



## 2019-2020 LSC Study Abroad Student Financial Awards Eligibility Criteria, Application Instructions, and Award Requirements

### Application Deadline

**We are now accepting applications on a two-week rolling basis. Completed application and supporting documents must be received by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.**

### Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet all eligibility criteria below **by the award application deadline** to be considered:

1. Fully accepted into a Lone Star College (LSC) Study Abroad program for academic credit. See the [Lone Star College Study Abroad](#) website for approved programs. Contact the trip leader to apply and be admitted before applying for the financial award.
2. Enrollment at LSC in a minimum of 6 credit hours by the award deadline, continued enrollment in and completion of a minimum of 6 credit hours until award fund disbursement.
3. Minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) to be considered under each award type (do not have to submit separate applications for each one) as follows. Recipients must maintain their GPA until award funds are disbursed:
  - **Applicants with less than 9 college-credits completed:**
    - For need-based awards: 2.5/4.0 or 3.5/5.0 cumulative high school GPA
    - For Partnership Award (for Ireland, Italy, or Spain/Portugal/Gibraltar programs): 3.0/4.0 or 4.0/5.0 cumulative high school GPA
    - For the merit-based awards: 3.5/4.0 or 4.5/5.0 cumulative high school GPA
  - **Existing LSC college students with 9 or more completed college credits** (college GPA must be used):
    - For need-based awards: 2.5/4.0 cumulative college GPA
    - For Partnership Award (for Ireland, Italy, or Spain/Portugal/Gibraltar programs): 2.7/4.0 cumulative college GPA
    - For the merit-based awards: 3.25/4.0 cumulative college GPA

Students who have transferred from another college and have not yet completed at least 9 credit hours with Lone Star College can use the cumulative GPA from their previous institution to qualify.

If using a high school or non-LSC college GPA to apply: Receipt of your official transcripts must be listed in myLoneStar by the award deadline. It's strongly recommended that you check whether LSC has received your official transcript.

4. For need-based awards: Demonstrate financial need. Students must complete a [FAFSA application](#) for the current school year to be considered. Pell-grant recipients are eligible for need-based awards.
5. Preference will be given to students who have not traveled or have not been selected to travel on another LSC-funded international trip (including having received a Study Abroad Financial Award) within the last three years.
6. Must meet the prerequisites for the Study Abroad course(s) by the program start date, such as College-Level Reading and Writing.
7. If selected for an award, must make required deposits toward the program by the deadlines designated by the trip leader in order to maintain award eligibility.

### [Application Instructions](#)

The following documents must all be received by LSC by the award deadline:

1. Student Study Abroad Award Application (the online application form).
2. Two essays uploaded as attachments in the award application form on the following:
  - Please provide 2-3 paragraphs explaining why this opportunity is of value to you in both your current and future academic and professional goals.
  - In 3-5 paragraphs, answer the following: In your opinion, what role would a student, who is traveling overseas, play as a representative of the Lone Star College community, and/or the United States. Please be specific. That is, include specific behaviors or actions that might be expected. You may wish to consider cultural etiquette, academic professionalism, interpersonal communications, etc.
3. Two recommendations submitted online: <http://www.lonestar.edu/sa-recommendation-form.htm>. One must be from an LSC faculty member (instructional individual), and the second from an LSC employee, another LSC faculty member, or a high school counselor or teacher. Recommendations from external references cannot be accepted. Recommenders are welcome to attach a supporting letter but must also complete the standard form. Recommendations will be used to screen award applicants and as tie-breakers.
4. For students using a high school or non-LSC college GPA to qualify: Official transcripts must appear received in myLoneStar by the award deadline.
5. For need-based award consideration: Completed 2019-2020 [FAFSA application](#) online.

### [Award Requirements](#)

If selected to receive the award, recipients:

- Must continue to meet the cumulative GPA requirements and enroll in the minimum credit hours as outlined in the eligibility criteria, until award funds are disbursed. Failure to do so will incur a charge in my Lone Star student account in the amount of the award. If an award is retracted, the recipient may be able to appeal the decision.
- Only use award funds toward the final program balance, not for deposits. Also, award funds cannot be applied to tuition.

- Must pay all required deposits toward the program by the deadlines designated by the trip leader in order to maintain award eligibility.
- Authorize funds to be distributed by the LSC Office of Honors and International Education to the program account.
- Must meet the prerequisites for the Study Abroad course(s) by the program start date, such as College-Level Reading and Writing.
- Agree to submit all required information and documents including receipt for payment of study abroad course and program, risk management forms and proof of valid travel documents (passport, visa, immunization records, etc.).
- Agree to reimburse Lone Star College if they decide to cancel their study abroad program participation, regardless of reason, after any portion of their award funds have been disbursed to the travel provider. Their LSC student account will be charged in that amount until they fully reimburse the college. This will not apply if the program is cancelled by the college.
- Will choose another LSC Study Abroad program taking place during the same cycle and contact the LSC Office of Honors and International Education within a week of program cancellation if their first-choice program is cancelled and they still wish to participate on a program. Otherwise, the recipient will forfeit the award. In order to apply it to another LSC Study Abroad program taking place during the same cycle. If not, the recipient will forfeit the award.
- Must successfully complete the Study Abroad Course(s). Failure to do so will require reimbursement of the award.
- Grant Lone Star College permission to use any content or materials submitted as part of their travelogue for marketing or informational purposes. This includes photos in which the recipient appears, and their first name may be used.
- Partnership Study Abroad Financial Award recipients agree to present about their study abroad experience at an international-themed event when invited by the Office of Honors and International Education.
- Are encouraged to submit a travelogue portfolio documenting 5 course highlights while overseas to share their experience with others. The travelogue portfolio should include photographs or videos with captions (about 300 words total). Travelogues can be submitted to [LSC-StudyAbroad@Lonestar.edu](mailto:LSC-StudyAbroad@Lonestar.edu).