major or personal obligations make going abroad for a full semester impossible, short-term study abroad options like Summer, January Term, or May Term programs are strong options. Short-term programs often offer academic focus or internship fields that directly support your major and can also be transferred toward your degree. **By virtue of their abbreviated duration and fewer credits, short-term programs abroad often cost less** than full semester abroad programs, but keep in mind there may be less financial aid available.



## Do the Math: 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 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, the cost of a study abroad program is comparable in many cases, after you calculate tuition and fees, housing, meals and other expenses. Take into account commuting costs and other out-of-pocket personal expenses you incur at your home institution, and that financial gap shrinks even further.



## Federal Financial Aid and Loans

If you are eligible for federal financial aid and loans (Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, PLUS Loans), these funds are yours to use on a study abroad program. AIFS Abroad works with you and your home institution to facilitate their transfer and, depending on your campus, there may even be additional funding available. Perkins Loans, state grants and loans, 529 plans, and the Post 9/11 GI Bill may also be used for study abroad but require careful planning with your home institution's financial aid office early on. Make an appointment with your financial aid office today to understand your options!



## Home Institution or Private Source Grants and Scholarships

Scholarships and grants you receive from your home institution may be available for study abroad, too; your financial aid and study abroad offices can offer specific guidance on their transferability. And if you have grants or scholarships from outside sources like community organizations, inquire with the organization directly to ensure they can be used for study or internships abroad.



# AIFS ABROAD **SCHOLARSHIPS**

More than 50% of our program participants receive scholarships or stackable grants from AIFS Abroad. Funds are available for academic year, semester, summer, May Term and January Term programs. The following scholarships require an application which can be completed in the student portal.

## **RUSSEL R. TAYLOR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

- |                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ Eligibility  | <b>3.5 GPA and financial need</b> |
| \$ Per student | <b>50% of program fee</b>         |

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 abroad, providing an essay stating their academic objectives together with supporting documentation of financial need. (Pell Grant eligible students will be given priority).

## **AIFS DIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| ✓ Eligibility  | <b>3.00 GPA/minority and other under-represented students</b> |
| \$ Per student | <b>\$5,000 (Fall or Spring semester)</b>                      |

AIFS Abroad offers scholarships for high-achieving students from backgrounds historically underrepresented in education abroad. Each semester, we offer up to three \$5,000 scholarships to applicants who demonstrate high academic achievement and/or participate in community service activities.



## SIR CYRIL TAYLOR LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

- ✓ **Eligibility**      **3.0 cumulative GPA**
- \$ Per student**      **\$1,000 semester/\$500 Summer and January Term programs**

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

## AIFS GREEN AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIP

- ✓ **Eligibility**      **Must demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental sustainability**
- \$ Per student**      **\$500 semester/\$300 summer programs**

AIFS Abroad is committed to sustainability, environmental responsibility, and climate action. As part of our Green Initiative, we are proud to offer up to two Green Ambassador Scholarship per semester and summer. Students must meet minimum requirements and complete the scholarship application in the student portal.

## HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTIONS SCHOLARSHIP

- ✓ **Eligibility**      **3.0 GPA, must attend a designated HSI**
- \$ Per student**      **\$3,000 semester/\$1,500 summer programs**

Students from Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) are eligible for one \$3,000 semester scholarship and one \$1,500 summer scholarship for use on an AIFS Abroad program. Students must meet minimum requirements and complete the scholarship application in the student portal.

## HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SCHOLARSHIP

- ✓ **Eligibility**      **3.0 GPA, must attend a designated HBCU**
- \$ Per student**      **\$3,000 semester/\$1,500 summer programs**

To enhance study abroad opportunities at these high-impact institutions, AIFS Abroad awards one \$3,000 per semester and one \$1,500 per summer term to students from designated HBCUs. Students must meet minimum requirements and complete the scholarship application in the student portal.



## AIFS ABROAD OVERSEAS AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIP

✓ Eligibility	3.0 GPA/minority and other under-represented students
\$ Per student	\$500 (semester or summer)

AIFS Abroad is pleased to offer up to five \$500 scholarships each semester and up to two \$500 scholarships for summer programs to outstanding students from backgrounds historically underrepresented in study abroad. Students from the following backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply: economically disadvantaged, ethnically & racially diverse, first-generation, LGBTQIA+, students with disabilities, students of faith, veterans, and non-traditional students.

Applicants must be willing to share their experiences abroad via blogs, pictures, and/or video on social media and provide student stories at the end of their program. These materials will be shared on the AIFS Abroad social media channels and blog. Our Overseas Ambassadors serve in the role for the duration of their chosen study abroad program which can range from two weeks to a semester depending on the term.

## JOHN S. LINAKIS SCHOLARSHIP

✓ Eligibility	AIFS Abroad student with limited financial resources who also demonstrates an interest in and commitment to social justice.
\$ Per student	\$5,000 (Spring or Fall semester)

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



# STACKABLE AUTOMATIC GRANTS

AIFS Abroad is committed to Access, Inclusion, Diversity & Equity. As such, we have converted several scholarships into automatically awarded grants for eligible students enrolled at AIFS Abroad partner institutions as part of the application process; students do not need to complete a separate scholarship application. These grants are stackable to maximize the funding you receive. As an AIFS Abroad program applicant, you will know before you apply which grants you may be eligible to receive.

- ✓ **Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) Grant** – \$500 grant for students attending a Minority Serving Institution
- ✓ **Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Grant** – \$500 grant for students attending a Historically Black College or University
- ✓ **Pell Grant Eligible** – \$500 grant for students who receive the Pell Grant
- ✓ **Gilman Recipient Grant** – \$500 grant for students who receive the Gilman Award
- ✓ **FEA Recipient Grant** – \$500 grant for students who receive a Fund for Education Abroad scholarship
- ✓ **Boren Recipient Grant** – \$500 grant for students who receive the Boren Award
- ✓ **U.S. Veterans and Dependents Grant** – \$500 grant for students who receive GI Bill education benefits
- ✓ **Go Abroad Again with AIFS Abroad** – \$500 grant for students who study or intern abroad again with AIFS Abroad

Students may receive multiple grants for which they are eligible, up to a maximum of \$2,500 for a semester study abroad program or \$1,500 for a summer, January Term, or internship program. Grants connected with receipt of other awards and scholarships, like Pell Grant, Gilman Award, Boren Award, FEA Scholarship, and GI Bill funding will have a submission area to upload supporting documentation.

If you are traveling on a customized, faculty-led program or a group internship program, the grants are not stackable but you will remain eligible for one (Pell, Gilman, FEA, Boren, Veteran, Go Abroad Again). If you are traveling on a customized, faculty-led program or a group internship program, you will be eligible for the individual grants only (Pell, Gilman, FEA, Boren, Veteran, Go Abroad Again).

## Special Funding Opportunity:

### FUND FOR EDUCATION ABROAD

[www.fundforeducationabroad.org/apply](http://www.fundforeducationabroad.org/apply)

AIFS is a Supporting Access Partner of the Fund for Education Abroad (FEA).

Every year since 2017, AIFS has contributed funds to support both FEA scholarship applicants on AIFS Abroad programs, and the daily operations of the organization itself. Together we aim to increase the accessibility of AIFS Abroad study, internship, and faculty-led programs for underrepresented participants. We work together on marketing, outreach, and support for applicants and scholars.

To be eligible for an FEA scholarship, you must be:

- ▶ Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or DACA recipient
- ▶ Be currently enrolled as an undergraduate at U.S. institution of higher education (graduate students are not eligible)
- ▶ Receive credit at your home institution for the study abroad program
- ▶ Have demonstrated financial need

## ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

**Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program:**

[www.gilmanscholarship.org](http://www.gilmanscholarship.org)

**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)

**Boren Scholarship:** [www.borenawards.org](http://www.borenawards.org)



## CREATIVE FUNDRAISING

In addition to financial aid and scholarships, participants fund their time abroad in many creative ways, including:

### “Keep the Change” Savings Apps

Several free apps round-up purchase amounts to the nearest dollar and put the difference directly into a savings account. These apps may also have options to invest that money and include sign up bonuses that add up quickly.

### Crowdfunding

Past AIFS Abroad participants have raised thousands toward their program fees through small contributions on crowdfunding sites. Most sites charge a per-donation or one-time fee, so it's important to research crowdsourcing platforms to determine fit. These platforms can provide a link and QR code to share on social media, business cards, etc. Hone your elevator pitch—even strangers are often willing to donate a few dollars to a compelling story. Every dollar counts!



## Gig Work

From delivering groceries to online work, there is a “gig” for everyone these days. Google is a great place to find freelance design and tech work; and we all know the trusty delivery and driving apps.

## Community Outreach

It may seem old school, but community organizations are often looking for interesting causes to support. From local clubs like Kiwanis and Rotary, to national bodies like Greek fraternities and sororities, these groups often have standalone scholarship programs and those who don’t are often open to donating in return for a presentation or article later on. It can help start with a letter of request, outlining what goals and objectives you have for an experience abroad and what you want to provide in return.





## CONSIDER HIDDEN COSTS

Not every study or intern abroad program is priced the same. Some may look cheaper but are more expensive on-the-ground in costs related to daily life. Choosing the right program for you academically and financially is essential—in addition to comparing program prices, it is equally important to consider what is included in the program fee.

For more than 60 years, AIFS Abroad has provided the highest quality programs abroad to include nearly everything you'll need. We help plan and support your experience every step of the way. AIFS Abroad programs include:

- ▶ Academic coursework (tuition)
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Meal plan or subsidy in certain locations
- ▶ Admissions advising
- ▶ On-site Director and local support staff
- ▶ Organized cultural activities and field excursions
- ▶ World class safety and risk management
- ▶ Comprehensive insurance and 24/7 assistance
- ▶ Academic transcript
- ▶ Guaranteed program fees (will not increase once you apply)
- ▶ Optional group travel arrangements for an additional cost
- ▶ Grants and scholarships where applicable

# BUDGET-FRIENDLY PROGRAMS

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 **AIFSabroad.com**.

*Based on 2024/2025 pricing, program prices are subject to change. Please refer to **AIFSabroad.com** for the most up to date pricing.*

## Low Cost Study Abroad Programs

### Semester Programs under \$14,000

San José, Costa Rica .....	\$11,490	Salamanca, Spain.....	\$13,890
Seoul, South Korea.....	\$12,200	Viña Del Mar, Chile .....	\$13,990
Granada, Spain.....	\$12,790		

### Summer Programs under \$8,000

Salamanca, Spain.....	\$5,290	Florence, Italy .....	\$5,990
San José, Costa Rica .....	\$5,290	Madrid, Spain.....	\$5,990
Seville, Spain.....	\$5,290	Seoul, South Korea.....	\$5,990
Milan, Italy .....	\$5,490	Prague, Czech Republic .....	\$6,490
Barcelona, Spain.....	\$5,790	Limerick, Ireland .....	\$6,590
Lisbon, Portugal .....	\$5,790	Berlin, Germany.....	\$6,990
Rome, Italy .....	\$5,790	Maynooth, Ireland.....	\$7,290
Galápagos Islands, Ecuador..	\$5,890	Stellenbosch, South Africa....	\$7,490
Granada, Spain.....	\$5,890	Athens, Greece.....	\$7,690
Buenos Aires, Argentina.....	\$5,990		

### Study + Travel Programs under \$7,000

European Art and Culture .....	\$6,290	Fashion Marketing.....	\$6,290
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### May Term Programs under \$6,000

Seville, Spain.....	\$5,290	Granada, Spain.....	\$5,890
Barcelona, Spain.....	\$5,790	Florence, Italy .....	\$5,990
Rome, Italy .....	\$5,790		

### January Term Programs

Most January Terms are around \$5,000 with some exceptions for multi-city or specialized programs.



## Low Cost Internship Programs

### Semester Programs under \$10,000

San José, Costa Rica .....	\$8,490	Florence, Italy .....	\$9,990
Galway, Ireland .....	\$9,490	Milan, Italy .....	\$9,990
Lisbon, Portugal .....	\$9,490	Rome, Italy .....	\$9,990
Prague, Czech Republic .....	\$9,990		

### Summer Programs

All full-time internship programs are under \$10,000

## GOING ABROAD: YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO

Consider the career implications of what may be a once-in-a-lifetime educational experience. Success in today's global marketplace demands increased adaptability, cross-cultural agility, political awareness, and intellectual flexibility. Now more than ever, employers realize the value of job candidates with international experience, and studying or interning abroad adds a dimension to your education that sets you apart.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT AIFS ABROAD**

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[AIFSabroad.com](https://aifsabroad.com)

