

Study Abroad and Scholarship FAQ

What is the difference between Global Explorations for Students (GES), Education Abroad, and Study Abroad?

Global Explorations for Students (GES), Education Abroad, and Study Abroad are terms that are used interchangeably and mean the same thing.

What is the deadline for the study abroad scholarship?

There are two scholarship application deadlines: (1) second Monday of November; or (2) first Monday of February of each year. The complete application with supporting documents must be received by the close of business on one of these two deadlines. Due to the limited number of scholarships available, no scholarships will be awarded in February if the funds are exhausted after the November deadline. The deadlines apply for applicants to any of the study abroad programs.

I noticed a program application and a scholarship application on the IPS website. What needs to be completed first?

In order to apply for a study abroad scholarship, you must complete the 'Study Abroad Program Application' to be admitted into the study abroad program of your choice. Once you have gained admittance into a program, you must include a copy of the Study Abroad Program Application with your scholarship application.

I am a new student at Lone Star College System (LSCS) and wish to study abroad at the end of this semester. Can I apply for a scholarship?

Scholarship Applicants must have completed at least 12 credit hours prior to the scholarship due date to be eligible. We welcome you to apply once you have completed the credit requirement. Once you have had a chance to shape your studies at LSCS, you will find your study abroad interests may change to reflect the direction of your education.

I applied for the study abroad scholarship in November, but my G.P.A dropped after the end of the fall semester. Am I still eligible for a scholarship?

Eligible candidates must have a cumulative grade point average (G.P.A) of 2.5 or higher by end of the semester the scholarship application was submitted. If you are awarded a scholarship, you must maintain a 2.5 G.P.A (at least) up to the study abroad departure date.

I meet the G.P.A and credit hours requirements. Are these scholarships awarded based on merit or financial need?

LSCS is committed to ensuring everyone has an opportunity to study abroad regardless of family income levels. Eligible candidates must demonstrate financial need in order to be eligible for a study abroad scholarship. Financial need is documented by completing a FAFSA application <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. You are also required to write an essay outlining your need for financial assistance when studying abroad. Please include experiences and circumstances that may give the selection committee insight when considering your application. Once a student proves financial need their essay “Why I want to Study Abroad” will be judged by the selection committee.

Where do I need to send my completed scholarship application?

First, please make a copy of your application for your records. Please send the original application to:

Lone Star College System
Office of International Programs and Services
20515 State Highway 249, 11409A
Houston, TX 77070

How will my scholarship be paid?

Payment is made directly to the program, not to the scholarship recipient. Each study abroad program is unique, and has its own set of guidelines and deadlines. If you have been awarded a study abroad scholarship, contact the faculty member organizing your trip and inform them of your award. They will then contact IPS, confirm you are signed up for their trip, and arrange the scholarship payment to be made. These scholarship payments are made to a travel company or an account set up for your study abroad trip. If the trip is cancelled or you pull out, your scholarship award is only refundable to IPS.

My study abroad trip was just cancelled. Can I transfer my scholarship to another trip?

Once your trip has been officially cancelled, research other current LSCS study abroad trips to see if they are compatible with your educational needs. If you find a suitable replacement program with open seats, contact IPS immediately to discuss transferring your scholarship. If the program is compatible with your educational needs, you will be permitted to use your scholarship and register for the program. You will then contact the faculty member and follow the directions in the preceding question to facilitate the payment of your scholarship. Please note that awards are granted up to 75% of the program cost (excluding tuition and fees) for a maximum \$2,000. If you change programs, your award amount will change to reflect the new program cost totals. Your scholarship will be recalculated and paid directly to the program cost.

My study abroad trip was just cancelled but I do not wish to transfer to another program. Can I defer my scholarship until next year?

Unfortunately, scholarships cannot be deferred and must be applied the same year they were awarded. We welcome you to reapply next year if you do not use your award.

I was awarded a study abroad scholarship and it was applied for my trip last year. Can I apply for a study abroad scholarship again this year?

Unfortunately, students may only receive a scholarship once every three years.

I am ready to go on my study abroad trip, but I have never traveled to that part of the world before. What should I do to keep myself safe?

We recommend going to <http://travel.state.gov/> and research any travel warnings associated with your destination. The website has information on how to travel safely under 'Tips for Traveling Abroad'. Please make two copies of the following: your itinerary, passport, credit cards that you plan to bring, driver's license, and airline tickets. Leave one copy with a friend or family member and take the other copy with you. This will be very important if any of those items or documents are lost or stolen. It is also highly recommended that you register your travel with the local US Embassy <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. The Embassy will be better able to contact you in case of a family emergency, natural disaster or civil unrest.

Should I have special insurance for my trip?

Being properly insured is a necessity. Comprehensive travel insurance is important, especially if you would ever need to be airlifted out of a rural area for immediate medical treatment (which can cost tens of thousands of dollars). It is wise to research travel insurance that would work for you and work the requested amount into your budget proposal. It is recommended you consult your health insurance company to learn if you will have coverage during your travel or need to purchase supplemental insurance.

I still have more questions regarding studying abroad and applying for the study abroad scholarship...

If you have questions regarding your particular study abroad trip, please contact the faculty member organizing your trip. If you have questions regarding the scholarship application, please contact the department of IPS for more information: 832-813-6814 or IPS@LoneStar.edu.