

Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Who is eligible for FEA scholarships?

A: US citizens or permanent residents currently enrolled as undergraduates in US universities/colleges who plan to study abroad between August 15, 2012 and August 31, 2013.

Q: What are the FEA scholarship amounts?

A: For the 2012-2013 application cycle, FEA will award \$5,000 scholarships to students who study abroad for one semester. Students who study abroad for two semesters will receive \$10,000. Students who study abroad for other lengths of time will receive a proportionate amount.

Q: How many FEA scholarships will be awarded?

A: FEA hopes to award 10 scholarships. This number is largely dependent on FEA fundraising.

Q: If only 10 FEA scholarships will be awarded, will there be strong competition, thus weaker students should not apply?

A: No, each student has his or her particular strengths and weaknesses. All students should apply.

Q: What criteria will FEA use to award scholarships?

A: FEA scholarships are designed for students seeking a rigorous overseas academic program, for non-traditional study abroad students, and for students with financial need. FEA scholarships are for students going on any study abroad program that meet these criteria and are not exclusively for students going on CET or any other provider operated study abroad programs.

Q: Is there a minimum program length to qualify for the award? Are semester long faculty-led programs participants included for consideration?

A: The minimum program length to qualify for an FEA scholarship is four weeks. Any program four weeks or longer will be included for consideration. Students attending two consecutive semesters abroad should consider applying for the academic year scholarship.

Q: Are ship-based programs eligible for the award?

A: Semester at Sea and other ship-based study abroad programs are eligible so long as they spend a minimum of four weeks in countries outside of the US. It does not have to be four weeks in one country.

Q: How do students apply for FEA scholarships?

A: Students complete an online application at www.fundforeducationabroad.org. Students share contact information, answer questions about the study abroad program they wish to attend, request a recommendation, and complete several essay questions.

Q: When can students apply for FEA scholarships?

A: The online FEA scholarship application is open from August 15, 2011 until November 14, 2011.

Q: If students don't know 12-20 months in advance of studying abroad what program they want to attend, can they still apply for an FEA scholarship?

A: FEA requires that students research and apply for FEA scholarships with a particular education abroad program in mind. If students subsequently changes their mind, they can submit an additional form explaining the reason for this change (e.g. the program is no longer offered, different major, a new program is a better fit goal for study abroad, etc.).

Q: What are considerations for "non-traditional"? Is it more about the student, the destination, the area of study, or the model of the program?

A: FEA reviewers look at the culmination of under-represented factors in all applications. Students may be considered non-traditional in study abroad if they are male; married; younger or older than the typical college student; of low socio-economic status; studying outside of Western Europe, Australia, or New Zealand; studying a less-common language such as Basque or Vietnamese; an ethnic minority; a member of the LGBTQI community; a first-generation college student; a math or science major; a student with a disability; or a 2-year community college student. This is not a comprehensive list, and there may be other under-represented groups as well. Moreover, "non-traditional" is a preference for FEA scholarships, not a requirement, so all students are encouraged to apply even if a part of their application or plan might not been seen as under-represented.

Q: Does a student who does not qualify for aid according to the FAFSA guidelines have a chance to be considered financially in need by the FEA scholarship committee?

A: The FEA application does not require that students submit a FAFSA nor is it required for a student to be receiving federal financial aid. However, FEA evaluators give preference to applications with demonstrated financial need. Students are required to submit a form completed by their financial aid office indicating their financial aid status.

Q: When will students learn if they have been awarded an FEA scholarship?

A: The FEA scholarship selection committee will meet after the November 15th application deadline, and awards will be announced in February for the upcoming 2012-2013 academic year.

Q: How are FEA scholarships distributed?

A: Once a student has been accepted to a study abroad program, FEA sends scholarship funds to the organization or university on the student's behalf.

Q: Who is on FEA scholarship selection committee?

A: The FEA scholarship selection committee is comprised of FEA board members, FEA staff and other members of the education abroad community.

Q: How can study abroad advisors and education abroad directors support FEA?

A: Let your students know about this scholarship. Encourage them to share why they or their plan for study abroad should be considered "non-traditional." Donate to FEA on our website www.fundforeducationabroad.org. Volunteer to do an FEA fundraiser in your area.

Q: What is the relationship between FEA and CET?

A: CET staff members and other Education Abroad professionals founded FEA in 2009 to address the need for additional funding for students wishing to study abroad. FEA's original Director of Development, Airika Coblenz, was a former CET staff member who then moved on to deal with the day-to-day running of FEA with assistance from FEA board members. The Fund for Education Abroad currently consists of 14 professionals including four CET staff members. CET is also significant contributor to FEA.