October 20, 2026

Education Abroad Award
Terms of Reference

Purpose

This award aims to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to:

- undertake an education abroad experience;
- choose from a wide variety of education abroad programs, both in type (e.g., exchange/summer program/faculty-led/internship/research) and in destination;
- take a leadership role in developing opportunities for education abroad.

Eligible Programs

This Award provides financial support to undergraduate and graduate students undertaking any academic study, research, work term, or volunteer opportunity outside of Canada for at least seven days. **Programs less than three weeks in length must be for credit.**

Types of eligible education abroad experiences could include:

- Formal exchanges at approved partner institutions;
- Short-term/summer courses and/or study tours;
- Faculty-led programs (course taught by U of A faculty abroad);
- Programs led by partner institutions or third-party providers;
- Internships, research, clinical rotations, or volunteer opportunities abroad.

Eligibility

Students must:

- be participating in education abroad programs outside of Canada for **at least seven (7) days**;
- be registered full-time in a U of A undergraduate or graduate degree program at the time of the program abroad. Open Studies and part-time students will not be considered eligible;
- have a minimum 2.0 GPA;
- undergraduate students must have completed a minimum of *12 credits of U of A coursework by the application deadline;
- graduate students must have completed at least one term of graduate study by the application deadline.

Value: $750 - $5,700

The total value of the award will be based on the duration of the program, for up to 8 months. The total award granted will be calculated using the following per-student formula.

- $750 for for-credit programs less than three weeks;
- $1,500 for Month 1;
- $600 per month from Months 2 to 8 (if applicable);
- Programs falling on a half month will receive a prorated amount (e.g. a 1.5 month program will receive an additional $300 for a total of $1,800).

Examples:	Month 1	The Remaining Months	Total Award
Student going abroad for 4 months	$1,500	$1,800	$3,300
Student going abroad for 6.5 months	$1,500	$3,300	$4,800
Student going abroad for 8 months	$1,500	$4,200	$5,700

Application & Selection

- Applications for the Education Abroad Award must be initiated by individual U of A students;
- Applicants will complete and submit an application through Horizons; A complete application must consist of:
  1) Statement of Academic Motivation, Ambassadorship & Cultural Motivation;
  2) Description of Extracurricular Activities;
  3) Unofficial transcripts; and
  4) Declaration form.
- Adjudication and selection may be done by an academic panel;
- Selection criteria for the Education Abroad Award will be based on the following:
  - Academic merit and GPA of the student;
  - Type and quality of learning experience and how it contributes to the student's academic success;
  - Student's motivation for seeking the abroad experience (Please note: AI tools may be used to support the writing process such as refining spelling, grammar, or sentence structure, provided the content remains the student's original work. **An application with responses generated by AI technology will be rejected**);
  - Demonstrated leadership, involvement and participation in university or community organizations, including cultural, sports, political or extracurricular activities.
- For application instructions, visit the Education Abroad Award web page.

Acceptance & Conditions

- Applicants will be notified if they have been nominated for an award and must confirm acceptance of the nomination; failure to do so will result in forfeiting the award;
- If a student is unable to use the award in the year that they received it, the award cannot be carried over to the next year, and they will need to re-apply. Preference will be given to first-time recipients within the same academic year;
- Award payments will be directly deposited into the award recipient's Canadian banking account via Bear Tracks once applicants complete all the required award acceptance steps. Award payments are subject to U of A administrative timelines;
- Recipients are ineligible to hold other centrally managed awards (e.g., endowed awards such as Edmonton Consular Corps Award, Rod and Judith Fraser Award, etc.) but are eligible for receiving faculty-level awards;

- Recipients will be required to complete the risk management steps listed here depending on their program type and level of study;
- Recipients will also be encouraged to participate in promotion and recruitment activities for education abroad programming.