



ARCC GAP

IDEAS FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AID

Outside Resources

It's going to take some hard work, persistence, and creative thinking, but you can raise the funds you need to take what will undoubtedly be the best semester or year of your life. Typically students fund their gap semesters through a mixture of working, fundraising, and asking for scholarships. We find that students who contribute financially to their gap year experience are some of our most successful students, taking ownership and bringing a commitment to make their gap experience the best it can be.

We are always here to help with suggestions, ideas, and to help you come up with the best fundraising campaign you can. Here are just a few options to help get you started:

Scholarships and Grants:

- Start at school. Go to your college or guidance counselor and see what scholarships are available to graduating seniors. There may also be options for students taking a gap semester or scholarships willing to consider gap semester students as well. Keep checking in.
- Have you applied to college and want to defer? Check with your college about scholarships available to incoming freshmen. The study abroad or global education office is also a great place to check for any additional funds.

See below for a list of great options to pursue:

- [GYA/Tortuga Gap Year Scholarship](#) is a collaboration between the Gap Year Association and Tortuga Backpacks. The winner of the GYA/Tortuga Gap Year Scholarship will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to be used for room & board, travel, and/or program tuition for a gap year experience occurring between 1/1/2024 and 12/31/2024 and a Tortuga travel backpack. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on October 29, 2023. The winner will be announced on November 15, 2023.
- The [Brower Youth Award](#) recognizes the work of six young leaders each year who are making strides in the environmental movement. Brower Youth Award winners demonstrate excellent leadership as well as a commitment to the communities their work serves.

- Rotary International provides scholarships for undergraduate, graduate & vocational study.
- USA Gap Year Fair Scholarship
- The Foundation for Global Scholars is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Denver, Colorado whose mission is to create global citizens and leaders by assisting students in achieving their personal and professional goals of obtaining cultural and academic experiences abroad. The Foundation will support this mission by awarding scholarships to help enable students to obtain an international experience. Students who are from underrepresented populations in international education are a priority.
- Greenheart Travel has a scholarship for “first time travelers” and are available for adult, high school, and short-term programs
- Hostelling International is offering eighty-one (81) \$2,000 travel scholarships in 14 locations. Applicants need to be 18 at the time of travel.
- The Pollination Project gives daily microgrants designed to kick start an organization or individual’s work and give them the lift they need to thrive and grow.
- Davidson Institute awards \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 scholarships to extraordinary young people, 18 and under, who have completed a significant piece of work. Application categories are Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Literature, Music, Philosophy and Outside the Box.
- Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is a grant program that enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, thereby gaining skills critical to our national security and economic competitiveness.
- Goabroad.com is a leading provider of information for study abroad and has its own study abroad scholarship database.
- <http://studyabroad.msu.edu/people/studentsofcolor/scholarships.html>. Requires university credit. Scholarships for Multicultural Students – a database hosted by Michigan State University.
- <http://www.csus.edu/coe/scholarships-grants/list/marian-wright-edelman.html>: Requires university credit. Marion Wright Edelman Scholarship (for students of minority background).
- The Starbucks Foundation: Shared Planet Youth Action Grants for service and activism.
- <http://www.iie.org/programs/freeman-asia>: Freeman Awards for Study in Asia (Freeman-ASIA) provides scholarships for U.S. undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need to study abroad in East or Southeast Asia.
- Davidson Fellows Scholarship: The Davidson Fellows Scholarship awards \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 scholarships to extraordinary young people, 18 and under, who have completed a significant piece of work. Application categories are Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Literature, Music, Philosophy and Outside the Box.
- The Stephen Bufton Memorial Educational Fund National President’s Scholarship: National scholarships are awarded each year in the amounts of \$5,000 to \$10,000. All national scholarships have their requirements designated by the SBMEF Board of Trustees.
- www.hiusa.org: Hostelling International are offering eighty-one (81) \$2,000 travel scholarships in 14 locations. Applicants need to be 18 at the time of travel.
- www.fundforeducationabroad.org. Requires university credit. Fund for Education Abroad. The newly established Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) was created in order to open doors for deserving education abroad students. Starting with the 2011-2012 academic year, FEA will award funds for students planning to study abroad on any academically rigorous programs. Designed by

the FEA Advisory Board, FEA scholarships are intended to meet the financial needs of students who might not be eligible for government grants or existing funds limited to specific programs or groups of students.

Websites:

- [Gap Year Association Financial Aid Webpage](#) is a compilation of resources and possible financial assistance resources.
- [FundMyTravel](#) is an online crowdfunding platform specifically developed to suit the needs of individuals desiring to study or volunteer abroad which provides tools and resources to host online fundraisers.
- [FastWeb](#) is a Scholarship search engine where users can create a profile and have access to all sorts of scholarships. You can even receive daily email alerts.
- www.nelnet.com: Financing site with scholarship search as well as education planning.
- www.wiredscholar.com: The Smart Option Student Loan
- www.studyabroadfunding.org: Finds Scholarships and Grants for Study Abroad
- www.internationalscholarships.com: The International Scholarship Search is the premier financial aid, college scholarship and international scholarship resource for students wishing to study abroad
- www.studentaid.ed.gov: US Department of Education Financial Aid Information.
- www.scholarships.com
- scholarshipsecretary.com/
- www.studyabroad.com/forum/financial_aid.html
- <http://www.nea.org/>
- <https://www.vergemagazine.com/program-search/funding.html>

Using your local resources & contacts: Letter Writing Campaigns and more:

Start at home. Your closest resources of funding are family, friends, and community members. Using those resources is one of the easiest ways to raise several thousand dollars. Drafting a letter that specifically states your goals for choosing a gap semester and sending it to personal contacts as well as community organizations, such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Elks, Knights of Columbus, Circle K and Junior League can go a long way in helping you raise the funds you need for your gap year. Reaching out to newspapers, radio shows, and through social media can be a great way to spread the word.

- Part One: Create Your Mailing List. You can start with family and friends, but be sure to include everyone. Utilize your resources and reach out to anyone you can. Suggestions include: Friends of your parents. Members of any religious group you belong to. Professional acquaintances of both you and your parents. Known donors at your school. Your friends' parents. Members of social, charitable, or professional organizations in your community. Be sure to start formulating your list as soon as possible and don't be afraid to ask. A gap semester is a truly rewarding experience and if you express that in your letter, people will more than likely want to help you achieve your goal.
- Part Two: Writing your Letter or Email. The most important thing to remember when writing your letter is to keep it concise. Make your point in a persuasive and emotional way. Be sure to: Describe ARCC to your donors. Explain the personal reasons you want to go on an ARCC Gap

Semester. What you hope to gain from your ARCC experience. Emphasize what you will learn and accomplish on this program.

- Keep the letter simple and to the point. Reach out to your donors on a personal level and avoid using data or facts. Share your enthusiasm and drive for choosing a gap semester and what projects ARCC participates in, but avoid sounding preachy. Don't be afraid to ask for a specific dollar amount to help ensure you will reach your goal and be sure to tell them how to contribute, ie. Having contributions sent directly to you.
- Part Three: Follow up with your donors. If you don't hear from them after a couple of weeks, follow up with an email. Do they need more convincing? Ask if they want to meet so you can talk to them in person more about the program. Be prepared to answer questions about ARCC and the program. Some people may not be able to contribute financially. Be sure to thank them anyways as they may still be supportive of your goals even if they can't contribute.
- Part Four: Send Thank-You's and Updates throughout your Journey. This is probably the most important step. Be sure to send a personal thank you note to everyone who contributes to your fundraising goal. Sending a handwritten note immediately upon receipt of a donation shows your donor that you are grateful and appreciative of their contribution. This is also a great opportunity for you to let donors know how they can follow you on your journey. If you plan on keeping a blog, give them the address. In addition, you may want to send all your donors a letter upon your return letting them know about your experience, the impact it had on you and how grateful you are for their contributions as it helped make your program possible.
- When reaching out to local clubs, organizations, businesses, radio shows, newspapers, be prepared to give a presentation or write an essay. Be sure to follow up with phone calls or emails until you hear back from someone. If you have to give a presentation, make sure you're prepared, you practice and make it personal. Much like personal donations, always send a thank you and let them know how much you appreciate the opportunity to present your goals to the group.