



FEA Applicant Preferences

- **Preferred Demographics:** The Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) scholarships aim to support candidates from groups typically underrepresented in study abroad, including students of color, students from minority backgrounds, first-generation college students, students attending community college and/or with a community college experience, and students who have no previous international travel experience. If you do not need meet at least one of these preferred demographics, you may not want to apply.
- **Clear Professional Aspirations:** FEA is looking for students who can clearly articular why they're going abroad and how going abroad will help them reach their future goals, specifically their professional aspirations.
- **Open Eyes & Mind:** FEA is looking for students who acknowledge that studying abroad is going to present challenges. This program wants students who are open-minded and willing to perserve in somestimes isolating circumstances.
- **Essays are Important:** To be considered for an FEA scholarship, your essays need to thoroughly address the prompts. The quality of your writing matters. Grammar and spelling mistakes, as well as poor essay organization, are all considered.

DO NOT...

- **Mention you picked the country because they speak English.** While this might be one of your deciding factors, it's not worth mentioning here. It doesn't show how your study abroad experience will be impactful to you.
- **Reiterate your study abroad program's marketing materials.** It is helpful to mention some context about your study abroad program, but only as it connects to you and your goals. The reviewer does not need to know all the details about the program; they need to know about how it connects to you: personally, academically and professionally.
- **Be Repetitive.** You only have so many words in your essays to tell the reviewers about your interests in studying abroad, do not waste the space by repeating the same information. You do not need to fill the essays character capacity. It is better to be brief and concise, than long and wordy.

Edits & Feedback

Optional, but highly recommended - Submit your essay drafts to the Study Abroad Office, (studyabroad@etown.edu) for editing and feedback. You may also submit your drafts to the Director of Prestigious Scholarships, Jean-Paul Benowitz (benowitzj@etown.edu), Etown's Writing Wing (learningzone@etown.edu), and/or other trusted writing advisors. Please allow time for several rounds of edits before the application deadline.