THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO | The College Study Abroad

Summer International Travel Grants (SITGs)

- The SITG programs awarded 45 grants in the summer of 2021 and 92 grants in the summer of 2020.
- 84% of SITG applications were awarded funding in 2021 and 62% were awarded funding in 2020.
- Awards are $5,000.
- Eligible students are those registered at the University of Chicago the spring quarter before the summer they go abroad as well as the following autumn quarter.

Foreign Language Acquisition Grants (FLAGs)

The FLAG program offers awards to support the costs of intermediate or advanced language study abroad. Programs must be at least 8 weeks in duration of intensive language study (at least 15 hours/week) and located in a setting where the target language is predominantly spoken. Applicants must have completed or tested out of the 103 level of the target language by the program start date.

Summer Research Grants

- Third Year International Travel Grants: Provide support for conducting summer research outside the U.S.
- African Studies Research Grants**:** Provide support to students conducting research in Africa
- Nassef Sawiris Research Grant**:** Provides support to a student conducting research in Egypt

Information Sessions and Workshops

To find out more about Summer International Travel Grants, attend one of the following SITG Info Sessions (both sessions will include the same content):

- Tuesday, November 16 at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Zoom information for both sessions: **Zoom link →** (Meeting ID: 979 972 8211, Password: 4NwaG8)

Application

Applications are submitted online through the Study Abroad website. The application includes:

1) FLAG: Statement of purpose (describing why the study of this language is important to you and your academic trajectory); Research Grants: Series of short-answer questions focused on purpose and logistics of research plans
2) Recommendation (the most useful recommendations are from an individual who knows you well enough to talk about whether you are suited to this type of experience and how you will approach it)
3) Budget (account for expected expenses such as flight, ground transportation, lodging and meals, as well as the cost of the program you plan to participate in)
4) **If your proposed research involves human subjects** (for example, if you will be conducting any interviews as part of your research), you must check with the Social & Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board (IRB) about whether your project needs IRB review. Information about the IRB submission and review process is available on the IRB website at: https://sbsirb.uchicago.edu. If your project requires IRB review, you must provide the IRB approval notice prior to receiving your grant funds.
5) **COUNTRY WITH TRAVEL ADVISORY LEVEL 3/4**: The University of Chicago's assumption is against travel to countries US Department of State Level 3 or Level 4 Advisory. Undergraduate students may petition for an exemption to this policy. For more information on the State Department's Travel Advisories, please visit this site: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/

Tips for Choosing a FLAG Program

- Meet with your current language instructor to discuss any recommendations they may have.
- Consult the SITG Evaluation Database (https://cgis.uchicago.edu/sitg/Default.aspx) to explore where previous grant recipients have traveled to study your target language. Previous grant recipients' evaluations can be helpful in identifying program strengths and drawbacks.

We encourage you to consider the following when choosing a language program:

Academics

- If applicable: Is the program sponsored by a reputable, accredited US college/university or a similar institution in the target country?
- Does the program teach the specific language (i.e. dialect, accent, vernacular) I seek to learn?
- Are classes separated by language level or do they include students of all levels?
- If applicable: How does the institution place students into language levels?
- What does the curriculum most focus on and does that focus align with my goals?
  - Grammar
  - Reading comprehension and writing
  - Speaking
  - Colloquial conversation
  - Cultural context of language
- Does the program enforce a (target language)-only policy?
- How will this instruction complement courses I have taken, or plan to take, at UChicago?

Social and Cultural Integration

- Does the program offer sponsored excursions and/or extracurriculars as part of the overall experience?
  - If not, do they have resources to help identify such opportunities?
- Who will my peers be? Other American undergraduate students? Individuals of all ages from all over the world?
- Will I have an opportunity to engage with the local community? To learn about local culture, history, and politics?
- What specific social and cultural experiences would I like to have while abroad? Can I find a program in an area or city that has a special connection to work I am already doing in the College?
- Are there any social and/or cultural norms to which it would be difficult for me to adjust?

Arrangements

- What are the class facilities like?
- What housing arrangements are available (if any)?
  - If none, does the program provide support for students to find appropriate and safe housing?
- How far away is housing from my classes?
- What arrangements will I need to make in regards to transportation? Are there accessible and safe public transit options? How might daily transportation impact my budget?
- What provisions does the program make to ensure I have reasonable access to quality physical and mental healthcare? Can this location accommodate my health and wellness needs?

Administration / Financial

- Does the program meet FLAG criteria?
- Do the program dates conflict with either the end of Spring Quarter or beginning of Autumn Quarter?
- How soon do I have to apply? Is there a (non-refundable) deposit?
- What does program tuition include (e.g. housing, course materials, meals)?
- How are payments handled?
- What administrative support and on-site staff support does the program provide?
- Do program contacts respond to my outreach promptly and thoroughly?