

PCC Education Abroad 2024 First Steps Videos: Funding Your Study Abroad Program



Thank you for watching the First Steps Video series. Let's take a look at various ways you can fund your study abroad program.

How Will I Pay For This?!?



**FINANCIAL AID &
FAFSA**



SCHOLARSHIPS



**PERSONAL
FUNDRAISING**



We recognize that thinking about the costs of study abroad program may feel overwhelming. We consider a study abroad experience an investment in yourself. In this video we will look at a variety of options available to finance your overall experience. These are not your only options. Our broad categories include using financial aid, applying for scholarships, and raising personal funds. You will likely use a combination of these.

Financial Aid & FAFSA

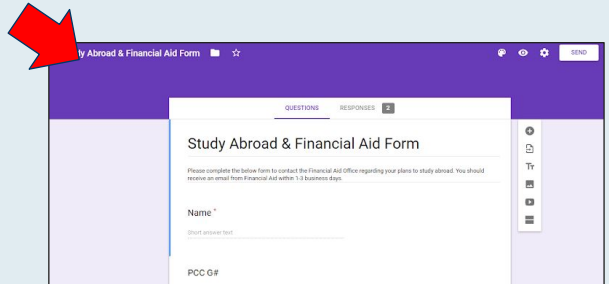
- Financial Aid is here to work with you
- Reminder: Fill out FAFSA for next year (FAFSA opens in Dec.)



If you receive Financial Aid, you might be able to use it for your study abroad experience. We are not Financial Aid professionals and do not want to offer wrong information, so we recommend talking to Financial Aid Advisors EARLY in this process. Do not make assumptions about your Financial Aid package! Everyone's Aid package is different.

How much Financial Aid do I have? Can I use it for a summer term?

Connect with the PCC Financial Aid Office by completing the Study Abroad & Financial Aid Google Form:
<https://www.pcc.edu/education-abroad/funding/>

A screenshot of a Google Form titled "Study Abroad & Financial Aid Form". The form is displayed within a browser window. A red arrow points to the top bar of the browser window, which contains the text "Study Abroad & Financial Aid Form". The form itself has a purple header with the title "Study Abroad & Financial Aid Form". Below the header, there is a section for "QUESTIONS" and "RESPONSES". The form includes a "Name" field with a red asterisk indicating it is required, and a "PCC G#". A sidebar on the right contains various icons for form management.

Work with Financial Aid Advisors:
Melinda Leiva (melinda.leiva@pcc.edu)
Matt Sagayaga
(matthew.sagayaga@pcc.edu)



To connect with the Financial Aid Advisors that work with study abroad students, fill out the Google form that is on the Funding page of our website:
[pcc.edu/education-abroad/funding](https://www.pcc.edu/education-abroad/funding)

This form goes directly to Melinda Leiva who can look at your specific Aid package.

Consider asking about banking any leftover financial aid money at the end of each term.

Fill out your FAFSA as early as possible. If your financial situation has changed, you may be eligible for more aid.



Scholarships

Visit our website for more scholarship information:
pcc.edu/education-abroad/funding/



There are many scholarship opportunities specifically designed to help pay for your education abroad experience. Let's go over some options and tips. You can find more on our website pcc.edu/education-abroad/funding

Financial Resources: Scholarships

We encourage all students to apply to these scholarships:

- PCC Foundation
- PCC Ed Abroad Scholarship
(within the Foundation Scholarship)
- Fund for Ed Abroad

If you are eligible to receive a Pell grant, we encourage you to also apply for:

- Gilman Scholarship



We encourage all PCC students to apply for the PCC Foundation Scholarship. The PCC Foundation raises over 2 million dollars to give to students each year. This is one scholarship application for over 250 scholarships specifically for PCC students. Last year the average scholarship award was \$1800 and 1600 students received awards. This is a no brainer!

One of the scholarships offered within the Foundation is our own PCC Education Abroad Scholarship. To apply for the Education Abroad Scholarship, you need to apply for the overall Foundation Scholarship. Our specific Ed Abroad scholarship opens each December and has a mid February deadline.

If you receive a Pell grant you should apply for the Gilman Scholarship. This national study abroad scholarship awards students between \$1000-\$5000 to study abroad. The Gilman Scholarship is meant to encourage first generation college students, Community College Students, students of underrepresented backgrounds, and STEAM students the chance to go abroad. The Gilman Scholarship has October and March deadlines. Our office works closely with students to put together an application, so please reach out to us for help.

Peru PCC Study Abroad, Summer 208

Scholarship Tips & Tricks

- Know the deadlines!
- Consider your resources
- Find an Editor
 - Education Abroad Advisor
 - Career Exploration Center
 - Writing Center
- Understand application requirements
 - transcripts?
 - recommendations?



Applying for a scholarship can be intimidating, so here are some tips!

Keep in mind the deadlines and make a plan with these in mind.

You have resources available to you to help - online videos, past scholarship winners, advisors wanting to help. The Foundation holds scholarship workshops and our office is happy to help as well.

Understand what is required as part of the application - do you need to ask for recommendations or transcripts? These take time to obtain. Advisors and previous instructors are happy to support students in this way, so don't feel badly about. Many scholarships do not have any additional requirements.

Find an editor - I will say it many times, we advisors are happy to be a second pair of eyes to review your essays. This really helps bring your scholarship application to the next level.

Scholarship Essay Considerations

Essay Questions 101:

Answer the scholarship essay questions.

Consider the info you provide in the scholarship application:

- What does the reader know about you?
- What **should** the reader know about you?

Share YOUR story:

- ✓ Be Passionate, Personal, Descriptive
- ✓ Make yourself memorable
- ✓ Be specific (too general = too boring)
- ✓ Create clear connection between the program and what you want to do (mention your goals, hopes, and dreams).
- ✓ Include specific program highlights that get you excited about this experience.

Organize your thoughts: create an outline first, then expand.

Avoid plagiarism like the plague

Most scholarships have essays of some kind as a part of the application. Often you can re-use a lot of what you have written.

When starting your essay - the first tip may be obvious but is often ignored - answer the questions that are being asked in the scholarship.

Consider what personal information you are asked as you begin the application, and think about what you want the reader to know about you. Consider the selection criteria if it is published (Gilman has very clear selection criteria, for example) and highlight any life experience you have in these areas within your essays.

Overall, you should share your story. It is specific. Be passionate, be personal, be descriptive. Writing specifics tells the reader more about you - avoid general statements. Create a clear connection to the program you are choosing and your goals - what you hope to do - academically or professionally. Highlight specifics from the program that are exciting to you and explain why. These pieces make your essay more memorable. You want the reader to say to herself, "I want to give this student money!"

And remember, having a second pair of eyes read through your essays can help bring them to the next level.

Scholarship Timeline Considerations

- Scholarship notification windows vary (December - May)
- Result: you may need to submit your \$500 deposit to your program **BEFORE** learning if you have received a scholarship



In general, the timing of scholarship notifications is awkward. You **MAY** need to commit to your study abroad program (and pay the non-refundable deposit) **BEFORE** learning you have received a scholarship award.

Scholarship = Bonus \$\$\$



This means that you should not rely on scholarship money to pay for your program and make sure you have a Plan B. Consider the scholarship money a bonus.

3 Part Savings Plan

Financial Aid & FAFSA

Scholarships

Savings & Personal Fundraising



This is why we like to look holistically at your finances - to consider all of your options to fund your trip.



Personal Fundraising

Consider creative
(and less creative)
ways for you to invest in
yourself.



This brings us to our final category, looking at ways to raise personal funds for a study abroad experience.

Personal Fundraising (AKA Your Plan B)



Do you have any savings, or a way to start building your savings?

Consider taking on extra Shifts at Work if possible, to start putting away a little bit of money starting now. This will go a long way!

If you have generous family or friends, consider asking for money for your Holiday and Birthday gifts.

We encourage students to be creative and consider your own talents/community to help with some fundraising. Other students in your program cohort may be in the same position, and together you can work together to come up with a bigger project. One year a team of students worked together and made and sold tamales. They earned over \$700!

If it feels right for your situation, consider getting a credit card for small but immediate payments. Keep in mind the interest and deadlines.

Consider personal private loans if you feel they are right for you.

PCC payment plan may be an option depending on your departure date - this breaks down the fee so you can pay over time, but needs to be fully paid

before departure.

Crowdfunding Campaigns may be another option if you feel comfortable.

Personal Fundraising: Crowdfunding

Education Abroad

PCC / Education Abroad / Funding Your Study Abroad Experience /

Featured Student Crowdfunding Campaigns

The Education Abroad Office provides support for PCC students who are creatively looking to fund their study abroad experience. The following students have put together crowdfunding campaigns to raise money. Please support them by donating if you can!

[Dre Prendergast: History in Italy](#)

Hey, my name is *Deondre* but feel free to call me *Dre*. I am attempting to study abroad in Italy while documenting my experience in order to fulfill both a dream of filming and the requirements for the Gilman scholarship program that has trusted me to do so. I



Funding Your Study Abroad Experience

Funding Videos

[Featured Student Crowdfunding Campaigns](#)

Location or Language-Specific Scholarships

Education Abroad Scholarship Recipients



We have a page on our website where we host students' crowdfunding campaigns. We send these out to our colleagues, staff who have helped with study abroad in the past, and others who want to support students. We are also happy to help you come up with ideas for your campaign. You can see previous GoFundMe campaigns from PCC students:

pcc.edu/education-abroad/funding/featured-student-crowdfunding-campaigns/

Questions? Meet with an Ed Abroad Advisor



Ali Garfinkle
Education Abroad
Specialist



Adriane Bolliger
Education Abroad
Specialist



Joshua Andersen
Experiential
Learning Assistant

**Weekly Advising
Meetings**

**Individual
Appointments**

**Prefer to meet in
person?**

Ed Abroad Office
Cascade Campus,
Terrell Hall, Room 116

971-722-7117
studyabroad@pcc.edu



We want to be sure you have a full understanding how you will pay for your trip as you are applying. The Education Abroad Advisors are available to answer any questions you have about this process. Thank you for watching.