

2008-2009
VCU
Education Abroad
Scholarship Application



Important: Deadline for Application
Wednesday February 14, 2008

Complete applications must be received by the Education Abroad Office no later than 4:30 PM February 14, 2008. Please allow a minimum of two weeks to complete the scholarship application process. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Virginia Commonwealth University • Office of Education Abroad
916 West Franklin Street • PO Box 843043
Richmond, Virginia • 23284-3043
Tel: 804.827.7882 • Fax: 804.828.2552
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Guide for the Completion of a Study Abroad Scholarship Application

Thank you for your interest in the study abroad scholarships administered by the Office of Education Abroad. We will make every effort to assess the strength of your application, and we offer these guidelines to assist you in completion of your application.

Please complete the application accurately and completely.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Eligibility

You must meet all of the following criteria:

- Study abroad during the summer of 2008 or during the academic year 2008-2009
- Must be a full time student
- Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.75
- Must be returning for at least one semester after your study abroad. Continuing in graduate school at VCU does not fulfill this requirement.
- Preference will be given to students participating in programs in diverse locations.
- Must demonstrate financial need

Scholarship Commitment

If you receive a scholarship you are obligated to fulfill the following commitments:

- Register at VCU for a minimum of one semester of full-time academic work following your study abroad
- Submit a written report or photo essay within 30 days of returning to the US, evaluating your experience from personal, academic and professional development perspectives. Your material may be used by VCU Education Abroad for future publicity purposes.
- Follow-on Project: During the semester in which they return, students must contribute 1 hour of service for every \$100 they receive (up to a maximum of 10 hours). The students must participate in activities that will serve the Education Abroad office.

Contents of a Complete Application

Your application must contain all of the following:

- Application Form
- Statement of Purpose
- One academic reference

Application Form

Please be sure to complete the entire application. Incomplete or late applications will **not** be considered!

Statement of Purpose

In a clear, thoughtfully prepared essay of approximately 500 words, introduce yourself and present your reasons for wanting to study abroad. Use this essay to tell us about your strengths and special interests that may not be evident in other parts of your application. State what you expect to gain from the experience, personally and academically. Include ideas on how you may be able to share your experiences with the VCU community upon your return. Handwritten essays will not be considered. Use plain white paper. Your name should appear on each sheet.

Academic Reference Form

One academic reference form from a professor or instructor is required. You may include additional academic or non-academic references to support your application. The form is included in the application packet. Please instruct the person writing your reference to return it to the Education Abroad Department. Late references will **not** be considered.

Please answer the following as briefly and as specifically as possible. You may use an additional sheet of paper if necessary.

List below the major subjects and/or research projects that you wish to study during your period overseas.

Indicate previous academic work that has helped you to prepare for this study abroad experience:

List any honors, awards or special achievements:

In order to demonstrate financial need, please indicate the following in a short statement:

- The estimated total cost of your program;
- How you intend to pay for the cost of your program;
- Any additional sources of funding (such as scholarships, grants, etc.) to which you have access

Part III: Agreement

I agree to notify the Education Abroad Department in writing if I no longer wish to be considered for a study abroad scholarship.

If I receive a scholarship, I agree to:

Register at VCU for a minimum of one semester of full-time academic work following your study abroad

Submit a written report or photo essay within 30 days of returning to the US, evaluating your experience from personal, academic and professional development perspectives

Complete a follow-on project: Contribute 1 hour of service for every \$100 you receive (up to a maximum of 10 hours). You must participate in activities that will serve the Education Abroad office.

I acknowledge that all of my statements on the form are complete and accurate to the best of my ability.

Signature

Date

VCU Study Abroad Scholarship Academic Reference Form

To Be Completed by the Applicant:

Name: _____
(Please Print)

Reference Requested From: _____
(Please Print)

Under the US Federal law (Section 438 of Public Law 90-247, as amended), students are permitted access to certain educational records. Section 438 (A)(2)(B) provides that a student may waive the right to inspect confidential letters of recommendation. Many applicants have found that a recommendation letter written in confidence has a greater impact than one to which the applicant had access. If you waive your right to inspect the information requested by this form, please sign below:

Applicant's Signature

Date

To Be Completed by the Individual Providing the Reference:

The applicant named above is applying for a study abroad scholarship through the Education Abroad Department. Since awardees serve as representatives of Virginia Commonwealth University and of the United States, the office is concerned with the applicant's academic and personal suitability for study abroad.

Signature of Referee

Position or Title

Office Address and Telephone

***Please see reverse side for reference instructions.**

Please use the space below to comment specifically on the applicant in terms of the following:

- A. Academic suitability for study at an institution abroad;
- B. Personal stability for living abroad;
- C. How participation in an experience abroad will be of benefit, both academically and personally;
- D. Weaknesses;
- E. Linguistic preparation, if applicable; and
- F. Any other factors which you believe may affect a successful experience abroad.

Return this reference no later than February 14, 2008.

Please deliver it directly to VCU Education Abroad, 916 West Franklin Street, Box 843043, Richmond,
Virginia 23243-3043.

Thank you for your assistance.