



# ISEP Community Scholarship Application Guide

## ISEP COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CHECKLIST

*Use this checklist as a guide when completing the ISEP Community Scholarship online application.*

To be considered for the ISEP Community Scholarship:

- You must be enrolled as a full-time student at an ISEP member institution.
- Your study abroad application must be received on or before **February 15, 2020**.
- Your application for the ISEP Community Scholarship must be submitted on or by **February 29, 2020**.
- Your ISEP Coordinator must complete their form endorsing your application by **March 6, 2020**.

To qualify for the ISEP Community Scholarship, you must have a demonstrated financial need which this award would help you overcome.

Once you have submitted your application, your ISEP Coordinator will be notified so that they may complete the coordinator endorsement form.

It is your responsibility to connect with your ISEP Coordinator to ensure that they complete their form by the deadline.

You are encouraged to apply if you identify with a group that is traditionally underrepresented in study abroad, including any of the following:

- You're the first person in your family to attend college or university
- You are LGBTQ
- You currently serve in your country's military or you are a veteran
- You're an ethnic, racial or religious minority in your home country
- You have a disability
- You study science, technology, engineering, mathematics or education
- You are studying abroad to learn a second language

## YOUR INFORMATION

To begin your application, provide:

- Your name
- Your email
- Your home institution
- Did you submit your ISEP application to study abroad by **February 15, 2020**?

## YOUR ISEP COORDINATOR

Your ISEP Coordinator will be notified of your application for this scholarship, and will be asked to endorse your effort to apply. Please do the following:

- Alert your ISEP coordinator
- Provide your ISEP Coordinator's name
- Provide your ISEP Coordinator's email

## STATEMENT OF NEED

- To qualify for the ISEP Community Scholarship, you must have a **demonstrate financial need.**
- Each student's financial situation is different.** To determine your qualifications for this scholarship, we need to better understand your financial need. **In 250-300 words, tell us about your financial circumstances by responding to these questions:**
  - Are you receiving financial assistance from another source in the form of a grant, scholarship or loan from your home institution, government or other sources outside of your family?
  - How are you funding your study abroad?
  - What is the difference between your estimated costs and available funding to study abroad?
  - Are you or have you been working to pay for your education and/or your study abroad?

Your responses will be reviewed by the ISEP Scholarship Administrator as part of a screening process to qualify for the scholarship. This information will not be shared with your ISEP Coordinator. **If you would like the scholarship selection committee to be informed of your financial circumstances, include it as part of your personal story in your application essay.**

## ISEP COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

- Reflect on your personal story, and how it relates to ISEP community values:
  - Your **focus** on personal goals and drive to achieve them
  - Your **capacity to overcome** hardships and **communicate** growth
  - Your **ability to connect** within and outside of your own community
  - Your **resourcefulness** and knack to succeed in unfamiliar situations
  - Your **purpose** for pursuing an international experience
  - Your **commitment** to considering other ideas and perspectives across different cultures, identities and points of view

**The scholarship selection committee will evaluate your essay based on these values.**

- In no more than 500 words and in English, use your personal values-centered story to tell us why you should receive an ISEP Community Scholarship. In your essay, address the following questions and provide examples:**
  - What are your reasons for applying to study abroad with ISEP?
  - How did your academic, career or employment goals influence your decision to study in another country?

In addition, you may choose to include in your essay:

- your major at your home institution,
- principal field of study while abroad,
- your personal financial situation, or
- the traditionally underrepresented group(s) in study abroad with which you identify.

As a consideration for non-native English speakers, the scholarship selection committee will be informed if English is not your first or native language.

# ISEP COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND ENCOURAGED APPLICANTS

**What does *demonstrated financial need* mean?**

You will be asked to describe your current financial circumstances. If chosen as a recipient, you may be asked to provide documentation indicating your financial situation.

**How do I demonstrate financial need?**

In the application, you will be asked to describe your financial situation as it relates to the need for financial assistance to study abroad. Examples may include government grants and loans and working part-time or full-time to afford your own education and living expenses.

**Someone in my family previously or currently attends college or university, but did not graduate. Am I eligible to apply?**

Yes

**I am majoring in science, technology, engineering, math or education, but do not plan to take classes in my major while studying abroad. Am I eligible to apply?**

Yes

**What does LGBTQ stand for?**

LGBTQ is an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer according to [Human Rights Campaign](#).

**I served in my country's military but I did not complete my full term of service. Am I eligible to apply?**

Yes

## ISEP COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

**What are the requirements of the ISEP Community Scholarship?**

For the ISEP Community Scholarship, you must submit a personal values-centered essay and a description of your financial situation.

**Why does my essay have to focus on the predetermined selection criteria?**

The selection criteria are based on ISEP values. Our scholarship selection committee uses the criteria as a standard to compare and differentiate essays. This makes it possible to determine awardees from our diverse applicants.

**Do you have any tips for writing my essay?**

We recommend taking time to reflect on our ISEP community values and how they resonate with your personal story. Then use your values-centered story as a framework to respond to the prompt questions with specific examples.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**Can I submit my application after **February 29, 2020**?**

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on **February 29, 2020**.

**Who is my ISEP Coordinator?**

Your ISEP coordinator likely works on your study abroad or international office. If you don't know their email address, look at your university's landing page on ISEP's website.

**Who reviews the applications and makes the selections?**

- Invited members of the ISEP community form the scholarship selection committee. The ISEP community includes ISEP Alumni, ISEP Coordinators, members of the ISEP Council of Advisors and ISEP Board of Directors, members of the international education community and Friends of ISEP. Committee members read, score and make selections for ISEP Community Scholarships. Your ISEP Coordinator must complete their form endorsing your application by **March 6, 2020**.

**What is the ISEP Coordinator endorsement form? What do I send to my ISEP Coordinator? Will they see my application?** When you submit your application, your ISEP Coordinator will receive an email with a link to an online endorsement form. They will not have access to your personal essay or financial need statement. Once your ISEP Coordinator submits their completed form, you will receive a message confirming ISEP has received it and your application is complete.

**If my ISEP Coordinator submits the coordinator form late or does not complete it, will I still be eligible?**

No. It is your responsibility to follow-up with your ISEP Coordinator regarding their form. Please contact your them before the deadline to make sure they have completed it.

**Can I send my ISEP Coordinator the coordinator endorsement form before submitting my application?**

No. The endorsement form will be sent to your ISEP Coordinator once ISEP has received your completed scholarship application.

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

**If I am chosen as an ISEP Community Scholarship recipient, am I guaranteed a placement at my top choice of host university?**

No. Your scholarship application has no bearing on your ISEP placement.

**If I apply for the ISEP Community Scholarship, can I also apply for the ISEP Founders' Fellowship?**

Yes. However, if you are selected to receive a fellowship, you will not be eligible to receive the ISEP Community Scholarship.

**What happens if I return early from my program or do not accept your placement?**

If you return early from your program or do not accept your placement, you must return any scholarship funds you have received from ISEP.

**Do I have to apply for an exchange placement or a direct placement?**

The scholarships are available to students at ISEP member institutions participating in any ISEP semester or full year program.

**If I receive other scholarships or financial aid, am I still eligible for the ISEP scholarship?**

Yes. One way to demonstrate financial need is to include information regarding other need-based scholarships you receive in the financial need section of your application.