Scholarship Essay Tips

All study abroad scholarships require writing an essay as part of the application. Because of the large amount of applications, a coherent and attention-grabbing essay may be what allows you to stand out from another candidate. Consider that many times, this is the only opportunity you get to share a little about yourself and why you deserve this scholarship.

The information below is provided to help you write a successful scholarship essay.

**Considering the topic & preparing an outline**
Read the essay prompt and requirements carefully. If the prompt is asking several questions, write each question down separately and make an outline of what you plan to write.

- Make a list of your personal characteristics (strengths and weaknesses)
- List things you have accomplished both personally and academically.
- Include any obstacles you have had to overcome or are currently facing (especially for scholarships that are based on demonstrated need)
- List any community service you have done and/or leadership positions that you’ve held
- Include information that you think the scholarship committee should know
- Make sure to include examples to demonstrate your points

**Writing the essay**

- Start with a strong introduction to grab the reader’s attention.
- Be as specific as you can. Provide specific examples.
- Don’t shy away from being personal. This helps the reader evaluate the type of person you are.
- Use a word processing application to check your grammar.
- Check the structure of your essay and make sure that the body paragraphs correlate with what you have stated in your introduction. Your conclusion should summarize these points.

**Review your essay**

- Proofread your essay several times (reading it out loud helps)
- When re-reading your essay, make sure it answers all the questions from the prompt
- Check that the essay does not exceed the word count requirement
- Make an appointment at the Writing + Critical Expression Hub to review your essay. You can use this resource before, during, and after you are done with your essay.