

fundraising ideas...



Websites such as PayPal, gofundme.com or fundmytravel.com offer a great way to start an online fundraising campaign.



Contact clubs, organizations and churches in your hometown. In exchange for a donation, offer to do a presentation upon your return.



Newspapers or radio stations in your hometown may be willing to contribute if you offer to write articles or do podcasts while abroad.



Pick up people's unwanted clothes, furniture and knickknacks, and organize a yard sale. One person's trash is another person's ticket abroad.



In exchange for heavy promotion and new customers, a local business may be willing to donate a percentage of a given day's sales.

HEDGE YOUR BETS

While it's important to apply for as many education abroad scholarships as possible, you shouldn't expect to receive every award. It's important to consider other funding options & remember that every little bit helps. Small amounts can add up to big rewards!

more ideas...

- Sell a custom calendar with pictures from your time abroad (pre-ordered & created upon your return).
- Raffle the chance to win a date with one of your friends or a local celebrity
- Offer to take pictures abroad with a business's logo or merchandise that they could use in future advertising
- With the help of family & friends, organize a dinner or party & ask attendees for donations.
- Create a fun campaign where once you've raised X amount of money, you'll shave your head or donate your hair to Locks of Love (or, even better, get someone else to do it).

tips/ suggestions



From your mom's co-workers to your uncle's golf buddies... Use your network and others!



How will you give back? Writing a blog & sending updates from abroad is just one great way to keep contributors engaged.



People don't want to donate to a vacation. Make sure you always tell folks how this experience will help you academically & professionally.



Be creative with your fundraising by incorporating your host location. (Is there a local org. with a connection to your host country?)



Always look for ways to save your own money. Keep your wish list for your birthday or holidays in mind too.

sample letter

(for family/friends)



PARAGRAPH 1
Give a short update on what's happening in your life: your goals, activities, etc.



PARAGRAPH 2 / 3
Connect your goals/activities with your reason for doing an education abroad program. Describe what your program will entail.



PARAGRAPH 4
Explain your expenses and financial situation. You may even consider breaking down costs and current funds. When it comes to money, people often appreciate transparency.



PARAGRAPH 5
Ask for help, but don't forget to say what you'll do in return!



To make giving easier for contributors (and increase your chances of receiving funds), you may want to consider including a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your letter.

Dear Uncle Phil,

As you know, for the past few years I've been studying Psychology and Spanish here at Kent State University. During this time, I've been able to broaden my horizons through a variety of classes and gain experience through lab research in my field. I am working hard to make sure that my education and activities prepare me for graduate school and the job market.

In my preparation, I have decided to enroll in a Spanish language study abroad program in Madrid, Spain this upcoming fall. Not only will this program give me real-world Spanish language experience, but I will even be able to earn credit towards my psychology degree also. Taking psychology courses abroad will allow me to explore my field in a new cultural context, from a fresh perspective. And I'm really excited about that!

Because only around 10% of U.S. college students study abroad, I know this experience will serve me well into the future by setting me apart from my peers. While I am able to use much of my normal financial aid, external scholarships, and my own savings to cover the costs of tuition, I will still come up a little short when it comes to the airfare and other program fees.

If you could contribute, any amount would be greatly appreciated. And to let you know that your money is going to good use, I will happily send you blog updates while abroad!

Thanks so much for supporting my current and future goals!

Sincerely,

~John

I would like to contribute:

Including a fun note with options for contributing not only gives your family and friends choices, but it makes asking for money a little less tense.

\$25 Every little bit helps!

\$100 Enjoy some paella for me!

\$50 It's been a tough year -but I support you!

\$250 It's an investment, but one that's well worth it!

Other: _____

**KENT STATE**
UNIVERSITY