

## SAIC TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS OVERVIEW

### **Q. What are the SAIC Travel Scholarships?**

The scholarships are up to 10 awards of \$4,000 awarded each year to selected students who participate in international SAIC faculty-led study trips during the winter or summer terms.

### **Q. Who is eligible?**

Full-time undergraduate degree-seeking students planning to register for any of SAIC's international faculty-led study trips may apply for the scholarship to assist with costs. The study trip class must be taken for credit towards a degree. Applicants must also meet all academic and all other requirements for study trip participation and have no financial holds against their student accounts. Previous Travel Scholarship winners are not eligible.

### **Q. Do any students get preference in the selection process?**

The program is open to all undergraduates who have completed a minimum of 30 credits on-campus at SAIC at the time of application.

### **Q. How are the SAIC Travel Scholars selected?**

A committee composed of SAIC faculty appointed by the Dean of Faculty reviews all online applications in Slideroom and assigns a numeric merit rating.

### **Q. Is there an appeal process?**

No. The committee's decision is final.

## ELIGIBLE STUDY TRIPS

### **Q. Which SAIC study trips apply to SAIC Travel Scholarships?**

Only faculty-led study trips with international destinations.

### **Q. What if I haven't decided what trip I want to go on? Can I list more than one trip in my application?**

Your application should be for one trip only so you should make a definite plan before applying.

### **Q. Can the Scholarship be transferred to a different study trip or deferred?**

No. The scholarship is connected to the study trip in your application. If an awardee does not participate in the proposed trip, the scholarship is forfeited. You may re-apply for the next round of scholarships.

## APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE

### **Q. What is the application deadline?**

Deadlines for submissions are announced each semester. For winter study trips, the deadline is usually in mid-September; for summer trips it is mid-February.

### **Q. What is the application process?**

Students from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) may apply online via Slideroom for a SAIC Travel Scholarship for approved international winter or summer study trips. Travel Scholarships do not cover exchange programs or any other off-campus classes.

Scholarships are open to undergraduate students who have completed a minimum of 30 credit hours on-campus at SAIC at the time of their application.

All applicants must be degree-seeking students in good academic standing with no financial holds against their student accounts.

Applications require:

- 1) an online portfolio
- 2) 250-word travel proposal, and
- 3) online application form

## FINANCIAL

### **Q. When are SAIC Travel Scholarship awardees notified?**

Scholars are notified by email during the week prior to study trip registration.

**Q. Should students who apply for the SAIC Travel Scholarship complete the Student Financial Services winter/summer institutional aid application?**

Yes. In the event you do not receive an SAIC Travel Scholarship and are typically eligible for need-based and/or merit aid, the winter/summer institutional application is required to determine your eligibility for funds during the winter and summer terms. If you do receive a scholarship, you may also be eligible for additional financial aid (typically loan eligibility), depending on the costs associated with the trip and the number of hours you enroll in.

**Q. Can SAIC Travel Scholars be eligible for financial aid in addition to the \$4,000 award?**

Yes they should apply for financial aid as normal by completing online study trip pre-registration in Self-service. If a Travel Scholar's aid for the winter/summer term has already been packaged prior to the award, the aid will be re-calculated to include the scholarship. In some instances, this may result in an adjustment to certain funds in the initial award package.

**Q. How will I know the costs associated with the trips and whether or not I can afford to attend the trip, even with the SAIC Travel Scholarship?**

Information on costs associated with study trips is available online as well as at the study trip information sessions offered through the Study Abroad office. The main expenses related to a study trip are tuition, program fees, airfare, and extra personal expenses not covered by the program fees. Financial aid award eligibility, including Travel Scholarships will be available prior to the study trip registration period. Advisors in the Student Financial Services office can assist you in reviewing your budget for a study trip.

**SAIC TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: REGISTERING FOR THE STUDY TRIP & CHANGE OF PLANS**

**Q. Will the scholarship funds be available to Travel Scholars for the study trip deposit payment?**

No. The funds will not be added to your account until later in the semester so you must be prepared to pay the \$525 deposit to secure your place.

**Q. How do I register for the study trip to secure my Travel Scholarship?**

Your award notification will outline the process for you to register and secure your place. You will be allowed to register on the first day of online study registration. You confirm your place by paying your \$525 study trip deposit within 24 hours of registration.

**IMPORTANT:** Study trip places will not be held for scholarship awardees if they do not secure their places according to this timeframe.

**Q. What if my proposed study trip is cancelled by SAIC?**

The committee will consider your amended application to transfer to another approved study trip during the same term.

**Q. What happens if I withdraw from the trip after I have signed up?**

You will forfeit the scholarships funds. When you register you complete a form acknowledging that you are fully committed to the trip. If you subsequently wish to withdraw, any requests for refund of tuition or program fees must be made to the Refund Review Board (RRB). The RRB has the authority to determine whether a refund (if any) will be made. If your withdrawal comes too late to cancel reservations or to arrange for a replacement, you may still be charged up to 100% of the fees.

**Q. Is there anything else required after the study trip?**

A self-reflective essay (not to exceed 500 words) detailing the experience of the study trip and any significant personal growth will be required for recipients of the Travel Scholarship.