

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 with a significant focus on the advancement of public action.

Who is eligible?

Bennington College sophomores, juniors, or seniors who:

1. Have applied to study abroad for the summer, fall and/or spring terms. Applicants for the Public Action Grant should engage in the application processes with their selected study abroad provider *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 receiving 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 provider. 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 Public Action Grant awards (ie, 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 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 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 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

Submit all materials via e-mail to Jennifer Burg at jenniferburg@bennington.edu by **9:00 AM** on **October 20, 2021**, for study abroad in Spring 2022 or **April 8, 2022**, for study abroad in Summer or Fall 2022.

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

Questions?

Contact Jennifer Burg, Assistant Director of Academic Services and Student Grants Counselor at 802.440.4410 or jenniferburg@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 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 personal 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: _____

Questions?

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