

# BENNINGTON COLLEGE

## Public Action Grant for Study Abroad

The Bennington College Public Action Grant for Study Abroad provides up to \$1,500 of financial support to students studying at abroad programs outside of the United States and with a significant focus on the advancement of public action.

### **Who is eligible?**

For study abroad during the regular academic year, Bennington College students who are matriculated at the time of application and intend to return to Bennington College following the experience are eligible. For study abroad during the *summer*, first-year, sophomore, and junior students who will return to Bennington after the experience are eligible.

Eligible students:

1. Have already applied to study abroad. Applicants should engage in the application processes with their selected study abroad provider *and* with the College's Study Away Counselor. Formal acceptance/approval is not necessary *prior* to applying for this grant, but final acceptance/approval through both processes is a condition of receiving grant funds.
2. Will engage in full-time study towards their Bennington degree while abroad.
3. Have written a Plan which incorporates the study of public action. Public action includes, but is not limited to, engagement with one of the following areas: poverty and issues of economic equity, education, health care, conflict resolution, social justice, the environment and energy, journalism, and governance.
4. Are in good academic and disciplinary standing.

*Please note:*

- Students studying with any approved study abroad provider may apply for this grant.
- Priority may be given to students studying in a program with a history of high-quality work in public action.
- CAPA Global Education, CEA Study Abroad, CET Academic Programs, IPSL, and The Education Abroad Network will match this award (i.e., offer you additional funding if you receive this grant).

## **Application Process**

Students must submit the following application materials:

1. **A written proposal** of no more than 1000 words as a Word document or PDF. Applicants must respond to the following in their proposal:
  - How will the program you've selected (its geographic location, program structure, courses offerings, field experiences, internships, etc.) connect with your academic program at Bennington and enhance your ability to effect change through public action?
  - How do you plan to share your experience abroad with the Bennington College community?
2. **One faculty reference** who can address, in conversation, your academic achievements and your ability to adapt to new environments. The attached form, signed by your faculty recommender, should be submitted with your other application materials. Faculty members *should not write a letter* of recommendation in support of your grant application.
3. **Program information** that details the program's academic focus and primary components (classroom study, field study, independent research, internships, etc.).
4. **Financial aid statement** reflecting your federal and institutional aid at Bennington. This can be accessed at '[My Financial Aid](#)' on Bennington's website.

## **Application Deadline**

Submit all materials via e-mail to Jennifer Burg at [jenniferburg@bennington.edu](mailto:jenniferburg@bennington.edu) by **9:00 AM** on **October 17** for study abroad in spring or **April 10** for study abroad in summer or fall.

## **Selection Process**

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of Bennington staff and faculty. The committee will allocate awards based on the following criteria:

- Connection with the student's work at Bennington
- Potential impact of this experience on the student's work in public action
- Strength of faculty recommendation
- Financial need

Awards are contingent upon the following conditions:

- Acceptance into the study abroad program to which the student has applied
- Approval of the student's Plan by their Plan committee
- Commitment to share their experiences with the Bennington College community

**Public Action Grant for Study Abroad**  
**STUDENT APPLICATION**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Term:** \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Study Abroad Program, Location, and Provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Study Abroad Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Program cost:	
Estimated travel expenses (if not included above):	
Estimated living expenses while abroad:	
Other scholarships, awards, or funding you have for this program (total amount):	
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSES:</b>	

**Application Checklist:**

- ☐ Completed Student Application (this page)
- ☐ Completed Faculty Recommendation form   OR   ☐ Recommender will [email form to Jennifer Burg](#)
- ☐ Written proposal
- ☐ Program information
- ☐ Financial aid statement
- ☐ Submit all of the above materials in .pdf format via email to [Jennifer Burg](#)

**Questions?**

Contact Jennifer Burg, Assistant Director of Academic Services and Student Grants Counselor  
at 802.440.4410 or [jenniferburg@bennington.edu](mailto:jenniferburg@bennington.edu)

**Public Action Grant for Study Abroad**  
**FACULTY RECOMMENDATION FORM**

**Name of student applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by a member of the faculty and submitted with the student's application packet.**

Please *check all that apply*:

- ☐ I am familiar with the student's academic standing and believe that their progress at Bennington and intellectual interests are such that they would profit by studying abroad. I find their study abroad plans appropriate with respect to their fields of interest and Plan of study here at Bennington.
- ☐ I have reviewed this applicant's grant proposal and discussed with them the ways in which study abroad will enhance the student's ability to effect change through public action.
- ☐ I recommend the applicant with respect to their character and maturity.

In lieu of a letter of recommendation, faculty recommenders are asked to provide a reference via phone call or a meeting. Jennifer Burg will contact faculty recommenders before the review committee convenes to review applications. Faculty will be asked to speak to the applicant's:

- Academic achievement
- Proposed coursework and the ways in which will enrich the work of this student's Plan
- Ability to adapt to new cultural or work environments
- Ability to represent Bennington College while abroad

Faculty member's name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty member's signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: : \_\_\_\_\_

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