

Inspirational Learning Scholarships

Every year the BYU administration has given money to the IR major to distribute to IR majors who are doing what is called an “inspirational learning” activity. These activities include participating in a study abroad program or in an internship (domestic or international). Other experiential learning types of activities may also be appropriate for funding. If you are planning to do such a type of learning activity, please send the following information to the IR coordinator:

1. Cost of the experience
2. Alignment of the experience with your academic program
3. Alignment of the experience with your career plans
4. Financial need
5. The number of such experiences that you have already done
6. Quality and rigor of the experience/program
7. What are your majors and minors
8. The name of the program and the semester/term in which you will be receiving BYU credit for your experience

The IR coordinator will specifically ask for this information from majors in January of each calendar year, but students can submit an application for funding at any time of the year. Because allocations of funding are done at the beginning of the year, it is advantageous to submit an application early in the year, even for a study program that you are not sure that you will actually do. Applications from later in the year have to compete for smaller amounts of available money. The IR coordinator will use the information in the answers to the eight questions above to decide the amount of money each student will receive.

Thus, for example, if a student has never done an internship or had any previous international experience, has no personal or family financial resources, plans on joining the foreign service, won a very competitive internship slot as the Secretary of State’s personal advisor, and the cost of the program is \$10,000, that student will likely get a sizeable grant to help defray the costs of this internship. On the other hand, if a student has already done two previous internships and one study abroad, has a trust account, the new internship is in Provo and it costs the same amount as if just taking classes in Provo, etc., the scholarship award will be very small.

It is better to send even a short answer to each of these questions for a possible program that you might participate in. It is better to send that information in January, but if that deadline is missed, just send the information as soon as possible.