



# 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](http://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.).



## Fund for Education Abroad

**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](http://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.

## **Fund for Education Abroad Scholarship Essay Guidelines**

*In many ways, the essays are the most important part of your application. They are where the evaluators get to know you. They give you the opportunity to emphasize your strengths, justify any apparent weaknesses, and highlight important points. For this reason, we'd like to offer some tips and guidelines to consider when writing your essays.*

- **Answer the question.** You would think this would go without saying, but read the question carefully. Read it again. Make sure your essay answers the entire question.
- **Use an outline.** This will help you logically develop your essay as well as maintain its focus and cohesiveness.
- **Work with a Writing Center or advisor.** Having someone read over your essays, offer constructive criticism, and work with you through multiple drafts is critical.
- **Address important scholarship criteria and preferences.** This is especially true if you are from a diverse background, have never been abroad, are studying in an underrepresented field, have demonstrated academic improvement, etc.
- **Emphasize the location.** If you're studying in a non-traditional location (outside Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand), point that out in the essay. Explain why this particular program or location is critical for you, especially if you're studying in a more traditional location.
- **Know your program.** Emphasize immersive qualities and unique components such as home-stays and language pledges that will impact your experience abroad. If you don't know specific details, then contact the program administrators to find out.
- **Make connections.** Make a clear connection between your program choice/location and your future goals. Will coursework abroad count towards major or minor requirements? Will you take electives or pursue language training unavailable on your home campus? What internship or volunteer opportunities will you participate in to support your professional goals? Will you learn skills or conduct research that will be necessary in your future career?
- **Make it personal.** Use the first person. Rather than saying "Students on this program can...", try "While on this program, I will..."
- **Highlight skills, goals, and achievements.** Resumes are not submitted, so highlight your skills, goals, and achievements in your essays. Show how outstanding you are!
- **Be original.** Imagine what the other scholarship applicants will say and make your essay something no one else could write.
- **BE SPECIFIC!!!** Avoid general statements. Rather than saying, "I want to experience a new culture," it will be more effective to say, "I want to live with a host family in Argentina so I can experience first-hand the family as the center of Latin American culture." Don't just write that upon your return you will "do a presentation with photos and food from the country." Indicate when you will present, where, with and to whom, using what medium, how you will advertise, what types of photos you will use, and which food items.

## FEA 2011 Scholarship Winners

**Breanna Bang, University of Denver.** Breanna is a bi-racial first generation college student from a low-income family. She is planning on studying abroad at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan during the spring semester of 2012. She has studied both Chinese and Japanese for three years and is an Asian Studies/International Studies major.

**Lindsay Lebel, Tufts University.** Lindsay is a double major in Community Health and Arabic. In the past, she has studied Globalization and Health and Childhood Across Cultures in France. She has used Arabic to teach African and Iraqi middle school students English, and she is currently involved with the Peer Health Exchange. Lindsay will spend the fall 2011 semester traveling to Switzerland, India, China, and South Africa with the International Honors Program, focusing on Health and Communities. Her spring semester will be spent in intensive Arabic studies in Egypt.

**Quynh Quach, Pacific University.** Quynh is a Biology major and a Japanese minor, with plans to become a physician's assistant in the near future. Her family moved to the US from Vietnam ten years ago, and this experience has taught her that a student's life is not all academic; there are experiences to be gained outside the classroom as well. Quynh is therefore applying to study at Kansai Gaidai University in Japan, which will help her improve her Japanese as well as broaden her understanding of Japanese cultures and society.

**Miranda Parvis, Florida International University.** Miranda is a junior in the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. When she was 5 years old, she moved to the US from Argentina and since then has been living in Miami. Being an immigrant has been difficult but Miranda believes that it has given her the ability to adapt. For this reason traveling and studying abroad is extremely important for not only her career but her personal growth as well. As a major country in the forefront of hospitality, China will be that important stepping stone for future careers.

**Alejandro Romero, Miami Dade College.** From a multi-cultural family, Alex grew up bilingual in English and Spanish. In high school he started teaching himself Japanese, studying the language for four years and ultimately going on an exchange program. Recently, Alex began Russian and now will be traveling there to pursue his studies. He is a Linguistics major and an International Relations minor.

**Tiffany Simmons, Georgia Southern University.** Tiffany is an African-American student from a single parent home. This year she will be going abroad to study at the Nagoya University of Foreign Studies (NUFS) in Japan for two semesters. She is a Fine Arts major with minors in Japanese and Linguistics.

**Eda Xian, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.** Eda is a junior who plans to graduate with a major in Biochemistry and a minor in International Business. Having spent a summer in Shanghai once before, she is now returning for an entire year to learn the language, study Chinese medicine, and participate in an internship. Her professional goal is to develop a deeper understanding of Chinese medicine to incorporate into her future practice as a bilingual doctor.



# Fund for Education Abroad

## 2011-2012 Fund for Education Abroad Scholars

**FEA is proud to announce the first round of scholarship winners! Please congratulate these students on their accomplishment and wish them luck in their study abroad endeavors.**

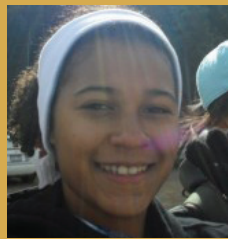
### FEA Scholars Will Study in

- China
- India
- Japan
- Kenya
- Morocco
- Russia
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Thailand
- Tanzania

**Breanna Bang**  
**Lindsay Lebel**  
**Alex Lyakhov**  
**Miranda Parvis**  
**Quynh Quach**  
**Alejandro Romero**  
**Tiffany Simmons**  
**Eda Xian**

University of Denver  
 Tufts University  
 State University of New York at Oneota  
 Florida International University  
 Pacific University  
 Miami Dade College-Kendall Campus  
 Georgia Southern University  
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“I am bi-racial, half Caucasian and half African American. I am also a first generation college student from a low-income family. I’ve studied both Chinese and Japanese for three years and am extremely excited about the opportunities that I have to study in these countries.”



Breanna Bang



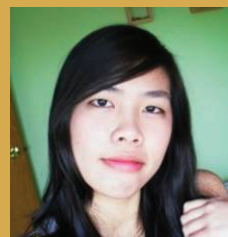
Lindsay Lebel



Alex Lyakhov



Miranda Parvis



Quynh Quach



Alejandro Romero



Tiffany Simmons



Eda Xian

### Who Is FEA?

The Fund for Education Abroad is committed to increasing the opportunities for dedicated American students to participate in high-quality, rigorous education abroad programs by reducing financial restrictions through the provision of grants and scholarships. Please see [www.fundforeducationabroad.org](http://www.fundforeducationabroad.org) for scholarship application requirements and preferences. Online applications will open in August 15, 2011 for 2012-2013 FEA scholarships.

### FEA Scholars’ Majors and Minors

- |                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Arabic                | Hospitality & Tourism        |
| Asian Studies         | International Business       |
| Biochemistry          | International Relations      |
| Chinese               | International Studies        |
| Community Health      | Japanese                     |
| Environmental Biology | Linguistics                  |
| Fine Arts             | Meteorology                  |
| French                | Molecular & Cellular Biology |



“This past summer, I visited Shanghai, China for the World Exposition, and I developed an immense appreciation for the country. I am eager to see more, and I long to return to learn the language and study Chinese medicine. My professional goal is to develop a deeper understanding of Chinese medicine and incorporate it into my future practice as a bilingual doctor. Thanks to FEA, I am able to live out my dreams and embark on a life-changing journey overseas.”

## Future Plans

Doctor with Bilingual Skills

Community Health Worker with refugees in Maine

Conservation Biologist

Teacher specializing in English as a second language

Linguist

Physician’s Assistant

United States Agency for International Development Officer

Entrepreneur and travel business owner

Researcher at US Department of State – Bureau of Populations, Refugees and Migration

## FEA Scholars’ Demographics

- 27 percent are the first generation of their families to attend college.
- 13 percent are LGBTQ.
- 75 percent are African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino/Chicano or Native American.
- 50 percent speak a language other than English at home.
- 75 percent have studied abroad previously in China, France, Japan, Taiwan or Turkey.



“I’ve had a fascination with nature since I was very young. Living in Brooklyn, I wasn’t exposed to much in the way of true ‘nature,’ so I jumped at the opportunity to go somewhere you can actually see wild animals and breathe fresh air. I’ll be traveling to Kenya and Tanzania with the School for Field Studies next year, where I will take 18 credits worth of environmental classes and enjoy the opportunity to learn Swahili, go on a week-long expedition to Serengeti National Park, and much more.”

## Study Abroad Inspiration

FEA Scholars have been inspired to travel by Antoine de St. Exupery’s *The Little Prince*; Sisko from *Star Trek-Deep Space Nine*; Deborah Fallows, author of *Dreaming in Chinese*; their own journey to America; friends who have studied abroad; a businessman on a flight from Shanghai to Guangzhou; and Captain Nathan Algren, a character played by Tom Cruise in *The Last Samurai*.

**It is important that recipients of FEA scholarships “give back” both to their host communities and to the campus that facilitated their time abroad. Here are some ways the 2011-2012 Scholars plan to give back:**

- Update home university website with study abroad program details
- Craft articles for student newspaper and blogs while abroad
- Engage with locals abroad about issues important to them
- Volunteer in recovered leprosy villages in Yunnan Province, China
- Teach Chinese language at a Teach for America site
- Mentor about other cultures in Denver Public Schools
- Launch a food drive for homeless in Tokyo
- Present study abroad experiences in home campus classrooms and at student clubs
- Help community college students study abroad
- Create hardcover book to share with host and home communities



## Study Abroad Scholarships

**Deadline:** November 14, 2011

**Funding Amount:** Up to \$10,000

**Number of Scholarships Awarded:** Up to 10

**Eligibility Requirements:** Applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents currently enrolled as undergraduates in US universities/colleges who plan to study abroad for at least four weeks between September 2012 and August 2013.

Fund for Education Abroad awards are intended to support students planning to participate in high-quality, rigorous education abroad programs in the 2012-2013 academic year or summer 2013.

The financial support for these scholarships is provided by generous donors, who are committed to increasing study abroad opportunities for dedicated American students.

Awards are subject to conditions set by FEA. For more information on how to apply for the scholarship, please visit our website, [www.fundforeducationabroad.com](http://www.fundforeducationabroad.com).



## More About FEA

The Fund for Education Abroad is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to increase opportunities for U.S. undergraduates to study abroad by providing individual student scholarships. Created in 2009, FEA is overseen by a board of directors from diverse organizations, including study abroad program providers, university education abroad offices and private companies.

### FEA Board of Directors

Lucienne Cannata, Associate Director of Study Abroad, The George Washington University

Kenya Casey, Assistant Director, Center for International Programs, Emory University

Candace Chenoweth, Director of Education Abroad Washington State University

Jane Edwards, Associate Dean for International Affairs, Yale College

Martin Hogan, Executive Vice President, Study Abroad, CIEE: Council on International Educational Exchange

Martha Johnson, Director, Learning Abroad Center University of Minnesota

Mark Lenhart, Director CET Academic Programs

Anthony C. Ogden, Director of Education Abroad University of Kentucky

David T. Parry, Chairman Academic Travel Abroad

Judy Perl, Owner Judy Perl Cruises, LLC

James F. Perna, Attorney Washington, DC

Kate Simpson, President Academic Travel Abroad

Linda G. Steckley, Senior Major Gifts Officer Chautauqua Foundation, Inc.

Jennifer Tidwell, Marketing Director CET Academic Programs

Mei Zhang, Founder WildChina

## Contact Us



Opening doors to the world, with your help.



### Fund for Education Abroad

1920 N Street NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036-1601

Phone: 202.210.3199

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

Email: [fea@academic-travel.com](mailto:fea@academic-travel.com)

**"...Study abroad if you can. Find a way to travel the world....Never stop finding new ways to learn and to grow."**

- First Lady Michelle Obama, Spring 2010, addressing students in Washington, DC





## Education Abroad in the 21st Century: The Time is Now!

The field of education abroad is at an exciting crossroads. Just over 260,000 students, or a mere 1% of all U.S. undergraduates, study abroad for credit each year. Although still a tiny percentage, that number has tripled over the past two decades. And while the most popular study abroad destination remains the United Kingdom, non-traditional destinations are growing in popularity faster than their traditional counterparts—13 of the top 25 destinations are outside of Europe, and 19 are destinations where English is not a primary language.

Study abroad is gaining momentum because at this unprecedented time in our history, students understand what it can help them achieve—critical language skills; preparation for work in an increasingly global marketplace; flexibility and adaptability; an understanding of how to work within diverse teams; insight about what service means and where it is most needed; or simply, expanded horizons.

## FEA History: Born of Experience

The Fund for Education Abroad was launched in 2009 under the initiative of senior management at CET Academic Programs, a study abroad program provider; and Academic Travel Abroad (ATA), an educational travel organization and CET's parent company. An all-star board of directors was assembled, each member bringing to the table a unique perspective of education abroad. The Board of Directors went to work designing a scholarship fund that would provide what others do not—funds for education abroad awarded early in the application season and unlimited by destination, field of study or specific student background.

CET and ATA both sponsor FEA and have representatives on the Board of Directors. However, FEA is unaffiliated with either company. It is an independent scholarship organization committed to supporting student participation in any academically sound education abroad program.

## FEA: Student-Centered

FEA scholarships are unique. For one, they target underrepresented groups, including minority students and students from less common academic disciplines. For another, they are not limited to any particular program or field of study. Instead, FEA selects dedicated students who have their sights set on academically sound programs, particularly in non-traditional destinations. Students with plans to give back to the local community in which they study are also given top consideration.

Finally, the FEA admissions deadline is early, much earlier than that of most study abroad programs and offices. Students apply by November for funds to study abroad during the following academic year or summer. This is to

allow FEA scholarship recipients to apply to education abroad programs with confidence, selecting a program for its quality, while resting assured that the financial component is taken care of.

## FEA Future: We Need You

Here's what you can do to help FEA reach its goal of providing scholarships of at least \$5,000 per recipient:

- **Donate!** Tax-deductible donations of any size can be made online at: [www.fundforeducationabroad.org](http://www.fundforeducationabroad.org).
- **Become a sponsor.** We welcome support for our events and initiatives and, in exchange, provide our sponsors with a list of tangible benefits.
- **Spread the word.** Tell students, friends and colleagues about FEA. Please link us to your website, and join our cause on Facebook: [facebook.com/fundforeducationabroad](https://facebook.com/fundforeducationabroad).
- **Volunteer.** We are always looking for help with events, fundraising and administrative tasks.

