

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Public Action Grant for Study Abroad

Any Bennington Student whose academic Plan involves significant work in the realm of public action is invited to apply for a special study abroad grant. These grants will only be applicable to participation in study abroad programs by the [School for International Training \(SIT\)](#), [the School for Field Studies \(SFS\)](#), and [the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies](#). Grants range from \$500 to \$1,500 and will be awarded on the basis of a competitive application process, with the primary criterion being student's incorporation of the ideals of public action into their studies at Bennington.

Who is qualified to apply?

Bennington College students (sophomores, juniors, or seniors) who:

- Have applied to study abroad for the summer, fall and/or spring terms with one of the organizations listed above. Students must be planning to engage in full-time study towards their Bennington degree while abroad.
- 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 other issues of economic equity, education, health care, conflict resolution, social justice, the environment and energy, journalism, and governance.
- Are in good academic and disciplinary standing.

Application Process

Students must submit the following materials in order to apply:

Written proposal

Students should submit a written proposal of no more than 1000 words as a MS Word document or PDF. Applicants should respond to the following in their proposal:

- How will your study abroad experience connect with your academic program at Bennington?
- What are the ways in which an experience abroad will complement your understanding of public action and your ability to effect change?

One of the expectations of scholarship recipients is to share their experience upon returning to campus. How do you plan to share your experience abroad with the Bennington College community?

One written faculty or staff recommendation which addresses your academic achievements and your ability to adapt to new environments.

Program Information that details the program's academic focus and primary components (classroom study, field study, independent research, internships, etc).

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

Please submit all materials via e-mail to Kelly Hayes, at kellyh@bennington.edu by **5:00 pm** on **October 11** for study abroad in the spring term or **March 14** for study abroad in the fall.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a committee including select 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
- Uniqueness of the experience for the student
- Recommendation letter
- Financial need

Students will be notified if they are awarded a grant no later than **Thursday, October 25** or **Thursday, March 14** depending on the funding cycle in which you apply.

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 his or her plan committee
- Upon returning to campus, students who have been awarded the scholarship must agree to share their experiences with the Bennington College community.

Questions? Contact Noelle Everett Murphy, assistant director for Academic Services, Barn 120 x4664 or nmurphy@bennington.edu