

Funding Suggestions for Study-Abroad Programs

The information below was derived from the brochure, "How to Finance Your Study Abroad Experience," published by the Study Abroad office at Michigan State University (MSU). Part 3 was supplemented by IBI.

- 1) Fund-raising, similar to what one would do for a short-term mission project. The MSU brochure suggests approaching groups such as civic groups (Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, etc.), agencies and foundations, professional and business clubs, high school alumni associations, church-related and charitable organizations, and heritage groups that have interests in specific countries. This brochure also has the following suggestions for "giving something back" to those individuals and organizations that have provided support:
 - Writing an article
 - Showing a video from your experience
 - Creating a Web site or sharing your blog
 - Sponsoring a dinner or presentation
 - Leading a discussion or seminar
 - Organizing a campus or community forum
 - Promoting educational and business exchanges
 - Participating in radio and newspaper interviews
 - Engaging in community service and outreach
 - Helping others to have a similar international experience

- 2) Consideration of the following ideas. These are just suggestions; you may very well come up with your own initiatives.
 - Waive holiday and birthday gifts and request financial gifts or loans instead.
 - Write a creative letter to all your relatives, asking for financial support in exchange for regular letters, postcards, e-mails, or blogs while abroad and a presentation and dinner upon return.
 - Organize an event where you and/or some friends solicit donations by providing instruction for a couple of hours.

- Collect used books, CD's, computer software, etc., and have a sale.
- Ask your church to sponsor a special offering or dinner.
- Find out if your parents' employers have a scholarship program for their children
- Find out if your employer will sponsor you or might be willing to make a cash advance to be paid back through payroll deduction.
- In exchange for the use of your car while you're gone, have a friend or sibling make all or part of your car payments.
- Ask family members to donate frequent flyer miles.

3) Check out the following Websites:

http://www.studyabroad.com/forum/financial_aid.html

<http://www.iefaf.org>

<http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/exchange.phtml>

<http://www.foundationcenter.org>

<http://studiesabroad.com/admissions/document/scholarships>

<http://www.scholarships.com>

<http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/the-scholarship-coach>

http://www.nafsa.org/Explore_International_Education/For_Students

<http://www.internationalscholarships.com>

<http://www.iie.org/GILMAN>

<http://allabroad.us/funding-study-abroad-scholarships.php>