

It is always good to plan ahead and budget for your study abroad experience. Start by putting away a little extra cash each month to help save for your study abroad payments. In previous years, students have been successful using a variety of creative measures. Some ideas include:

Asking family members, your church or a community organization: Do your grandparents or great aunts and uncles usually buy you something for your birthday or an important holiday? Discuss your desire to study abroad! Often family members are more willing to help when they understand this is an educational experience which will help advance your personal, professional, and academic goals!

Fundraising in a group or as an individual: You can start fundraising for study abroad once you have been selected and are certain you will be going abroad. You should start a campaign on social media or converse with close friends and colleagues in your personal network.

MARYVILLE COLLEGE TRAVEL STUDY GROUP FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is defined as the collection of money through voluntary contributions, sales, and/or events/programs for the purposes of charitable donation and/or club support. Maryville College seeks to support departments and student organizations in their fundraising efforts. However, it is important that students understand that the College benefits greatly from the ongoing generosity of Maryville alumni and parents who provide significant monetary support for student-related events, programs and services on an annual basis. Additionally, businesses, vendors, and organizations in the Blount County area also contribute significantly to the College by providing monetary support and services that enrich life at the College. It is vital that donors do not feel “fatigue” from too many requests. For these reasons, it is imperative that all fundraising activities are coordinated.

Travel Study Programs must receive [permission](#) before fundraising as a Maryville College-affiliated group.

Your faculty leaders will discuss interest in fundraising as a group and related policies at a meeting in the early spring semester. Your leaders will initiate an approval request based on what the group decides to do for fundraising activities.

A few important rules about group fundraising:

- Funds cannot be dispersed to individuals; doing so creates federally taxable income and can impact an individual's financial aid.
- The selling of baked goods or other food items intended for human consumption that have been prepared at residence halls/home by students or parents is not allowed due to health and safety regulations.
- Raffles, reverse raffles, cakewalks, and cakewheels are not allowed.
- Any group that is creating merchandise or marketing material that includes the Maryville College name or official college logos must work with the Marketing and Communications department to ensure consistency and conformity with the College's style guide.
- Crowdfunding platforms are not an acceptable form of group fundraising.

Some examples of past group fundraising have included: fundraising through local businesses who donate part of their profits to your group (e.g. [Blaze Pizza](#), [Krispy Kreme](#)), campus yard sale, car wash, [cookie dough fundraiser](#), dog washing, tshirt fundraiser, scarf-making fundraiser, party/dinner/concert and more.

TOP INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Individual fundraising has advantages. Whether it is \$1 or \$500 all the funds you raise go to you. If you are fundraising individually it is important that you are fundraising for **YOU** and not for MARYVILLE COLLEGE and generally take place off campus. Check with your leader about anything that involves 'sales' on campus.

1. **Crowdfunding:** Tell your story! Upload at least 4 images and videos of you- your life, your studies, your goals, your program, your study abroad city (YouTube has plenty of short travel videos) and then share the details on your social media- over and over again. Websites like GoFundMe.com or FundMyTravel.com are popular (see more ideas below)- and remember to update your generous donors on your adventures overseas as a thank you!
2. **Use your talent:** Are you a crafter, artist, artisan? Sell your creations using an online platform like Etsy, Ebay. Are you a singer, musician, poet or performer? Create a virtual performance & ask for donations. Create a master class & charge for it- Do you code? Are you artistic? Can you sew? Organize an event where you &/or some **friends solicit donations by providing instructions** for a couple of hours (cooking, quilting, yoga, karate, computer skills, dancing, sign language, stained glass, etc)
3. **Offer your services for odd jobs:** Everyone has something they need help with. Offer your services: mowing lawns/raking leaves/yard work, dog walking/pet sitting, babysitting/tutoring, etc. Apps like Nextdoor will connect you with your local neighborhood.
4. **Ask a church to sponsor** a special offering, dinner or raffle and give the proceeds for study abroad.
5. **Waive holiday or birthday gifts** and request financial gifts or loans instead.
6. **Open a study abroad savings account** designated entirely for study abroad savings. This will make it easier to set money aside without being tempted to use it for other purposes.
7. **Write a letter/post card** to all your relatives, asking for financial support in exchange for emails, or blogs, or videos while abroad and a presentation and dinner upon return. *Consider churches, local social organizations (e.g. Kiwanis) for this idea too.*

INDIVIDUAL CROWDSOURCING

Crowdsourcing or crowdfunding can be an effective way to raise money individually for your program abroad. [Learn more](#). Crowdfunding sites allow students to create a fundraising platform designed for contributions from family and friends. (be aware that crowdfunding websites charge small processing fees). Request a donation around holidays, your birthday, and before you leave.)

When choosing a crowdfunding platform to raise your funds, you should consider the process to receive funds. On some platforms, you are required to raise 100 percent of your goal if you want to collect any money, while others allow you to keep any funds you raise, though you may pay higher fees in those cases. In any case, below are a few examples of crowdfunding platforms that might be a good source for raising some extra money for additional expenses while abroad.

We recommend that you do some research – see [some tips](#) here and find [sample crowdsourcing content](#) here.

Sample Crowdfunding sites: *(Maryville College doesn't endorse any organization linked here)*

- [Kickstarter](#)
- [IndieGoGo](#)
- [GoFundMe](#)
- [FundMyTravel](#)

***Note:** you can post on personal social media, but may not use MC communication tools like Today@MC to promote your personal crowdfunding page.

MAKE A FUNDRAISING PLAN

- **Research.** *Has someone else done this before? What worked, what didn't?*
- **Seek funding relevant to the scope of your program and goals**
- **Know your audience.** *Make your idea relevant to their work.*
- **Be nice, be flexible and keep looking.**

WHO TO ASK FOR MONEY?

Keep local, regional and national groups in mind! It always helps if your study abroad program aligns with the outcomes of your long-term goals.

- Philanthropic organizations (Elks, Moose, Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary)
- Local radio station/newspaper
- Professional organizations related to field of study
- Churches/Clubs
- Heritage Groups with interests in specific countries
- Agencies and foundations
- Travel agencies
- High school alumni associations
- Charitable, ethnic, religious organizations
- Family
- Friends of Family

HOW TO ASK FOR MONEY

Don't fear rejection! You won't always get a "yes!" when you ask for financial support, but remember **every little bit helps**. Keep up with the enthusiasm, passion and drive on your part!

It is also a good idea to offer them something in return. Upon your return you could perhaps write an article, create a video/vlog/blog/tik tok, contribute to community service in a business' name, etc.

TIPS FOR ASKING FOR HELP:

- Be informal but direct
- Explain and describe your program and how it change your life
- Explain how you would use the funds
- Include a photo of yourself
- Make donating as easy as possible (accept check, cash, etc)
- Don't be afraid to follow up with them

Be prepared -

1. Know how much you want to raise.
2. Make a list of all the people/organizations you want to ask.
3. Create a timeline
4. Write a letter outlining what you hope to learn
5. Be specific, and give a variety of suggestions of ways they can help out:

- ☐ Dollar amount
 - ☐ Pay for plane ticket
 - ☐ Pay for food
6. Make it easy to donate (crowdfunding platform, cash or check)
 7. Offer to make a presentation or do something in return for support
 8. Ask for recommendations of other funding sources
 9. Keep records of who supported you and be sure to send thank you's.

TELL YOUR STORY

Explaining to potential donors why you're seeking their help is key when planning your fundraiser. You can tell your story in an in-person meeting, letter, video, email, flyer, on a website, etc. – just be sure it's personal and speaks to why a donor would want to pitch in. A few things to consider adding to your story include:

- Why you wish to study abroad
- What are your goals for the program
- Your academic record/achievements
- Any extracurricular activities you participate in
- How you believe studying abroad will impact your future
- What you hope to bring back to the community as a result of studying abroad

HELPFUL RESOURCES

<https://www.afsusa.org/study-abroad/scholarships-1/fundraising/#afs-nav-fundraising-ideas>
<https://www.afsusa.org/category/study-abroad/fundraising-ideas/>
<https://www.gooverseas.com/blog/40-fundraising-ideas-study-abroad>
<https://www.goabroad.com/articles/study-abroad/study-abroad-fundraising>

Don't forget to say "Thanks!"