

A QUICK GUIDE TO EDUCATION ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS



EDUCATION ABROAD
TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY

Updated August 2024

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01 EDUCATION ABROAD TEAM

TWU Education Abroad is here to assist you with realizing your goals to go global. Contact us for assistance with your applications.

02 DEADLINES & EVENTS

The following deadlines are provided for the most popular scholarships, so this is not an exhaustive list! Attend one of our events to learn more.

03 OVERVIEW OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Top scholarships that TWU students have earned in the past. Hint: Everyone should apply to the TWU Education Abroad Scholarship. 😊

04 APPLICATION TIPS

WORK AHEAD! Do not wait until the last minute to write your essays. We've provided some tips to get you started.



Boldly Go!

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EDUCATION ABROAD TEAM



TAYLOR MORGAN

Director of Education Abroad

✉ tmorgan3@twu.edu

Taylor can assist with brainstorming, composing, and editing your essays and applications.

ALEX ROMAN

Education Abroad Advisor

✉ aroman6@twu.edu

Alex can assist with education abroad program selection and paperwork for your applications.



GLOBAL ADVISORS

Education Abroad 101

<https://twu.edu/education-abroad/advising/>

If you are newly exploring your program options, please book an initial meeting with one of our global advisors.



Fall 2024 Deadlines

ALL education abroad scholarships require that you earn academic credit for your abroad program. Other eligibility criteria will vary by scholarship.

The following scholarships are popular, but not the only options. If you want to explore more scholarships with a wide variety of eligibility criteria, please visit our [**Paying For Your Program**](#) page on our website.

9/18

Fund for Education Abroad

<https://fundforeducationabroad.org/>

10/10

Gilman International Scholarship

<https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/>

10/15

TWU Education Abroad Scholarship

<https://bit.ly/TWUEAS>



Fund for Education Abroad



Similar to ApplyTexas, **one** online application leads to many opportunities. As an applicant to FEA, you are considered for all of the scholarships you meet the criteria for, along with the FEA General Scholarships. **Award amounts vary.**

Eligibility

- **Undergraduate** students only
- Study abroad program must be eligible for credit
- Demonstrated financial need

Apply

- Transcript (unofficial accepted)
- Financial Aid verification form
- Two essays

Deadline

- **September 18, 2024** for Spring 2025 programs
- **February 5, 2025** for Summer, Fall, AY 2025 programs



Gilman International Scholarship



The U.S. Department of State's Gilman International Scholarship broadens the student population that studies and interns abroad by supporting students who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints. **Award up to \$5,000.**

Eligibility

- **Undergraduate** students only
- Study abroad program must be eligible for credit
- **Must** be receiving a Federal Pell Grant or be eligible to receive one during their program

Apply

- Transcript (unofficial accepted)
- Financial Aid information
- Three essays

Deadline

- **October 10, 2024** (for travel between Dec 2024 to Oct 2025)
- **March 6, 2025** (for travel between May 2025 to April 2026)



Additional Gilman Awards



In special cases, some students may be eligible to apply for additional Gilman awards. These awards are on top of the \$5,000 maximum from the original Gilman award.

STEM SUPPLEMENTAL AWARD

Applicants who are conducting STEM-related research as part of their study abroad or international internship program. The research must already be formally integrated into your credit-bearing program.

Requires 1 additional essay

UP TO
\$1,000

CRITICAL NEED LANGUAGE AWARD

Applicants who are studying one of the select critical need languages as identified by the U.S. Department of State, could be eligible for an additional award.

Requires 1 additional essay

UP TO
\$3,000



TWU Education Abroad Scholarship



As part of TWU mandatory fees, students contribute each semester toward the International Education Fee. This fund assists students participating in approved TWU education abroad programs and is open to all TWU students meeting the eligibility requirements as stipulated within the application. **Award up to \$1,500.**

Eligibility

- **Undergraduate** and **graduate** students
- Study abroad program must be eligible for credit
- All program types eligible, as long as you are earning credit

Apply

- Brief overview of your program
- Three short essay questions

Deadline

- **October 15, 2024**
- **March 15, 2025**
- You can apply as early as **a year** before your program departure date

Using Financial Aid



If you are taking a **TWU course**, you should be able to use your financial aid as you would for a normal semester. If your aid package results in a refund, you may use those funds to pay your travel provider.

If you are taking courses **through another institution or provider**, some of your local, state and federal aid may not be usable outside of TWU or Texas. Please look closely at the stipulations for each of your awards. Most students utilize refund dollars to apply to their travel and program fees.

Re-Evaluate Your Aid

Credit-seeking students who've completed a FAFSA and receive federal financial aid may qualify for additional financial aid awards based on the added cost of an education abroad program.

You must meet Financial Aid eligibility requirements in order to qualify for financial aid, which includes earning credit and meeting degree plan requirements for the course(s) attached to the Education Abroad program.

Requesting a Re-Evaluation

Financial aid re-evaluation requests are processed **after** you have been accepted to participate in the Education Abroad program.

You must start the registration for your selected program in the TWU EA Portal, where you can request a cost sheet to be signed by Education Abroad.

Students are responsible for taking the signed cost sheet and additional paperwork to Financial Aid for review.

PLEASE NOTE

Additional funding is not guaranteed.

Information about aid increases might not be available until the semester that you travel.

EA Events Fall 2024

01 GILMAN INFO SESSION

Friday, September 13, 2024

10:00 am | [Zoom Link](#)

This session will provide an overview of the Gilman and how to apply for the Oct 2024 cycle.

02 FINANCING STUDY ABROAD

Thursday, September 26, 2024

12:00 pm | Stoddard Hall 308 & [Zoom](#)

Learn more about general scholarships and budgeting tips to make going abroad a reality.

03 CAREER BENEFITS OF EA

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

12:00 pm | Stoddard Hall 308 & [Zoom](#)

Why invest time, energy, and money into education abroad? Join EA and Career Connections to learn about the career benefits.

04 FEA INFO SESSION

Thursday, November 14, 2024

12:30 pm | [Zoom Link](#)

This session will provide an overview of the Fund for Education Abroad application and how to apply for the upcoming Winter 2025 cycle.



EDUCATION ABROAD FAIR



OUR BIGGEST ANNUAL EVENT!

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

SUHH 1st Floor, Denton

EA Fair 11:00am - 2:00pm

Advising 3:00pm - 5:00pm

ENTER TO WIN A RAFFLE PRIZE!

Vendors at the EA fair will include TWU departments, EA program providers, students who've studied abroad, scholarship info, and more!

APPLICATION TIMELINE

01

Select a Program

Do you know where you are going and what you're studying? You'll need that info for your essays! TWU Faculty-Led or a provider program must be selected.

02

Check Eligibility

Double check the eligibility for your scholarship options. Some might have criteria based on GPA, academic level, major, location, or identities.

03

Review Requirements

Map out what you need to gather for your scholarship application and which campus departments you'll need to work with well before you submit your app.

04

Brainstorming

When you look at the components of the essays and short answers, talk to your faculty and EA staff to make sure you're providing correct details about your program and answering **all** components of the essays.

05

Draft & Edit Essays

Allow yourself enough time to work on multiple drafts of your essays and seek out another set of eyes to provide feedback. Essays that go through a few drafts end up getting awards!

06

Submit All Materials

Make sure you are submitting all requested materials or information and in the right format - doc, pdf, etc. Know your abroad program from front to back. No errors!

Before You Begin Your Applications



BACKGROUND

While it is useful to have a general understanding of **who** sponsors scholarships, it is equally beneficial to understand **why** these scholarships exist. What motivates these external organizations to provide funding support for education abroad?

There are likely several reasons why a public or private organization might offer scholarship support. However, one fairly common theme in regards to education abroad specific scholarships is to increase the rate at which underrepresented students in higher education are able to participate in education abroad programs.

TYPES OF EA SCHOLARSHIPS

- ✓ **Internal** - available through Texas Woman's University
- ✓ **External** - available through private or public organizations with a vested interest in international education
- ✓ **Program Specific** - available through the International Education Organization (IEO) who oversees the program itself

EXPLORE OUR LIST

[Paying for Your Program](#)

You Can Boldly Go

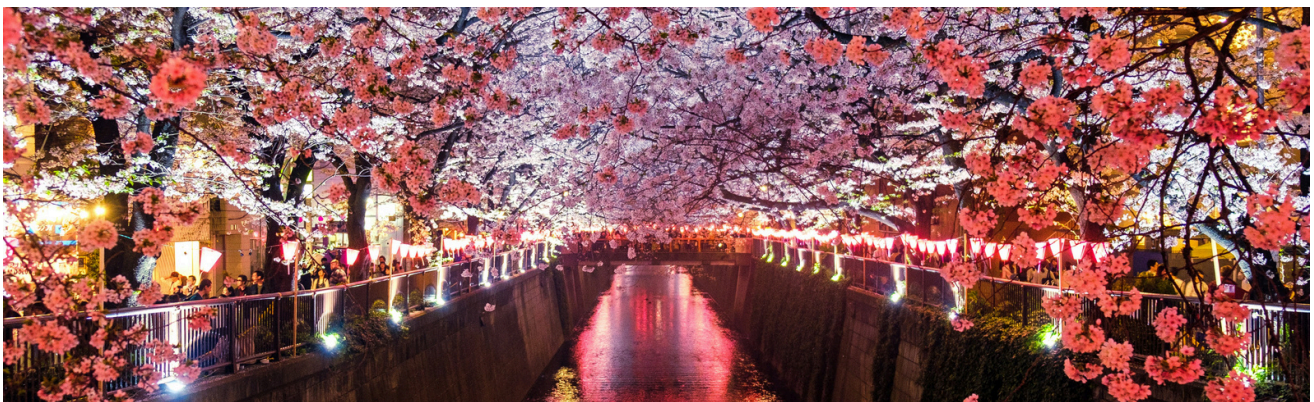
Each year, the [Institute of International Education](#) compiles data from colleges and universities across the United States specifically looking at variables related to both international students and education abroad activities. This data is then made available yearly via the [Open Doors Report](#). This report helps us identify **who** is considered underrepresented in education abroad. These organizations providing funding want **ALL** students to go abroad!

In recent years, these variables have included:

- Non-traditional aged students
- Veterans of the military
- First-generation college students
- First-generation American students
- Students who are parents of minor dependents
- Students with a disability
- Students who identify as LGBTQ+

Underrepresentation in education abroad goes beyond demographics. It is equally important to consider other uncommon data sets in education abroad participants, including:

- Academic area of study
- Location of study
- Language of instruction



Understanding Your Program Costs



BREAK IT DOWN

Most scholarships will require a breakdown of your program costs, in addition to any financial aid forms required for funding.

Education abroad programs are named as such because they are more than a trip. They are educational travel opportunities designed to make going global accessible and worthwhile. However, there are a lot of moving parts to make it happen.

“Program” costs include everything associated with your abroad course(s) and the added travel expenses.

MAKE A PLAN

[EA Budget Worksheet](#)

COSTS TO CONSIDER

- ✓ **Program Fee** - provided by your faculty or provider company. This fee typically includes the bulk of your travel, accommodations, meals, and activities
- ✓ **Tuition & Fees** - usual cost of your TWU course associated with the travel, or academic costs for host universities if not already included in the program fee
- ✓ **Additional/Personal** - airfare (if not already included in program fee), passport fee, meals, required tests or vaccines for the location, books & supplies

Top Writing Tips

Number 1: Know Your Why

Why do you want to go abroad?

Each scholarship application is likely to include some kind of written component. While the essays vary, there are some common themes that emerge across internal, external, and program specific scholarships. Below are examples of common essay components:

- Description of the Education Abroad program
- Articulation of why you chose this education abroad program
- Linking your selected program to your academic, personal, and professional goals
- Discussion of previous challenges demonstrating an ability to persevere
- Communicating your plan to actively engage in your “home” community upon return from abroad



Top Writing Tips

Number 2: Know The “Who”

Know the Competition

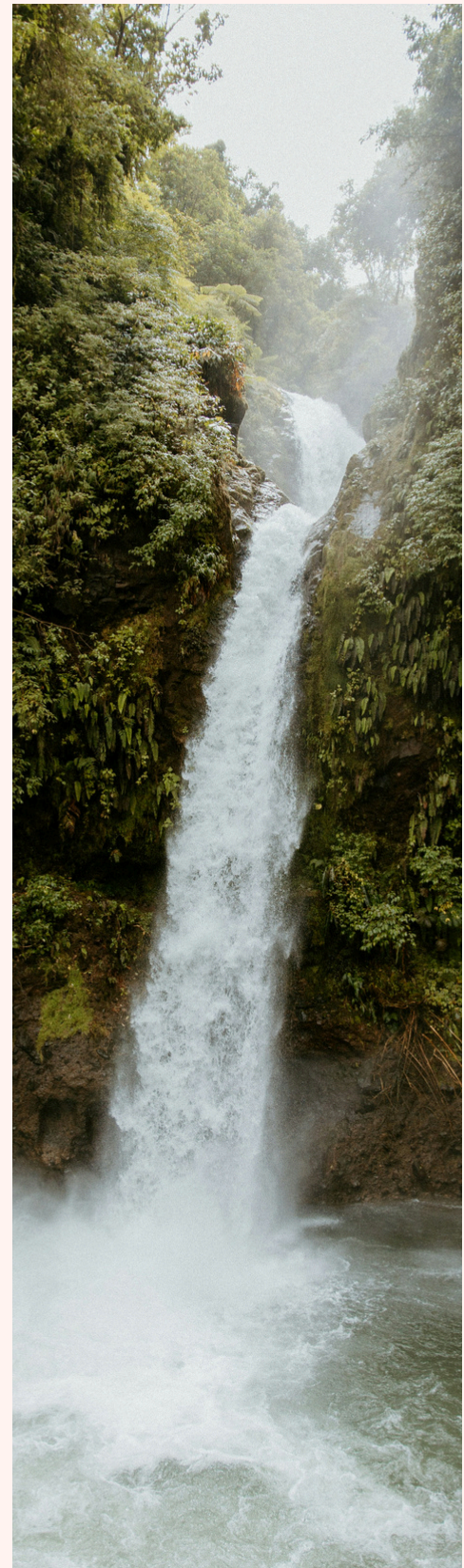
Before you begin to write, you will want to consider your competition. Who else might be applying to this scholarship? In general, these are other students who:

- Are planning to participate in education abroad programs
- Have experienced transitioning to college at some point
- May identify as an underrepresented student in education abroad

Know Your Audience

Knowing “who” is reading and reviewing scholarship essay is definitely useful! Scholarship reviewers may be both internal or external to the organization. Below are some characteristics of reviewers:

- Typically work in international education
- Volunteers
- Could review upwards of 80 scholarship applications within 2 weeks
- Have varying levels of experience in education abroad and/or as a reviewer
- Have varying levels of bias



Top Writing Tips

Number 3: Be Detailed and Be You

Avoid Sweeping Generalizations

Example phrases to avoid without explanation:

“This is a transformational experience”

“Once in a lifetime”

“Expand my global perspective”

“Life changing experience”

“Broaden my horizons”

How will it expand your global perspective?

How will it change your life?

Authenticity & Vulnerability

- Be authentic! Tell an original story important to who you are and the choices you make.
- No time for modesty. If you’ve got something unique to say, say it loud and say it proud.
- Be willing to be vulnerable. This can be challenging but appropriately sharing relevant information may be the difference between being awarded a scholarship and being passed by.



Further Considerations

Hook the reviewer from the beginning.

Scholarship reviewers read **a lot** of essays. How will you catch their attention in your intro? Don't wait until the third paragraph to mention your "why".

Always make connections to your goals.

Be very clear about how this program and this location is relevant to your major and your goals. Whether a personal choice or faculty designed program, make those links!

Show that you've done your research.

What do you know about your host location? What are you excited to learn about firsthand? Why is it important for your global perspective?

Go beyond the itinerary.

How do you plan to engage with locals or pursue further learning outside of your course and activities? How will you represent yourself, TWU, and the U.S.?

How will you pay it forward?

What will you do after your return from your travels to share your experience? How will you share what you've learned with your community and peers?

Important Final Notes

Scholarship Cycles

Apply for **early** cycles, when possible. If your timeline to travel allows, apply 1-2 cycles before you depart. Your travel providers require payments months in advance, so get that funding early!

- Example: If you are traveling in May 2025, apply as early as the Fall 2024 cycle. Don't wait until spring! Please review departure date restrictions per scholarship. When and how you receive funds in your account varies by scholarship, so review the award timelines very closely.

Receiving Awards

You can only be **awarded** for one scholarship cycle per program. Usually, if you receive no award in an early cycle, you can try again in the next. However, if you receive an award in the first cycle, you cannot apply again to receive a higher award.

- Example: You are awarded \$1,000 from the TWU Education Abroad Scholarship in Fall 2024. You cannot re-apply in Spring 2024 to try again for the maximum \$1,500.

Develop Your Financial Plan

Always make a **financial plan** for your education abroad program. Scholarship funding is not guaranteed and you are at the mercy of very stringent application and administration timelines.

- For most programs, you will need to secure funding to make payments to your travel provider. Scholarships will either pay yourself back, or if you work early, they can chip away at that program cost.

Contact Us

On your applications, if you need to select an advisor:

TWU Faculty-Led Programs - Taylor Morgan, tmorgan3@twu.edu

Provider Programs - Alex Roman, aroman6@twu.edu

Financial Aid Advisor - Camille Langlinais, clanglinais@twu.edu

If you have questions about your abroad courses:

TWU Faculty-Led Programs - Consult your faculty leaders

Provider Programs - Alex Roman, aroman6@twu.edu and your Major/Minor Academic Advisors

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