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FINANCING TRAVELING ABROAD

Many of us have often felt that panging, irresistible urge to traverse the world, to escape the doldrums of college life and immerse ourselves in the grand sights and eccentric culture of a new land. Although the UCLA Study Abroad Program has always provided a perfect venue for students to realize these adventurous dreams, the high cost of financing studying abroad has and remains to be a major deterring force for students. Yet, rather than miss out on that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the world, take into account these cost-reducing factors when determining how to finance your journey abroad.



FINANCIAL AID:

The UCLA Study Abroad Program allows students with financial aid to transfer and apply the funds they receive from their financial aid package to covering the cost of studying abroad. The only possible shortcoming of this option is that the work-study amount that you may be receiving as part of your financial aid package will not be transferable due to student visa restrictions.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

There is a multitude of scholarships specifically tailored to financing studying abroad available for students. The type of scholarships offered vary base on what type of countries students may wish to study abroad in, a student's major, a student's known foreign languages, and much more. Just a few examples of those offered by UCLA include:

- the UCLA 100,000 Strong Initiative: for students studying in China
- the Foreign Language and Areas Studies (FLAS) Fellowship: for students studying modern foreign languages such as Spanish, Vietnamese, Hebrew among others
- the Global Studies Scholarship: for students in the Global Studies major or minor
- the Rainbow Scholarship: for LGBT students

To find out the best scholarship suited for you, check out <http://ieo.ucla.edu/scholarships>. Furthermore, there are also online databases available that can help ease your scholarship search by quickly narrowing down a list of possible scholarships for you based on your inputted criteria. Some of these databases include: the Diversity Abroad Study Abroad Scholarship and Grant Directory, the Institute of International Education Study Abroad Database, and the IES Abroad Scholarship Database.

As a word of caution, many of these scholarships have deadlines between January and March, so think ahead and definitely be mindful about giving yourself sufficient time to fill out all scholarship applications on time.

STUDY ABROAD LOCATION:

Not all study abroad locations are of equal cost. Some are more expensive, and some are more affordable than others. For instance, destinations in Western Europe are typically expensive due to their high popularity while destinations in South America are usually less so. Thus, choosing a less popular locale to travel to may be a possible solution to achieving a more manageable studying abroad cost while still allowing yourself to fulfill that desire to see the world.

