

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, you will start searching for study abroad scholarships, here are some helpful tips from the Clayton State Study Abroad Office on what to look out for as you begin this process.

Check out the Financial Aid and Scholarship web page or take a look at our STARS Scholarship web page for more scholarship information. We also offer information about raising funds for study abroad and additional scholarship resources to assist with the search process.

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.
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 multiple scholarship resources. Review 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 essay 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 team to help construct your essay, but do not wait till the last minute. Find more info on their website: <https://www.clayton.edu/arts-sciences/departments/english/writers-studio/>
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 you are waiting for scholarship funds to make program payments, a suggestion is to speak with friends and family to see if they can loan the required funds and then you can refund those individuals upon receiving the scholarship award.
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 your own place of employment to discuss the benefits of how your abroad experience could relate back to the office, or as a tax exemption and/or donation. Also, check out the helpful tips on how to raise money for study abroad on our study abroad website.
10. Inform the Study Abroad Office when you have submitted a scholarship entry for external study abroad scholarships (outside of Clayton State University). 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 may need to coordinate with the organization providing the scholarship to approve the scholarship application as part of the application process. Keep each department (FinAid and the Study Abroad Office) notified when you have submitted external forms, so that we may keep an eye out to verify your application entry. If you have any questions about these steps first research the process with the organization awarding the scholarship, if you have any questions for the Study Abroad Office and the Financial Aid Office, please reach out to us as well so that we can see if we can be of assistance.

We wish you all the best in your scholarship endeavors and hope that this information has been helpful on what to do next.