

Study Away Scholarship Information

The College of Humanities and Public Affairs (CHPA) offers scholarships for majors and minors in the Humanities Departments (e.g., Religious Studies, History, Anthropology, etc.)

- Both of these scholarships are online beginning November 1:
<http://www.missouristate.edu/FinancialAid/scholarships/GeneralScholarships.htm>
- For graduate students: the Strong Family Scholarship – not specifically for Study Away, but the funding is generous. APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 1, 2016.
- For undergraduate students: CHPA Study Away Scholarship of \$500 per student. APPLICATION DEADLINE: **November 9, 2015.**

General and Departmental Scholarships

- The scholarship applications are online November 1 and the APPLICATION DEADLINE is March 1, 2016:
<http://www.missouristate.edu/FinancialAid/scholarships/GeneralScholarships.htm>
- These are general scholarships, but the funds may be used for Study Away.

Board of Governors or University Scholarship

- For Freshmen: <http://www.missouristate.edu/FinancialAid/scholarships/Freshman.htm>
- If you are a recipient of either of these scholarships, you will be awarded a \$500 voucher for an approved Study Away program.

Information on Using Scholarships and Financial Aid to Study Abroad:

- <http://international.missouristate.edu/studyaway/117196.htm>

Religious Studies Study Away Funding

- Religious Studies majors and minors may apply for a \$250 reimbursement after you return from your Study Away program; funding will be at the discretion of the REL Department Head and contingent upon available funds.
- Contact ReligiousStudies@missouristate.edu for more information and an application.

Missouri State Study Away Programs

Plaster Student Union 209

901 S. National, Springfield, MO 65897

417-836-6368 * StudyAway@MissouriState.edu

<http://international.missouristate.edu/studyaway/>

MissouriState.edu/Financial Aid

417-836-5262

www.missouristate.edu/FinancialAid/scholarships/

International.MissouriState.edu/StudyAway

417-836-6368

Study Away & Financial Aid FAQ

1. Will financial aid apply toward a study away program?

In most circumstances, yes. If the program is one approved by the Study Away Office, you will be eligible for all types of financial aid offered by Missouri State University.

2. Will I receive my financial aid through Missouri State or my host institutions?

For eligible programs, financial aid will be awarded through the Office of Student Financial Aid at Missouri State University.

EXCEPTION: If you are participating in the National Student Exchange under PLAN A, your financial aid will be processed through your host institution rather than through Missouri State.

3. How will I receive my financial aid if I am no longer in the state or country?

You must sign up for the “Direct Deposit” through the Financial Services Office before departing for your program. Use the following link to sign up under the Profile tab: <http://www.missouristate.edu/#!/BearPass>. When your financial aid is ready to disburse at Missouri State, it will apply to any outstanding charges and the remainder will be sent directly to the personal bank account you designated on the direct deposit form.

4. Will Missouri State University send my financial aid to my study abroad institution?

No. Your financial aid will apply to outstanding charges billed to your Missouri State account. Any refund due you will be deposited directly into your bank account. It is your responsibility to pay all other Study Away fees and charges from these funds. (The Study Away Office provides information about program billing options.)

5. Do I have to notify the Office of Student Financial Aid if I am participating in a Study Away program?

No. Each semester, the Study Away Office notifies the Office of Student Financial Aid of all students who are approved for a Study Away experience. We work from that list to adjust cost-of-attendance and, if applicable, make adjustments to financial aid.

Exception: If you are enrolling in an independently arranged Study Away program, you must provide cost information to the Office of Student Financial Aid. We will use that information to determine your cost of attendance for your Study Away semester.

6. By participating in a Study Away program can I get more scholarship and grant money?

Your financial aid eligibility will remain the same, but most Study Away participants finance their program through additional student and parent loans. Information on these programs can be found at the financial aid web site.

7. How will my current University scholarships apply to my Study Away program?

For current and future term scholarship awards, aid amounts should be the same as what you would receive while on campus. All other non-MSU scholarships also usually pay the same amount you would receive while on campus.

8. Are there any scholarships available for Study Away programs?

Yes. There are foundations and organizations that award scholarships for particular Study Away programs. Check with the Study Away Office for detailed information. You can also research scholarships on our website.

9. Is it possible to use my MSU scholarship funds for summer programs?

Some MSU scholarships can be used in the summer. The summer term will count as a full semester of the number of total awarded but the amount of the scholarship funds will be less. Use this link to read this policy and also the policy regarding banking hours to meet credit hours requirements for renewal of scholarships:

<http://www.missouristate.edu/FinancialAid/scholarships/28885.htm>.

10. How is financial aid assessed for short term and intersession term programs?

For financial aid purposes, the cost of a Study Away program may be included in the cost of attendance for the MSU term for which the program hours are credited. However, this does not mean more aid will be disbursed. If the maximum amount of aid has been awarded and scheduled, the only remaining option may be to request additional PARENT PLUS or PRIVATE ALTERNATIVE loans.

- May intersession hours are credited as part of the total summer enrollment. (Since both summer block and May intersession session credit hours are part of the summer enrollment, in order to be considered for summer loans, a student must be enrolled in at least ½ time or a combined total of 3 or more eligible hours.)
- August intersession hours are usually posted as part of following fall enrollment.
- Late December and January intersession and spring break Study Away credit hours are posted as a part of the spring term.

11. What if I have more questions about financial aid for the Study Away program?

You can call the Office of Student Financial Aid and schedule an appointment to talk about financing your Study Away program.

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FINANCING YOUR Study Away! EXPERIENCE

Expand Your Fund Options

Remember it is important to apply for as many education abroad scholarships as possible, but you may not receive every award. These fundraising tips will help you explore other options, both large and small. Every little bit adds up!

Use websites like [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) or [fundmytravel.com](https://www.fundmytravel.com) to start an online fundraising campaign and make giving easy for donors.

Ask friends and family for cash towards travel expenses instead of material birthday or Christmas gifts this year.

Contact local clubs or church groups and offer to make a presentation to their group upon your return for a donation.

Gather unwanted items from friends & family to organize a garage sale or Craigslist postings. One person's trash is your ticket abroad!

Plan a dinner or party and ask attendees for donations. Chili suppers are great for cool weather & picnics are fun in nice weather!

Organize a fun activity for teams like a human foosball. Charge an entry fee to participants and reward the winning team with a prize!

Write articles or record podcasts in exchange for possible contributions for local newspapers or radio stations.

Some restaurants will offer a portion of a day's profits in exchange for promotion, new customers, or light clean-up type manual labor.

Create a direct mail campaign for family and friends to ask for travel funds - see the back of this sheet for tips on how to write your letter!

Don't Forget!

High school teachers, parents' coworkers, and distant cousins may be willing to support your experience.

Make sure to tell people how your travel will impact you academically or professionally. People usually aren't willing to contribute to a vacation.

Send updates from abroad via email or blog to share your meaningful experience with your contributors - they will feel more involved in your journey!

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Aunt Sarah,

As you know, for the past year and a half I've been studying music at Missouri State University. It's been an amazing experience as I've gotten to build upon my abilities both in the classroom and during on-campus performances. I've worked hard to push myself musically and academically to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

In order to push myself even further, I've decided to enroll in a short-term, faculty-led study abroad program to Qingdao, China for musical performance. While earning credits towards my degree, I will also gain the experience of performing on an international stage with a widely-renowned orchestra.

Students who've participated in this program in the past have gone on to perform professionally around the world, which is a dream of mine. This opportunity is too great to pass up and I'm excited to see what doors this experience will open.

This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will be partially funded with my existing academic scholarships and a few extra study abroad scholarships I was awarded. However, these funds in combination with my personal savings will come up short of the program fee. The total cost of the program, including airfare and room and board, comes to around \$4,000.

If you could contribute, any amount, I would appreciate it more than I can express. And, of course, I'll keep you updated during my trip - I've even arranged to livestream the performance so you can watch from home!

Thank you for being my constant supporter and cheerleader!

Love,
Mary Ellen

Paragraph 1: Give a quick update on what's happening in your life - goals, activities, successes, etc.

Paragraph 2/3: Connect those goals, activities, and successes to your reasons for studying abroad. Describe your program and what it will add to your educational or professional experience.

Paragraph 4: Explain your financial situation. Be transparent about costs and how money contributed will be used.

Paragraph 5: Ask for help - personalization is good! Don't forget to explain how you'll include contributors in your trip.

To make things easy for contributors, consider adding a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your letter or even a personalized URL if your donation campaign is easily accessed online.

Give family and friends options by including a light-hearted note with your letter. It may make it easier for them to choose an amount - and if you're feeling awkward about asking for money, it may relieve some of the tension.

I would like to contribute:

☐

\$25

Nin hao! Feel your financial pain, but I hope this helps!

☐

\$50

Glad you're stepping out of your comfort zone! Best of luck!

☐

other: _____

☐

\$100

Bring me back something cool! Have fun!

☐

\$250

I'm feeling extra generous today! Don't spend it all in one place ;)

I just didn't want to check the other boxes... I'm allowed to be difficult as long as I support you, right?