



## Office of International Education UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

### Study Abroad Fundraising Ideas

**Send letters to your contacts: friends, relatives, acquaintances, church members, co-workers, etc.**

Send letters to everyone you know requesting donations to support your time abroad by describing the benefits of international travel. Ideally, this will be done around Christmas time, but it is never too late to ask. Remember to always send your donors a “thank you” card.

- Professional Edge- Employers value work and study abroad experience because it demonstrates that students can interact across cultures, an important skill in our interconnected world. Time abroad can build professional networks, expose students to new career paths, and provide insight into their dream job. Employers seek individuals who have skills gained from studying abroad- adaptability, flexible, creative, cooperative, and innovative.
- Academic Enrichment- Firsthand experiences compliment what is learned in the classroom. Some students find renewed interest in their majors, or may choose a new academic direction. Some are also inspired to complete a semester abroad or to pursue graduate studies abroad.
- Personal Growth- Students return with a new perspective of their own culture and role in the world, will gain self-confidence knowing they can navigate in unfamiliar surroundings, and will acquire a better understanding of personal strengths and weaknesses.

**Use your contacts to contact their contacts.**

Ask your friend or family member to take your letter to their place of employment to see if any of their colleagues would be willing to donate to your cause. Posting this letter in a breakroom with a donation jar is one way to do this.

### **Social Media Fundraising**

Use things like Go Fund Me to build campaigns to solicit donations. Use the scholarship letter that you wrote to tell everyone how studying abroad will benefit you academically, professionally, and personally. These detailed, sincere messages will help convince others to donate to your cause and will separate your crowd funding campaign from others. You can also promote this campaign by sending direct messages to friends and family by sending a quick message through Facebook saying something like "Rather than going to Subway/Starbucks this week, send (student name) to Ireland!" Not everyone can donate \$100, but friends can be persuaded to donate \$5; every bit helps!

### **Trip Pledging**

Students can break their Study Abroad trip into sections, for example, by the site visits and locations they will visit. Then assign a cost per site (i.e. \$30 = Kilmainham Gaol), and send something back that describes exactly what they did during that time so donors can "be on site" with the student. Students can send souvenirs, postcards, or, better, personalized videos of that site.

### **Company/Business Support**

Students can approach organizations like Churches, businesses, rotary, etc. Find ways to give back to the organization that donated. For example, if a church donates to you, when you return you can give a presentation on the churches and other ecclesiastical sites that were visited along with their historical significance. Not everyone can go to Paris, but you can bring a bit of Paris back to those that helped you get there.

### **Local Newspaper, radio or television station**

Pitch ideas that are mutually beneficial, such as writing regular letters to be published in the local paper or offering to do an interview upon returning.

### **Frequent Flyer Miles**

Ask friends and family to donate frequent flyer miles

### **Photography**

If you're a photographer, ask people to pre-pay for photos of people, landscapes, or animals

### **Yardwork**

Ask your friends, family and neighbors if they need any help with the upkeep of their yard.

### **Yard Sale**

Host your own sale event and ask that friends and family donate any unwanted item to your sale. Most cities now have yard sale advertising pages on facebook that you can use to promote your event.

### **Travel Grants and Scholarships**

Search and google for as many funding sources as possible. The one essay you write can be used for multiple opportunities with slight modifications to ensure you meet specific requirements for each opportunity.

### **Birthday/Holiday Gifts**

In lieu of traditional gifts, ask family to donate money to you.

### **Offer Classes or Make Unique Gifts**

Do you have a special talent like singing, dancing, swimming, karate, etc? If so, offer classes or private lessons. Do you knit, crochet, or paint? Make unique gifts to sell to others.

### **Contact local stores**

See if any local business will allow you to put a donation jar in high traffic places. If you are a knitter/painter, see local business would be willing to help you sell some items.

### **Host a Party**

Consider hosting a Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Jamberry, etc party to raise money towards your trip