

SEMESTER AT SEA OUTSIDE FUNDING GUIDE



SEMESTER AT SEA

KEY FEDERAL & NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS (2027 DEADLINES)	2
Federal & Need-Based Funding	2
Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship	2
Gilman-McCain Scholarship Program	2
Fund for Education Abroad (FEA)	2
HI USA Explore the World Travel Scholarship	3
General Study Abroad Grants	3
Tortuga Backpacks Study Abroad Scholarship	3
The Going Abroad Scholarship	3
Identity & Diversity Scholarships	3
The Pride Foundation	3
The Point Foundation	4
The Rainbow Scholarship	4
Corinne Jeannine Schillings Foundation	4
Diverse International Women of Color (DIWC)	4
Academic, Honor Society & Career-Focused	5
Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant	5
Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) Stemler Scholarship	5
FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	5
IEFA (International Education Financial Aid)	5
InternationalScholarships.com	5
SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH PORTALS & RESOURCE DATABASES	6
Go Overseas Gap Year & Study Abroad Scholarship Guides	6
GoAbroad Scholarship Directory	6
SPONSORSHIPS	6
Top Local & Community Sponsors	6
Local Business Sponsorships	7
Tax and Payment Rules	7
Pitch Ideas: Offer a Marketing Trade	8
How do I present the information to a potential donor?	8
FUNDRAISING & CONNECTIONS	9
Launch a Crowdfunding Campaign	9
Community & Local Events	9
Connecting with Family & Friends	9
PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER	10

SEMESTER AT SEA

Outside Funding Guide

The outside agencies in this guide offer scholarships to students studying abroad. Please verify all due dates by visiting the corresponding websites, as eligibility requirements and deadlines are subject to change.

KEY FEDERAL & NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS (2027 DEADLINES)

This first section provides information on tentative scholarship deadlines around the Spring 2027 and Fall 2027 voyages.

Federal & Need-Based Funding

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

→ Website: gilmanscholarship.org/

- ◆ **Spring 2027 Deadline:** October 1, 2026
- ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** March 1, 2027
- ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** Up to \$5,000 (plus up to \$3,000 for Critical Need Languages or \$1,000 for STEM). Must be a U.S. citizen undergraduate receiving a Federal Pell Grant.

Gilman-McCain Scholarship Program

→ Website: gilmanscholarship.org/program/gilman-mccain-scholarships/

- ◆ **Spring 2027 Deadline:** October 1, 2026
- ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** March 1, 2027
- ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** \$5,000 flat award. Open to undergraduate children or spousal dependents of active-duty U.S. military service members receiving Title IV federal financial aid.

Fund for Education Abroad (FEA)

→ Website: fundforeducationabroad.org/

- ◆ **Spring 2027 Deadline:** September 16, 2026
- ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** February 3, 2027

SEMESTER AT SEA

- ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** \$1,250 to \$10,000 depending on term length. Open to U.S. undergraduates with financial need enrolled in credit-bearing programs running at least 14–28 days.

HI USA Explore the World Travel Scholarship

- **Website:** hiusa.org/travel-scholarships/explore-the-world-scholarship
- ◆ **Spring 2027 Deadline:** N/A
- ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** Mid-February 2027
- ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** \$2,000 to \$3,000 stipend. Open to low-income U.S. citizens/residents ages 18–30 planning an international trip with an educational or service-learning component.

General Study Abroad Grants

Tortuga Backpacks Study Abroad Scholarship

- **Website:** tortugabackpacks.com/pages/study-abroad-scholarship
- ◆ **Spring 2027 Deadline:** November 15, 2026
- ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** April 15, 2027
- ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** \$1,000 plus a Tortuga travel backpack. Open to full-time undergraduate students accepted into credit-bearing study abroad programs.

The Going Abroad Scholarship

- **Website:** going.com/scholarship
- ◆ **Spring 2027 Deadline:** October 15, 2026
- ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** March 15, 2027
- ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** \$1,500 grant. Open to full-time undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in accredited study abroad programs based on essay or video submission.

Identity & Diversity Scholarships

The Pride Foundation

- **Website:** pridefoundation.org/find-funding/scholarships/
- ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** January 8, 2027

SEMESTER AT SEA

- ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** \$2,000 to \$10,000+. Open to LGBTQ+ undergraduate and graduate students with leadership potential and financial need residing in AK, ID, MT, OR, or WA.

The Point Foundation

- **Website:** pointfoundation.org/scholarships/flagship
 - ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** April 9, 2027
 - ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** Varies (tuition aid, coaching, and mentorship). Open to LGBTQ+ undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in accredited U.S. degree programs.

The Rainbow Scholarship

- **Website:** rainbowsig.org/rainbow-scholarship/
 - ◆ **Spring 2027 Deadline:** September 16, 2026
 - ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** February 3, 2027
 - ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** Up to \$10,000 (administered by FEA). Open to LGBTQ+ undergraduate U.S. citizens/permanent residents with demonstrated financial need.

Corinne Jeannine Schillings Foundation

- **Website:** cjsfoundation.org/
 - ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** May 14, 2027
 - ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** \$1,000 stipend. Open to female undergraduate Silver or Gold Award Girl Scouts with a 3.0+ GPA.

Diverse International Women of Color (DIWC)

- **Website:** diwcfund.org/diwc-scholarship/
 - ◆ **Spring 2027 Deadline:** November 16, 2026
 - ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** July, 2027
 - ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** \$500 award. Open to women of color enrolled in U.S. colleges/universities with a minimum 2.7 GPA, accepted into a credit-bearing study abroad or internship program.

SEMESTER AT SEA

Academic, Honor Society & Career-Focused

Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant

- **Website:** phikappaphi.org/grants-awards/study-abroad
- ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** March 15, 2027
- ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** \$1,000 grant. Open to undergraduates with a cumulative GPA of 3.75+ at institutions hosting an active Phi Kappa Phi chapter (members and non-members eligible).

Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) Stemler Scholarship

- **Website:** nationalald.org/stemler
- ◆ **Fall 2027 Deadline:** February 15, 2027
- ◆ **Award & Eligibility:** \$1,000 to \$2,000. Open to active undergraduate Alpha Lambda Delta members with a 3.3+ GPA enrolled in credit-bearing study abroad programs.

FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

IEFA (International Education Financial Aid)

- **Website:** iefa.org
- Free searchable directory offering international scholarship listings, mobility grants, and specialized financial aid programs for non-U.S. citizens studying abroad.

InternationalScholarships.com

- **Website:** internationalscholarships.com
- Comprehensive global database providing country-specific grants, international student loans, and study abroad funding for international applicants.

SEMESTER AT SEA

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH PORTALS & RESOURCE DATABASES

Use these searchable directories to quickly discover niche travel grants and private awards tailored to your specific background, major, and destination.

Go Overseas Gap Year & Study Abroad Scholarship Guides

- **Website:** gooverseas.com/blog/gap-year-scholarships
- Curated listing directories updated annually with third-party travel grants, gap year funding, and identity-specific awards.

GoAbroad Scholarship Directory

- **Website:** goabroad.com/scholarships-abroad
- A searchable database filtering study abroad grants by field of study, region, and student demographic.

SPONSORSHIPS

Each year, students studying abroad raise scholarship money through their own hometown connections. Your local community is one of your strongest, most untapped funding sources. Civic groups, business networks, and regional foundations support local students embarking on a global journey like Semester at Sea.

Top Local & Community Sponsors

- **Fraternal Orders & Service Lodges:** Elks Lodge (BPOE), Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE), Loyal Order of Moose, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) posts. Local lodges frequently manage underutilized community educational funds for neighborhood students.
- **Cultural & Heritage Societies:** Ethnic heritage organizations (e.g., Sons and Daughters of Italy, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Alliance Française, German-American societies, Polish National Alliance). These groups actively prioritize funding international cultural exchange and study abroad.
- **Campus Departments & Micro-Grants:** University academic departments (e.g., Global Studies, Political Science, Languages, Geography), Honors Colleges, and Student

SEMESTER AT SEA

Government Associations (SGA) that distribute travel micro-grants for experiential learning.

- **Faith-Based Global Outreach Committees:** Local places of worship, interfaith councils, or religious youth ministries with budget lines allocated toward global engagement, cross-cultural understanding, or international service.
- **Greek Life & Alumni Associations:** Local or national sorority and fraternity chapters, as well as high school alumni associations, which frequently maintain discretionary funds to support student leadership opportunities.
- **Local Media Outlets:** Newspapers, regional magazines, or local radio stations. Offer to contribute a weekly travel column or submit photo essays during your voyage in exchange for a direct sponsorship stipend.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies:** State and local government offices providing educational financial support and adaptive travel grants for students with documented disabilities.
- **Friends, Family & Extended Networks:** Extended family members, family friends, and personal supporters are often eager to help fund a life-changing educational experience. Consider sending a thoughtful personal letter outlining your goals, or requesting study abroad contributions in place of traditional holiday, birthday, or graduation gifts.

Local Business Sponsorships

Local businesses—like hometown boutiques, outdoor gear shops, and independent brands—are often much more flexible and willing to sponsor students than major corporations. The key is offering marketing value to them in exchange for funding or gear.

Important Tax Tip for Sponsors: *Direct financial support to you is considered a personal gift, so our office cannot issue a charitable tax receipt. However, let local owners know they can often write off sponsorship money or gear as a standard **business marketing expense** if you provide social media exposure or photo rights in return.*

Tax and Payment Rules

- **Direct Support:** Cash, gear, or digital transfers sent directly to you count as personal gifts
- **Sending a check:** If a sponsor hesitates to pay you directly, they can mail a check to our office with your full name and voyage listed on the memo line and we can credit your account

SEMESTER AT SEA

- **Tax Receipts:** Official tax-deductible receipts are only generated for donations to our general scholarship fund, which cannot be designated for individual student accounts

Pitch Ideas: Offer a Marketing Trade

Frame your request as a win-win partnership rather than a donation:

- **Content Creation:** Offer gear reviews, unboxing videos, or high-res photos featuring their appeal at iconic landmarks for their website and social media channels.
- **Brand Advocacy:** Partner with independent clothing lines or local artisans to wear their items throughout your trip and tag them in travel posts.
- **Creative Showcases:** Offer to host an onboard product showcase or document a "day in the life" using their travel accessories.

How do I present the information to a potential donor?

Write a letter briefly introducing yourself, your academic major, and your goals in studying abroad. Tell a little about where you are going, the courses you will be taking through Colorado State University, and how this comparative global study aligns with your career goals. Describe the overall cost of the program (tuition, travel visas, airfare, field classes) and clearly outline what your financial needs are. You can also go to the **Program Fees** page for your upcoming voyage to download the official voyage budget as a resource.

Fundraising can also help educate the public. Suggest ways you would give back to the community or donor organization as a public service after receiving such a scholarship. Some donors are far more likely to help you out if they see that you are willing to give back upon your return.

Potential ideas:

- Give a slideshow presentation or Q&A talk at a local club meeting or event
- Lead a discussion, seminar, or campus panel to inspire future study abroad students
- Submit a photo essay or article series to your campus or local newspaper
- Participate in radio, podcast, or televised interviews about your experience
- Contribute community service and outreach inspired by your global voyage
- Help other local students learn how to access similar international opportunities

Keep careful records of who supported you and the amount. Be sure to express your appreciation for their support and follow through on any commitments you make. Your energy and enthusiasm for an international experience will be contagious!

SEMESTER AT SEA

FUNDRAISING & CONNECTIONS

Launch a Crowdfunding Campaign

Setting up an online crowdfunding campaign or social media fund is one of the fastest, most effective ways to share your journey and gather support. When setting up your page, define a clear, realistic budget—whether your goal is 2,000–5,000 to cover in-port travel expenses, personal spending money, or a remaining tuition balance. Showing a specific target helps donors see exactly how their money helps. Post regular updates, share your itinerary, and remember: every single dollar counts!

Community & Local Events

Engaging your hometown or campus community is one of the most rewarding ways to build your voyage fund. Turn your everyday skills, hobbies, or talents into a mini-business! Whether that's offering tutoring, custom art, handmade crafts, or baked goods on campus.

Because shipboard living requires packing light, use the months before departure to clear out the clutter. Turn unused clothes, old textbooks, and electronics into cash by hosting a neighborhood yard sale or listing them on reselling apps like Depop, Poshmark, or Facebook Marketplace. You can also organize a couple of raffles or prize giveaways!

Connecting with Family & Friends

Studying abroad on Semester at Sea is a major life milestone, and the people in your life want to celebrate it with you! You and your family can find simple, authentic ways to spread the news about your upcoming journey. Share your excitement in more depth with the people who care about you most. Explain why you're embarking on this voyage, what it means for your future, and what you need to do to get there.

- **Host a "Sea You Later" Party:** Throw a sailing-away gathering before heading to your embarkation port! It's a fun way to showcase your itinerary, share port stops, and set out a cash box or QR code for loved ones who want to pitch in toward your voyage expenses.
- **Spread the Word Digitally:** Share quick personal updates via group chats, email, or social media explaining your goals, sharing your excitement, and linking directly to your crowdfunding page.
- **Networking:** Mention your voyage to professors, advisors, friends, and local leaders. Keeping your network updated leads to advice, connections, or local support.

SEMESTER AT SEA

- **Frequent Flyer Miles:** Ask family or close friends to donate accrued airline miles to help cover your international flights to and from port.
- **Holidays & Birthdays:** Request travel gear (backpacks, adapters, passport holders) or direct voyage contributions in place of traditional gifts.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Funding your voyage is a mosaic. By combining Semester at Sea aid, home university grants, payment plans, loans, and personal fundraising, you can bring your goal within reach. It takes effort and persistence, but every dollar brings you one step closer to setting sail.

Wishing you fair winds and following seas—we look forward to seeing you on the ship!