

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 through abroad programs which focus significantly on the advancement of public action.

Who is eligible?

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

1. Have applied to study abroad for the summer, fall and/or spring terms. Students applying for the Public Action Grant are reminded that they should engage in the application processes with their selected Study Abroad program *and* with the college; formal acceptance/approval is not necessary *prior to applying* for this grant, but final acceptance/approval through both processes is a condition of the *grant award*.
2. Are planning to 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 other 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: The College accepts applications from students studying with any approved Study Abroad Program. Priority may be given to students studying in a program with a history of high-quality work in public action, including our former list of grant-eligible programs—the School for International Training (SIT), International Honors Program, School for Field Studies, and the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies.

Application Process

Students must submit the following application materials:

1. **Written proposal:** Students should submit a written proposal of no more than 1000 words as a Word document or PDF. *Applicants should respond to the following in their proposal:*
 - How will the study abroad 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 or staff 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. Please note: faculty members do not need to 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

Please submit all materials via e-mail to Noelle Murphy at nmurphy@bennington.edu by **9:00 AM** on **October 14, 2019**, for study abroad in the Spring 2020 term or **April 6, 2020**, for study abroad in Summer or Fall 2020.

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/Staff 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 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 Murphy, Assistant Dean for Academic Services at 802-440-4664 or nmurphy@bennington.edu.

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Public Action Grant for Study Abroad FACULTY RECOMMENDATION

Name of student applicant: _____

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

Please check the appropriate boxes below:

- 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 personal meeting. Noelle Everett Murphy 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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