

Study Abroad Scholarship Tips for Clayton State Students

How to Research and Find the Right Scholarship for Your Program

As you begin your study abroad journey and start researching scholarships, here are some helpful tips from the Study Abroad Office.

In addition, have you looked at our scholarship web page or applied for the STARS Scholarship? Have you seen our Raising Funds brochure or the additional scholarship documents we have outside of our office or online? We have the resources you are looking for to assist you with the process of raising funds for your program!

1. Study abroad programs vary in length and variation due to program requirements. The scholarships available for study abroad, for the most part, are based on the length of the program. When looking for scholarships, make sure to note the length of the program so that you do not apply to the incorrect scholarship.
2. Apply to multiple study abroad scholarships! Students can and have won 2 or more scholarships to pay for study abroad programs.
3. Research the scholarship that is right for you! The Clayton State study abroad website lists a great deal of scholarship information. Look and see what can apply to your program.
4. Check the deadlines for the scholarship.
5. Check the award amount and the date the award amount is distributed to your university.
6. Utilize the study abroad essay for multiple scholarships! Committees do not check to see if you entered the same scholarship for another scholarship entry so do not try to reinvent the wheel. We highly suggest you create a template essay that discusses the key factors of why you want to study abroad and what it means to you. Be personal, be genuine, and tell your individual story of how this opportunity will enrich your life, your journey as a student, and your future endeavors. Some essays may already provide guidelines or will have general guidelines, leaving the essay

open to interpretation. However, do not forget to tailor the essay for each submission process.

7. Utilize the Clayton State Writer's Studio on campus! This is a free service on campus, which makes it even more accessible! Meet with their office to help construct your essay, but do not wait till the last minute. Find more info on their website: <http://www.clayton.edu/writersstudio>
8. Make sure to receive the awarded funds before the program payment deadlines. If you receive the award after the programs payment deadline(s) this may put you in jeopardy of being dropped from the study abroad program. If this is the case for you, a suggestion is to speak with friends and family to see if they can loan the required funds and then refund those individuals back upon receiving the scholarship funding.
9. Scholarships are not a guarantee, so take alternative actions toward raising additional funds! Speak with businesses or organizations to see if they are willing to sponsor you. Try speaking with you own place of employment to discuss the benefits of how this could relate to the office, or as a tax exemption and/or donation. One of the study abroad web pages, the Financial Aid and Scholarship web page, discusses helpful tips on how to raise money for study abroad.
10. Notify the study abroad office when you have submitted the entry for external study abroad scholarships. The Study Abroad Office may need to verify and approve the funds with the Financial Aid office. If you do receive a scholarship, the Financial Aid office and the Study Abroad Office must coordinate with the scholarship organization to approve the application process. Keep each department notified when you have submitted external forms, so that we may keep an eye out to verify your application entry.

We wish you the best of luck in your scholarship endeavors and hope that this information has shed a bit more light on what to do next.