

Education Abroad Special Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students

Terms of Reference

Purpose

- Increase equity to participate in education abroad opportunities for First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students;
- Increase FNMI students' participation in international learning opportunities, diversify the countries students visit, and reduce study/work abroad barriers;
- Assist FNMI students in enhancing and applying global skills to advance career goals.

Eligible Programs

This Award financially supports FNMI undergraduate and graduate students undertaking for-credit experiential learning opportunities outside of Canada for at least seven (7) days. The proposed education abroad opportunity may be individual- or group-based, at the undergraduate and graduate levels. It may be offered either by the U of A (centrally, Faculty, other) or by an external organization.

Types of eligible education abroad experiences could include:

- Formal exchanges at approved partner institutions;
- Short-term/summer courses and/or study tours;
- Faculty-led programs (course taught by U of A faculty abroad);
- Programs led by partner institutions or third-party providers;
- Internships, research, practicum, and clinical rotations abroad.

Eligibility

Students must:

- be participating in education abroad programs outside of Canada for **at least seven (7) days**;
- be registered full-time in a U of A undergraduate or graduate degree program at the time of the program abroad. Open Studies and part-time students will not be considered eligible;
- The FNMI status will be confirmed by the Student Financial Support Office;
- Submit a Declaration Form and unofficial transcripts;
- meet the minimum GPA criteria of the education abroad programs. Please speak to the program coordinator to determine the minimum required GPA;
- undergraduate students must have completed a minimum of *12 credits of U of A coursework by the application deadline;
- graduate students must have completed at least one term of graduate studies by the application deadline.

If a student is unable to use the award in the year that they received it, the award cannot be carried over to the next year, and they will need to reapply. Preference will be given to first-time recipients within the same academic year.

Value

\$3,000 - up to \$10,000 based on program duration and unmet financial need.

The total value of the award will be based on the program duration, as well as the financial need when applicable. Successful applicants will automatically receive the following amount based on the program duration:

- \$3,000 for programs 1 - 4 weeks in duration;
- \$6,000 for programs longer than 4 weeks.

If a student has unmet financial needs more than the automatic allocation, they need to submit a budget* in the scholarship application to demonstrate the additional financial needs. The total amount of funding will not exceed \$10,000.

*See Appendix I for additional information about the Award Budget.

Number of Award: Variable

Application & Selection

- Applications for this Award must be initiated by individual U of A students;
- Applicants will complete and submit an application through [Horizons](#); A complete application must consist of:
 - 1) Statement of Academic Motivation, Ambassadorship & Cultural Motivation;
 - 2) Description of Extracurricular Activities;
 - 3) Budget;
 - 4) Unofficial transcripts; and
 - 5) Declaration form.
- Depending on available funding, the number of applicants and the amount of student unmet financial need, it is possible that not all applicants can be funded in a given year;
- Selection criteria will be based on the following:
 - GPA of the student;
 - Type and quality of learning experience and how it contributes to the student's academic success;
 - Student's motivation for seeking the experience abroad;
 - Demonstrated leadership, involvement, and participation in university or community organizations, including cultural, sports, political, or extracurricular activities.
- For application details, visit the [Education Abroad Special Award web page](#).

Acceptance & Conditions

- Applicants will be notified if they have been nominated for the award and must confirm acceptance of the nomination; failure to do so will result in forfeiting the award;
- Award payments will be directly deposited into the award recipient's banking account via Bear Tracks once applicants complete all the required award acceptance steps. Award payments are subject to U of A administrative timelines;
- Recipients are ineligible to hold other centrally managed awards (e.g., Education Abroad Award, endowed awards such as Edmonton Consular Corps Award, Rod and Judith Fraser Award, etc.) but are eligible for receiving faculty-level awards;
- Recipients will be required to complete the risk management steps listed [here](#) depending on their program type and level of study;
- Recipients will also be encouraged to participate in promotion and recruitment activities for education abroad programming;

Appendix I: Award Budget

Your Award budget should include both the expenses of your travel abroad and your revenue sources. When preparing your award budget, there are a number of things to consider. This document aims to help you work through your budget plan.

General information to consider when submitting your budget:

- Ensure you take the time to consider all the sections in the budget form. If you do not have confirmed information on the expense items, research how much they may cost (e.g., estimated flight costs for when you plan to travel). Some programs may have a budget template online (e.g., [Cortona](#)), while others will require you to research this information;
- **Do not include recreational/leisure travel and entertainment expenses in your budget.** Only include expenses directly for your program abroad;
- When you plan for the budget, do not include any savings you intend to use for your tuition in your revenue sources. Note that tuition is not a fundable item.

Fundable Expenses

Accommodation

This will cover your reasonable accommodation during your program. Please note that many programs will combine a number of the eligible expenses (e.g., accommodation and food) into one program fee and you may need to separate those or adjust the expenses accordingly (e.g., budgeting less for food if it's included in the program fee). Examples of unreasonable accommodation expenses include overestimates of monthly rental costs.

Return Travel (Round Trip)

Even if you have not booked your tickets, you can use sources like Expedia or Google Flights to estimate the round trip cost according to your travel dates.

Health Insurance

If you are not covered by an existing health care provider, consider the cost of purchasing additional health and travel insurance. Information on selecting a plan can be found [here](#).

Food

Research what food may cost in your destination countries. Many universities in other countries will provide a breakdown of costs including food.

Books, Course Materials

This section pertains to course materials that you may need. Many programs/universities may have shifted to electronic resources so this expense may be less than expected.

Passport, Visa

Costs for passport and/or visa are both covered through this Award. Travel and accommodation to get the visa is not a covered cost.

Dependent Care

If you have dependents (e.g., children) who need care during your program abroad, the expense associated with the provision of needed care (e.g., childcare) is a covered cost through this Award.

Miscellaneous

In this section, you can list additional necessary expenses, (e.g., transit passes in your destination city). Please provide a description of the miscellaneous items and an itemized budget for those expenses.

Program-related Field Trips

You should only include trips that are directly related to your program (e.g., field trips as part of your program experience).

Revenue Sources

Personal Savings

The money you have in a bank account that can be used to fund your experience abroad.

From Parents/Guardians

Funds provided by parents, guardians, or others.

Scholarships/Awards/Third Party Funding

Please list funding from other sources, including other U of A awards and funding from a third party (e.g., band funding).

Other

If you are receiving funding from another source not listed above, please list it here. Please note that student loans and lines of credit should NOT be listed in this section.