

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.