

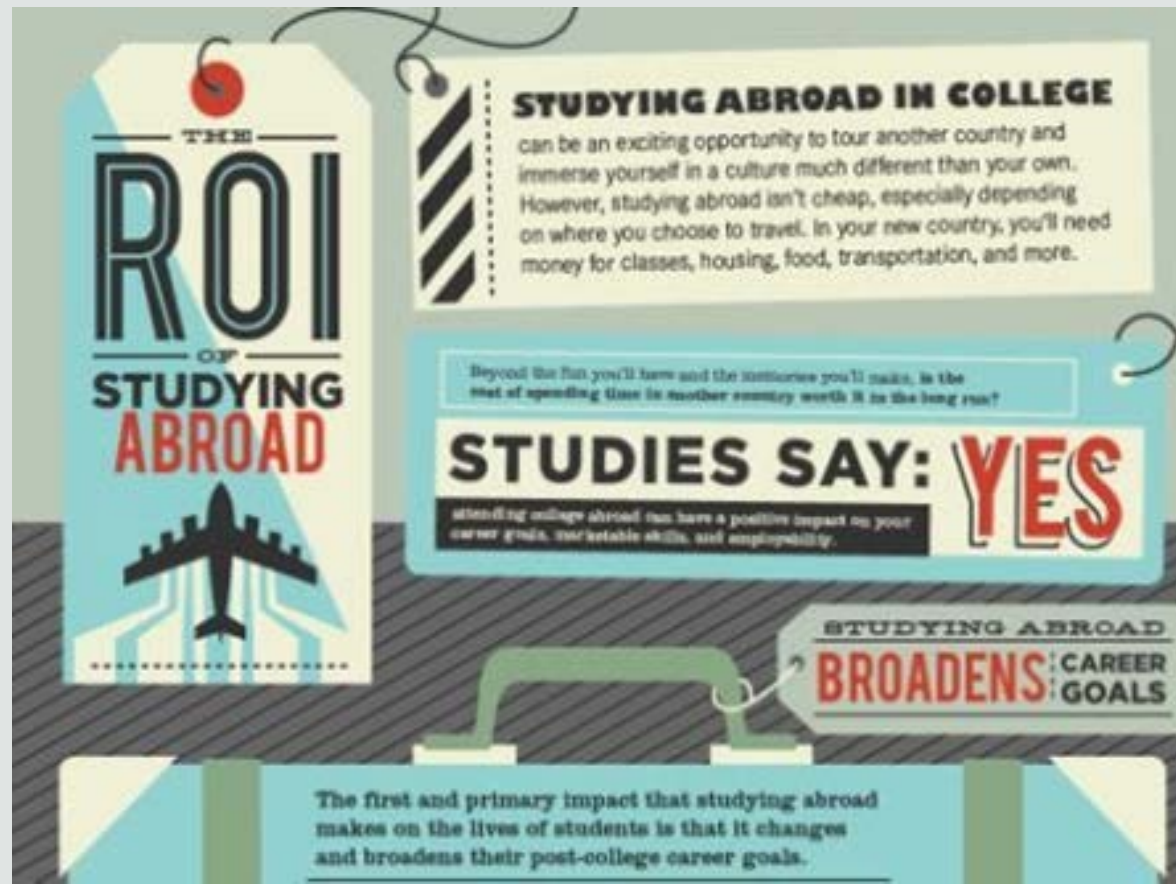
## Study Abroad @ GRC

How to save and pay for a global student travel experience...



## Today's Presentation:

- Value of a Study Abroad Experience
- How to budget for studying abroad
- Funding tools and strategies



## Study Abroad Facts

- GRC offers Study Abroad programs *every quarter*
- Programs last 4 – 10 weeks
- Program Fees= \$2,600 – \$8,230
- Any type of student can study abroad (running start, veterans, international, etc.)
- Study abroad classes count towards AA and/or BA degrees

## Academic & Professional Benefits

### *Studying Abroad:*

- Increases students' GPA
- Increases students' 4-yr graduation rates
- Develops your critical thinking skills
- Develops your intercultural skills and global awareness
- Is Professional Development...
  - Employers value globally-minded workers!

## Personal Benefits of Study Abroad

*“Studying abroad will change your life. You'll come back a new person.”*  
*-GRC student*

- **Personal Growth** – Independence, adaptability, reflection
- **Intercultural Development** – Learn about the world & yourself
- **Make Lifelong Friends** – It’s fun and exciting
- **Try new Food & Cultural experiences** – Kangaroo burger?!
- **An Invaluable Learning Opportunity**– Travel with a purpose

## Sample Planning Timeline

There are several steps to take before you even start applying for scholarships...

Months in Advance of Program Start Date	To-Do List
8-12 months	Meet with your study abroad coordinator, academic advisor & financial aid office
8 months	Build a budget & savings plan. Start researching scholarships.
7 months	Apply for a passport
7 months	Submit your Preliminary Application
7 months	Attend Interview
6-7 months	Apply for scholarships

## Woah...That looks like a lot of steps!

- Which is why we recommend you start planning as early as possible!

## Budgeting

Build a realistic list of all expenses. Some costs are fixed and others will vary depending on your lifestyle.

Item	Estimated Costs
Program fee (housing, field trips, some meals)	\$2,600-\$8,230
Tuition (Billed separately from program fee. Amount depends on your school and # of credits taken)	\$1,200-\$1,500
Books	\$0-\$120
Food	\$300-\$500/month
Public transit, laundry, sim card, etc.	\$200
Entertainment/extra travel	varies by person



## Practical \$avings Tips

- ✓ Get a **job** – during school year and during time off of college
- ✓ Avoid frivolous spending. Do you really need a \$4 latte?
- ✓ Set up a **fundraising campaign**  
-GoFundMe, Kickstarter, etc.
- ✓ Ask family & friends for support
- ✓ Request funds for Birthday/Holiday **gifts**
- ✓ Eat at home instead of restaurants
- ✓ **Sell** your old stuff (garage sale, offerup, craigslist, etc.)
- ✓ Buy **used** items, instead of new
- ✓ Set up a Study Abroad **savings** account
- ✓ See if family or friends have **Frequent Flyer miles** you can use for a cheap or free flight
- ✓ Get another **job**
- ✓ Apply for **financial aid** and **scholarships**
- ✓ Be creative...

## Example Savings Strategy:

Let's say Slater the Gator wants to study in Japan Fall...

- He estimates his total expenses will be \$8,995
- He creates a **6-month** savings plan and presents it to his family

Activity	\$ Earned	Subtotal	Total Saved
Part-Time Job (15 hours/wk @ min wage)	\$144/week x 6 months	\$3,456	\$3,456
Financial Aid (his award = 50% of tuition)	\$725	\$725	\$4,181
GoFundMe Campaign	\$20 x 20 people	\$400	\$4,581
Coffee from home instead of Starbucks	\$3 x 3 days/wk x 6 months	\$218	\$4,799
Sell items @ family garage sale or online	Wii, Kids' Mountain Bike, etc.	\$200	\$4,999

## Now Slater has a plan to save \$4,999 in 6 months! He still needs \$3,996...

- He asks his parents and grandparents if they are willing to match part of what he saves.
- Slater's parents agree to pay for 20% of the program costs = \$1,800
- His grandparents agree to give him an interest-free loan for 25% = \$2,250
  - ✓ He will pay the loan back over 12 months after he returns from the program using his part-time job income.

Grand Tally	
Slater's savings	\$4,999
Parents match 20%	\$1,800
Grandparents loan 30%	\$2,250
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$9,049</b>

...Slater has met his goal with ~ \$55 to spare! He decides to buy his parents and grandparents nice gifts in Japan to thank them for their support.

## Financial Aid Funding for Study Abroad

- Grants or loans can be applied toward tuition, program fees, and personal expenses
- A loan is borrowed money you need to pay back, with interest
- Federal student loans require students and/or parents to complete the FAFSA
- Non-governmental loans or private bank student loans are an option too (higher interest rates than government loans).
- Talk with your Financial Aid Office about these options.

## A Note About Scholarships

- Deadlines can be 6-9 months before your date of travel.
- Most require that you be accepted and pay the program deposit **before** you can apply for funds.
- Competition means you are not guaranteed to get the one/s you apply for.
- They may only cover a small % of your total costs.
- Have a back up plan. Can you use other resources or should you wait and save until next year?

## National Scholarships

### Gilman Scholarship

- Must qualify for a Pell Grant through FAFSA to apply
- Up to **\$4,000** for Study Abroad for a quarter
- First Generation College Students, Community College Students, Diverse students, Financially needy but deserving undergraduate students should apply
- 2 Application Deadlines/Cycles – October or March – Need to Apply for your Study Abroad program EARLY
- About 2,600 students/year earn a Gilman Award

[Gilman Application Website](#)

### Fund for Education Abroad (FEA )

- Up to \$5,000 for a quarter long program
- Must be U.S. Citizen
- Prefer students from diverse backgrounds

[Fund for Education Scholarship Website](#)

## Location-Specific Scholarships

### Japan: Freeman-Asia Scholarship

- Awards up to **\$5,000** for a quarter
- Must be a U.S. citizen, and complete the FAFSA
- 2 Application deadline cycles annually

[Freeman ASIA Website](#)

### London, Berlin, Italy: AIFS Scholarship

\*AIFS offers many program locations but GRC only partners with them for select locations. Check w/ your study abroad coordinator to see if your program qualifies.

- \$500 – \$5,000 awards
- Some are Need based and require FAFSA completion
- Some are Merit based for Strong Academics, Community Service, Leadership

[AIFS Scholarship Website](#)

## GRC Student Scholarships

**Australia / New Zealand** = \$1,000 scholarships

**Japan** = \$500 scholarships

- Only domestic GRC students are eligible to apply.
- You must be accepted into the program and pay the \$450 deposit before applying for a scholarship.

### Essay Prompts :

- Describe how this experience would contribute to your career goals.
- Describe leadership, special awards, recognitions or other accomplishments that may support your application.
- Describe your financial need.
- Describe what receiving this scholarship would mean to you.



## GRC Foundation Scholarships

- Only domestic GRC students are eligible to apply
- The GRC Foundation offers over 300 scholarships, some of which may be applied to study abroad programs including books, fees and tuition costs.
- Complete a general application and indicate your interest in studying abroad.

[GRC Foundation website](#)

## WCCCSA Scholarships

(WA Community College Consortium for Study Abroad)

- For all programs offered by WCCCSA, such as:
  - Barcelona, London, Lyon, Costa Rica, Italy, Berlin
- Excludes Japan, Australia/NZ, Taiwan, Hawaii
- Two \$1,000 scholarships offered per location. You are only competing with other Washington students in the consortium (=good odds!)
- Must be accepted to the program and pay deposit before you apply

[WCCCSA Scholarship Website](#)

## Even More Scholarships...

- There are many search engines you can use to customize your search.
- View links to these and other resources on our [WCCCSA consortium website](#)

## Application Deadlines 2019-2020

Program Quarter	Study Abroad Program App. Due	Gilman Scholarship	Fund for Education Abroad	Freeman ASIA Scholarship	GRC Foundation Scholarships
<b>Summer 2020</b>	Hawaii: March 16, 2020	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a unless summer is your last quarter
<b>Fall 2019</b>	Japan: July 5, 2019	March 5, 2019	January 21, 2019	April 5, 2019	April 30, 2019
<b>Winter 2020</b>	Australia/NZ: Oct. 18, 2019	October 2, 2019	January 21, 2019	n/a	April 30, 2019
<b>Spring 2020</b>	Taiwan: Jan. 17, 2020	October 2, 2019	January 21, 2019	n/a	April 30, 2019

*\*Notice that most scholarship deadlines are before the GRC program deadline*

## Scholarship Application Tips

- Write excellent essays!
  - ✓ See the next slide for essay-writing tips
- Follow instructions meticulously. If you miss one small detail, you may be disqualified.
- Don't procrastinate. Schedule time in your calendar to work on your application materials
- Give yourself plenty of time so you don't stress about missing the deadline.



## Make Your Essay Competitive

- Essay writing is a process. Use multiple drafts. Work with Advisors and the Writing Center to make your essay stand out from the crowd.
- Use excellent grammar, punctuation, spelling, style, content, etc.
- Be unique and highlight your talents, accomplishments, hopes, dreams, goals
- Be realistic, thoughtful, meaningful, genuine, reflective
- Connect the essay to a bigger picture idea
- Explain how the experience will impact your life

## Apply to Study Abroad @ GRC

- Minimum GPA of 2.7
- Need a valid **passport**
- Must be at least **17 years old** by the time you go
- Complete the **Preliminary Application** – GRC students, get the [online application](#). Non- GRC students, visit your campus Study Abroad Coordinator.
  - ✓ Submit **2 Letters of Recommendation** (one from a professor/teacher)
  - ✓ Submit an unofficial **transcript**
  - ✓ Write a **1 page essay** – *describe the reasons you wish to study abroad, and what you hope to accomplish on your adventure, and how you can use the experience in your academic or career plans*

## GRC Contacts

### We are here to help you!

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