

SUPPORT RAISING FOR YOUR STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Collecting money from family and friends for a study abroad program can be successful if done with careful planning, transparency, and a personal touch.

1. Create a Clear and Personalized Message

- *Explain the Purpose:* Clearly outline why you're raising funds, how much you need, and how the money will be used (tuition, travel, accommodation, etc.).
- *Share Why It Matters:* Describe how studying abroad will contribute to your academic, career, or personal growth. Personal stories resonate with potential supporters.
- *Be Transparent:* Let them know if you've already saved up or applied for scholarships and how their contribution will help close the gap.

2. Choose the Right Platform

- *Crowdfunding Websites:* You can use platforms like GoFundMe, FundMyTravel, or Kickstarter to set up a fundraising page. These platforms make it easy to share your campaign and accept contributions.
 - Include a detailed description of your goals.
 - Add photos or a video to make it more engaging.
 - Update your progress regularly.
- *Direct Payment Apps or Checks:* You can also use payment services like Venmo, PayPal, Cash App or collect personal checks if your family and friends prefer a direct and personal approach.
- Moody will not provide a fundraising platform or tax-deductible receipts for funds collected

3. Personal Outreach

- *Write Personalized Letters or Emails:* Avoid mass communication. Write individual messages to close family and friends explaining why you're asking for support and how much it means to you.
- *Follow Up:* If people express interest but don't contribute immediately, follow up with a polite reminder or update on your progress.
- *In-Person Conversations:* When possible, discuss your study abroad plans face-to-face. People are more likely to contribute when they feel a personal connection.

4. Host a Fundraising Event

- *Virtual or In-Person Event:* You could organize a small gathering, like a family dinner or a virtual event, where you explain your trip and ask for contributions.
- *Garage Sale or Auction:* Selling items you no longer need, or hosting a silent auction for donated items can also raise funds.
- *Skills-Based Fundraiser:* Offer to bake, tutor, or provide a service (like pet-sitting) in exchange for donations.

5. Offer Something in Return

- *Send Thank-You Notes:* Personal handwritten notes can express your gratitude and show that you value their support.
- *Keep Them Updated:* Offer to send updates or a blog while abroad so they can follow your journey.
- *Souvenirs or Small Gifts:* You could bring back a small souvenir for contributors as a token of appreciation.

6. Set Clear Goals and Deadlines

- *Set a Target:* Let people know how much you're aiming to raise and how their contribution fits into that goal.
- *Create a Timeline:* Share when you need the funds by and how far you've come in reaching your target. People are more likely to contribute if they see progress.

7. Use Social Media Wisely

- *Share Your Fundraiser:* Use platforms like Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn to share your fundraising page, but keep the tone personal and sincere.
- *Tag Close Friends and Family:* Encourage them to share your post with their own networks.

8. Respect Their Decision

- *Be Grateful:* Understand that not everyone will be able to contribute, and that's okay. Always express gratitude, regardless of the amount they give—or if they can't give at all.

By using a thoughtful approach and offering a personal touch, you'll build strong support from your family and friends for your study abroad program.

MAKE A LIST OF PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE

When raising money for a study abroad program, reaching out to various groups can help maximize your chances of receiving support. Here are some groups to consider:

1. Family and Close Friends

- *Immediate Family:* Parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins are often the first to support you.
- *Extended Family:* Even distant relatives may want to help, especially if they see the educational value of your study abroad experience.
- *Close Friends:* Friends who know you well may be happy to contribute, especially if they've seen your passion for studying abroad.

2. Church Community

- *Church Members:* If you're part of a church community, many members might be willing to help support your academic and personal growth through donations.
- *Church Leadership:* Sometimes churches have funds set aside for supporting young people training for ministry.

3. School and Academic Connections

- Teachers: If you've built strong relationships with educators, they might be willing to support you financially or connect you with other funding sources.
- Alumni Networks: Maybe you know some Moody alumni willing to contribute to this type of experience.

4. Online Communities and Social Media

- Friends of Friends: By sharing your fundraiser on social media, you may reach people you don't know personally but who are connected to you through mutual friends.
- Social Media Followers: If you're active on platforms like Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter, leverage your network by sharing your goals and asking for support.

By reaching out to a combination of these groups, you'll have a broader network of potential supporters, increasing your chances of reaching your fundraising goals.

SUPPORT LETTER TEMPLATE

1. Greeting

- a. Address the recipient by name OR to a group
 - i. EXAMPLE: Hello friends and family,

2. Introduction

- a. Introduce yourself and explain your academic situation
- b. Mention Study abroad and why it is important to you
 - i. EXAMPLE: I am currently studying [major] at Moody Bible Institute. I have an opportunity to go on a once in a lifetime trip to [location] to study [program]. I have always desired to go on a study abroad trip and believe it will enhance my college experience and learning in many ways.

3. Details of the Trip

- a. Describe the destination, program, what you will be doing there/learning
- b. Highlight how this trip will benefit your education and/or future career & ministry
 - i. EXAMPLE: This trip is two weeks long and I will be taking a full 3 credit class. We will be traveling throughout the whole country of Greece, visiting major sites such as Phillipi, Delphi, Corinth, and Athens. I will be learning about [class and description]. By taking this class overseas, I will get to experience the culture, church, and historic sites in person.

4. Financial Needs

- a. Clearly state how much the trip costs and what you need (\$4350)
- b. Mention funds you already have (doesn't have to be exact numbers) from work savings, FASFA, etc.
 - i. EXAMPLE: The total cost for this trip is [Total Cost], which includes tuition, travel, accommodation, and living expenses. I have been saving up for this trip through

[Mention Any Funding/Scholarships], but I am still in need of additional support to go on this trip.

5. Ask for Support

- a. Ask if they would support you financially by contributing
- b. Have a link to where they can donate, or information for a check, venmo, etc.
 - i. EXAMPLE: I would be grateful if you could contribute to my trip. Any amount, big or small, will help! You can donate through [Explain How to Donate, e.g., a link, or send a check]. Please keep me in your prayers as I trust the Lord to provide for this trip.

6. Gratitude

- a. Express thankfulness, no matter how much or little someone can give
- b. Ask for prayer

7. Closing Signature