

Advice from FEA Scholarship Recipients

1. **Start early** to brainstorm potential answers, research your destination, and write and edit your essays. Find concrete reasons why the scholarship would serve you best, then finish ahead of time so you're not stressed and you don't have trouble accessing the site when everyone else is trying to at the last minute.
2. Don't be afraid to **ask for help**. Ask for help from your Study Abroad Office and your Writing Center while you are applying. Ask your family or friends to help you correct your application and essays.
3. Try to get a professor with whom you've had a lot of **small classes** to write your recommendation. Ask early and mention the deadline.
4. **Talk with past participants** of the program; they can give you a lot of information about the program and what it's like.
5. Don't just think of **under-representation** in terms of race; think about what else could make you under-represented. One of the things I wrote about was being a first generation college student and the statistics I knew about this group and studying abroad.
6. When you write about giving back, **be specific and realistic**. You don't want to make a promise you won't keep. Here are a few ideas: volunteer abroad (say what will you do); stay in contact with your host family; use skills you learn abroad (language or field-specific) to serve your home campus or host community in the future; share your experiences via panels, pictures, online writing, or abroad fairs.
7. Think about your **future goals**, and what caused you to have an interest in the country you plan to visit. Thoroughly research your preferred program and clearly articulate why you feel it's the best fit for your academic and personal goals. Know exactly how you want to use your experience.
8. Find something to **set you apart** from other applicants. Consider projects you've done, past jobs, or experiences that let people have a better idea about you.
9. Write sincerely and clearly, make sure your essay reflects who you are and what you want them to know. Don't be shy to **talk about yourself**, cultivate your own tone, and dwell on your relevant strong points.
10. **Be excited!** Let your excitement shine through in your essays.