

# FUNDRAISING GUIDE

While we encourage all students to search and apply for as many study abroad scholarships as they are eligible, students should never expect to receive every award. Fundraising is a great way to pay for your education abroad program.

ISA High School encourages students to think outside the box for unique fundraising ideas- and of course, should you experience success, let us know your methods so that we can pass on these techniques to other students!

## IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED



### Scholarships

More information about scholarships (both through ISA High School, and from independent resources) can be found by following this link: [studiesabroad.com/high-school/program-details/scholarships](http://studiesabroad.com/high-school/program-details/scholarships)



### Birthdays And Holidays

Ask for contributions to your study abroad fund in lieu of presents.



### Social Media

Various websites such as [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com), [fundmytravel.com](http://fundmytravel.com), or [goenounce.com](http://goenounce.com) are great platforms where your social media connections can easily contribute.



### Network

Reach out to your school, youth group, manager at a part-time job, local companies, or your parents' friends- anyone who might be willing to contribute to your cause. You never know what people will say unless you ask!



### Get Active

Commit to running a marathon, biking a certain distance, or participating in some sort of race or event. Have friends and family pledge a set amount per mile you run, hour you complete, or goal you make this season.



### Get Creative

Sell calendars or t-shirts with the proceeds benefitting your program! Design a layout to sell before you leave, or take pre-orders for products with photos from abroad that you can distribute after your return.



### Mail Campaign

Send letters to friends and family asking for a small contribution. For tips, tricks, and a sample letter, see page 2.



### Frequent Flyer Miles

Feel strange about asking distant acquaintances for money? You can ask them to donate their frequent flyer miles from an airline of your choice to you! If you have enough people pledge their miles, you could purchase your roundtrip airfare using only donated miles.



### Have A Yard Sale

Collect your clothes' and family's unwanted clothes and possessions for use in your sale. Along these same lines, bake sales, car washes, and raffles are all great ways to raise money while having fun!



### Hometown Resources

When asking businesses for funds, focus locally - larger corporations might have more hoops to jump through. Start with the Chamber of Commerce, who might be able to provide contact information for nearby businesses. Consider reaching out to local Rotary, Elks, Lions, or other clubs who might be interested in sponsoring you.



### Restaurant Day(s)

Some local restaurants will agree to give a percentage of their sales during one day or evening.

## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

What is the benefit for anyone contributing? Write a blog, email photos, or write post cards to **keep contributors engaged.**

Look for ways to **make and save your own money.** Babysitting, part-time jobs, and doing odd tasks for friends and neighbors are great ways to earn and save funds.

Explain to potential donors **how your program will benefit you** academically, as a person, and ultimately, professionally.

# SAMPLE LETTER



Dear Uncle Don,

As you might have heard from Mom, I have been doing really well at Sunshine High School. This year I made the varsity volleyball team, and I volunteer my time with my schools' Beta Club several times a semester. My favorite class is Spanish, and I plan to either major or minor in it once I get to college! In preparing to start the college search, I am working hard to make sure that my educational experiences and activities prepare me for my college applications.

Because of this, I have decided to participate on a Spanish Language Immersion program this summer in Costa Rica with an organization called ISA High School. I will be living with a Costa Rican family, taking courses for college credit, and volunteering for a community in need. Not only will this program be a huge opportunity to help an impoverished community and for my own personal growth, but I will also be preparing myself to stand out when applying to universities in the future.

The total cost of this program, including my airline ticket and spending money comes to about \$5000. Even though I have applied to scholarships and plan to use my existing savings, I still do not have quite enough funds to afford this enriching experience.

If you could contribute to making this program a reality for me, any amount would be greatly appreciated. Of course, I will keep you updated through blog posts and photos while I am abroad, so that you are able to see everything I am doing, the people I am helping, and how much I am learning!

Thank you so much for supporting me and my goals!

Love,

Susan

## PRO TIPS



To make the contribution process easier for anyone willing to contribute, you could consider enclosing a pre-addressed envelope (with a stamp!) for them to mail a donation back to you. Including a link to a fundraising website for their easy access is also a nice touch.

Attaching a fun little note to your message with various contribution amounts gives your friends and family options (and makes asking for money slightly less serious)!

### Paragraph 1

Introduction. Update them on what what's been going on in your life lately.

### Paragraph 2

Describe the study abroad program you are interested in, what your goals are for the program, and why this program would be beneficial for you personally, academically, and professionally.

### Paragraph 3

Give some background information on your financial situation. Be clear about why you have financial need. Consider giving information on program cost, as well as the deficit you are experiencing between money you have raised/saved and the total program cost.

### Paragraph 4

Ask for a contribution. Try not to be pushy, but reiterate how useful it would be to have assistance. Don't forget to include information about what you will do in return!

w: [studiesabroad.com/high-school/](http://studiesabroad.com/high-school/)  
e: [hs@studiesabroad.com](mailto:hs@studiesabroad.com) • p: (512) 474-1041

