



# PURSUING SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING FOR WKU INTERNATIONAL TEACHING ABROAD

## SCHOLARSHIPS - INTERNAL TO WKU

### **World Topper Scholarship | Study Abroad & Global Learning**

Priority deadlines: October 1 for Spring, March 15 for Fall. Priority is given to students who apply by the priority deadline, have demonstrated financial need, and first-time study abroad students. Remaining funds will be awarded on a rolling basis. Average award range: \$200-\$600. Click [here](#) for more.

### **EDGE Grant | Study Abroad & Global Learning**

Deadlines: October 1 for Spring, March 15 for Fall. Supports students with high financial need who have been traditionally underrepresented in study abroad. Must identify as one of the following: ethnic/racial minority, students with disabilities, non-traditional students, first-generation college students, students from the Appalachian Region, and LGBTQIA students. Click [here](#) for more.

### **SGA Study Abroad Scholarship | Student Government Association**

Applications and award details are posted each semester for programs beginning the following semester. Maximum of \$300 per term. Click [here](#) and select “Scholarships” in the navigation bar for more.

### **Honors Travel Abroad Grant | Mahurin Honors College**

Honors College students are eligible. Recipients must complete post-study abroad requirements, as outlined on the Honors College website. If a student does not do so, s/he must repay the funds. Maximum of \$1,000 per term. Click [here](#) for more.

### **Honors Development Grant | Mahurin Honors College**

Honors College students are eligible. Can be used to conduct supplementary research or creative work related to Honors College coursework and/or CET project. Maximum of \$500 per term. Click [here](#) for more.

### **Lifetime Experience Grant | Office of Scholar Development**

Maximum of \$3,000 per term. Funds unique experiences that engage students outside of the classroom—including research, international study, creative activities, student-led engagement efforts, and more—aiming to help students become more competitive for national scholarships. Preference is given to students planning to apply for Boren, Critical Language, Fulbright, Gilman, Goldwater, Marshall, Mitchell, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, Rhodes, Gates Cambridge, Truman, and Udall. Click [here](#) for more.

### **TOPDollar Scholarship Source | Student Financial Assistance**

Some scholarships available for study abroad within the WKU scholarship management system. Apply by February 1 for Fall and Spring of the upcoming academic year. Click [here](#) for more.

### **Departmental Scholarships | Western Kentucky University**

Additional scholarships may be available to students in subject area disciplines, including the Biology and Modern Language Departments. Contact your department for details.



# PURSUING SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING FOR WKU INTERNATIONAL TEACHING ABROAD

The **Office of Scholar Development** helps WKU students compete with students at other universities for nationally competitive opportunities—like study abroad scholarships.

To pursue any scholarship listed below, contact Lindsey Houchin at [lindsey.houchin@wku.edu](mailto:lindsey.houchin@wku.edu) to set up an advising appointment. Indicate which scholarship(s) and your intention to student teach abroad.

Can't make it to our office in HCIC? We'll be happy to set up a phone or video call with you.

## SCHOLARSHIPS - EXTERNAL TO WKU

### Gilman Scholarship

Deadlines: First Tuesday in October for Spring, First Tuesday in March for Fall. May apply up to two semesters in advance of your study abroad term for early notification (recommended). A government-funded scholarship that supports students who are underrepresented in study abroad. Only available to Federal Pell Grant recipients, and the program must last at least 21 days. Maximum of \$5,000 per term. Click [here](#) for more.

### Gilman-McCain Scholarship

Deadlines: First of each month. A government-funded scholarship that supports child dependents of *active duty* service members (Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard) who receive Title IV federal financial aid. Maximum of \$5,000 per term. Click [here](#) for more.

### Fund for Education Abroad Scholarship

Deadlines: January for Fall, September for Spring. Gives preference to those who demonstrate financial need, are traveling to a non-traditional destination, represent a group traditionally underrepresented in study abroad, and plan to study in the language of the host country. Programs that are academically rigorous, have immersion elements, and include a sustainable service learning or volunteering component are preferred. Program must be 28+ days. Maximum of \$5,000 per term. Click [here](#) for more.

### Golden Key Scholarship

Deadline: December. Applicants **MUST** be members of Golden Key International Honour Society who are ranked in top 15% of class to apply. Maximum of \$2,500 per term. Click [here](#) for more.

### Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship

Deadline: Applications accepted from 12/15-3/15 for the following academic year. Must have a 3.75+ GPA. Do **NOT** have to be a member to apply. Maximum of \$1,000 for study abroad. Click [here](#) for more.

We can help! And we really mean it. We'll help you decode the nuts and bolts of the application, plan your materials to maximize competitiveness, revise your essays, and more.

Email [lindsey.houchin@wku.edu](mailto:lindsey.houchin@wku.edu) to get started. The sooner, the better!

# SIX RULES FOR WRITING COMPETITIVE STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP ESSAYS

## 1. ALWAYS ANSWER THE PROMPT.

- If you don't answer the prompt, you can't earn the credit.
- It may be tempting, especially in a time crunch, to copy and paste because the essay prompts appear similar. Instead, look for minor differences and nuances in each prompt. Recycle elements, not essays.

## 2. BE SPECIFIC.

- Mine the study abroad program website, course descriptions, and itinerary for meaningful examples of what you will do, or what previous students have done, on the program. Compare:
  - Don't: "I want to experience the culture in Argentina."
  - Do: "I will better understand contemporary Argentine culture by studying how it has been shaped by Argentina's military history, such as the el proceso dictatorship."

## 3. KEEP THE MISSION IN MIND.

- Different scholarships have different goals. When writing your essays, always ask, "**How can I demonstrate that I am a good fit with their mission and goals?**"
- Compare the two missions:
  - Gilman Scholarship: to diversify the kinds of students who study or intern abroad and encourage study for longer terms, in non-traditional destinations, and of critical language.
  - Phi Kappa Phi: to help support undergraduates as they seek knowledge and experience in their academic fields by studying abroad.

## 4. DISCLOSE DIVERSITY.

- For study abroad scholarships, diversity means "underrepresented in study abroad," which includes:
  - **Personal**: Racial or ethnic minority, LGBTQIA, first-generation student, non-traditional student, veteran, disability, and more.
  - **Academic major**: STEM, education, business, and health & human services.
  - **Geographic**: From Kentucky, Tennessee, etc.; rural vs. urban; federally-defined Appalachia.

## 5. CONNECT YOUR CHOSEN STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM TO ACADEMIC, CAREER, AND PERSONAL GOALS.

- Study abroad scholarships do not want to fund vacations; they want to fund transformative experiences that further your goals.
  - **Academic**:
    - What will get out of student teaching abroad that you can't get from your local placement?
  - **Career**:
    - What kind of experiences will you have in your study abroad program that will enhance your career path?
    - In what specific ways will this study abroad program make you a better teacher one day?

## 6. TELL YOUR STORY IN A WAY THAT ALIGNS WITH THE MISSION.

- Your study abroad essays should tell your story but in a way that aligns with the mission of the specific scholarship funding agency for which you are applying.
- Highlight characteristics that align with the scholarship's goals. Don't write about those things that do not.

- Most of us have multiple paths for the future, not just one. You should choose just one to write about, even if you may be unsure. The path you choose should best align with the scholarship's mission.