



Study Abroad Scholarships Workshop



How to Find Scholarships

1. Find scholarships you are eligible for

Not just based on financial need...can find ones based on major, study abroad location, ethnic background, merit, if 1st generation student, etc.

How to Search for Scholarships

- Like the “UCI Scholarships Resource Center” Facebook page and look for posts of scholarships you can apply to
- Search the Study Abroad Center resources
 - Click on **Prospective Participants**
 - Click on **Scholarships and Financial Aid**
 - Click on **Scholarships**



Steps for Getting Scholarships

1. Find scholarships you are eligible for
2. Understand what is valued in an applicant

To be successful, you need to know what the selection committee is looking for and what they value

Find what they value in the prompt or information page of the scholarship

Focus your essay on the things that are stated as important

Pay Attention to the Prompt

- **EXAMPLE:** “UCEAP scholarships from the Promise Awards are open to all UCEAP students. The award selections will be primarily based on academic merit and integration of a selected UCEAP program into a student’s academic and career goals, as demonstrated in a personal statement. Students with financial need or who are traditionally under-represented in UCEAP programs should include the impact these elements have had on their decision to study abroad. Under-represented students include those who have transferred to UC from a California community college or state university, veterans, first-generation college students, participants on year-long programs, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) majors.”

Know exactly what the scholarship is for and what the selection committee is looking for

Focus your essay on the factors that the scholarship values

Steps for Getting Scholarships

1. Find scholarships you are eligible for
2. Understand what is valued in an applicant
3. Understand how you can address what is valued

Reflect on yourself and your program in order to address what is valued

Think/write about...

1. Why did you academically/professionally/personally choose this program?
2. How does the program or location help in your major or future goals such as career or grad school?
3. How are you planning on embracing or learning about the host country's customs, language, and culture?
4. Does your program have internship opportunities? Volunteering? Homestay? Research? Unique classes? Etc.
5. Be sure to address your diversity within study abroad, even if it's not asked for or if you wrote it somewhere else on an application: Major, ethnic background, first generation, LGBT, transfer, disability, etc.

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4. Get to the point in your essays; be specific to the prompt and specific in what you have to say

A shorter to-the-point essay is better than a longer essay with “fluff”

Don't approach this like an English class essay: get to the point in the opening paragraph

Reader doesn't need your whole thought process, just your final decision

There's no need to be “deep”

Statement of Purpose – Bad Example #1

- “It hasn’t entirely been of thought to travel the world. Things always came and went as they pleased without batting an eyelash for anyone. Subtle as it may be and subtle as it may try to be, traveling is all that seems to come up now. It entails so much and has the potential to really free a soul; and with such distinct and striking emotions stirring up, it shouldn’t be ignored.”
 - Why bad? Tries too hard to be deep; doesn’t actually say anything; lack of content will lose your reader.

Statement of Purpose – Bad Example #2

- “Although I have will have a completed a year of college French, my pronunciation and vocal understanding the language is weaker than my reading and writing skills. I know that the best way to learn a language is to use the language daily and live in a country that speaks it, which is what I am trying to do my studying abroad.”
 - Why bad? Just touches the surface/should be more specific; How will living in the country that speaks the language help learn it better; needs to be edited for grammar.

Statement of Purpose – Bad Example #3

- “I want to be able to walk in other people’s shoes and have a taste of different world perspectives in terms of academic, political, and religious aspects of life in contrast to my home nation. I will build diverse social networks to have more connections with people in different parts of the world. Also, I will create memories that will last more than a lifetime as I pass them on to future generations of my family. In the sense of academics, I will be able to engage in different points of view than my home university, and these varied perspectives will inform my future studies and work.”
 - Why bad? Too broad; not explaining how they will do these things; includes obvious fluff (“creating memories to pass on to future generations”); Does not allow reader to understand the student (could be anyone).

Statement of Purpose – Good Examples #1

- “The types of courses and other educational opportunities available in Jordan that are not available at UC Irvine are Arabic language immersion programs and classes explaining women’s involvement in politics during the Arab Spring from primary sources. I will learn about this historical pinnacle from the Contemporary Arab Women Writers class offered at the University of Jordan.”
 - Why good? Very specific in what is offered there that is different from here; not only makes a statement but gives an example.

Statement of Purpose – Good Examples #2

- “As an aspiring clinical therapist, I am interested in incorporating traditional Eastern healing techniques into treatment programs for patients with mental illnesses, as well as victims of trauma. Since I do not want to limit my services to the American population, this program introduces me to the capability of working with greater diversity.”
 - Why good? Talks about future career and how study abroad relates; very specific; elaborates on statement.

Statement of Purpose – Good Example #3

- “For a time, I wanted to know more about my African-American lineage, and I discovered that my father’s side descends directly from the British, while my mother’s side descends directly from the French. But my family tree dates back only to my great grandparents, due to loss of documentation during the Civil War. I hope to find British/French censuses and archives that suggest how my ancestors migrated to the US and endured slavery.”
 - Why good? Very specific in why they chose their program; elaborates on why it’s important to them.

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4. Get to the point in your essays; be specific to the prompt
5. Edit your essay a couple days after you write it
AND have a peer do a quick edit

Have someone else read your essay for you: friend, UCI Writing Center, study abroad advisor, etc

Edit your essay with fresh eyes a few days after writing it

When a Scholarship Has a Required Follow-up Project

- Think of these as taking your experiences and *paying it forward*
- What is the *impact* of your project in your community?
 - UCI (department, dorm, club), high school, church, neighborhood, etc
- Originality is great but you aren't expected to reinvent the wheel
- Is there a way to connect your major with your location abroad and your home community?
- Consider utilize an existing campus or community organization, club, etc.

Follow-up Project Examples

- Become a *Generation Study Abroad* Ambassador for the Study Abroad Center
- STEM majors can give study abroad presentations to their peers since they are less likely to go abroad
- Reaching out to a local community
 - Make a presentation to a local high school
- Paint a mural related to your experience in your city
- Keep a detailed blog or vlog
 - Provide details on how often you would write and the audience you will specifically address and promote to
 - Consider focusing on a specific subject: like a culture blog, food blog, travel around the country blog, etc
- Send postcards to yourself throughout your time abroad and then turn it into a book for the Study Abroad Center
- Make a cookbook based on recipes you learned in your country for the Study Abroad Center
- Learn a local dance and teach it on campus
- Create a video of your experience for the Study Abroad center to use for outreach



Questions?

