

## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FEE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at West Texas A&M University, who are in good academic standing, are eligible to apply for the International Education Fee Scholarship (IEFS). Each year WTAMU students receive this scholarship, with about \$80,000 available annually for study abroad.

### Background

The mission of the Study Abroad Program at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) is to provide students in all areas of academic interest and levels a variety of educational choices abroad (i.e. academic programs, internships, service learning, some requiring dean's approval) . The International Education Fee (IEF) funds the International Education Fee Scholarship program and assists in that mission by making funds available to qualified students who want to study abroad. The 72nd Texas State Legislature passed the IEF Bill, giving authority to the governing boards of all higher education institutions to charge and collect a \$1.00 fee from all students who register each semester or summer session. West Texas A&M began collecting the \$4 fee in the 2002 fall semester.

### Eligibility

The IEF Scholarship is distributed in a competition open to all undergraduate and graduate WTAMU (WT) students who meet the established eligibility requirements. To be eligible, students must be enrolled at least part-time at WT and in good academic standing. Each applicant is required to be enrolled full-time in study abroad, unless otherwise stated in the inter-institutional agreement or specified by the program requirements. International students at WTAMU, like all other WT students, are eligible to apply for a WTAMU-approved study abroad program. However, no money will be awarded to international students for study at WTAMU or in their home country. Students who are on academic or disciplinary probation/suspension are not eligible. All applicants must be Texas Success Initiative compliant and must be in attendance at West Texas A&M during the semester that precedes their study abroad program.

### IEFS Criteria

The WT IEF Scholarship Committee has established the following criteria based on a point system to award the scholarship funds:

Category	Number of Points
1. WTAMU cumulative GPA	Multiply your WTAMU cumulative GPA by 10.
2. Financial need (determined by the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office)	40 if high need 30 if medium need 20 if low need
3. Length of program abroad	15 if long term (more than three months abroad) 10 for less than 3 months but more than one month (4 weeks) 5 if short term (3 weeks or less)
4. Prior IEFS recipient	10 if first-time recipient 0 if prior recipient

**Notes:**

- All WT students who meet basic eligibility requirements may apply. It is possible that the number of applications exceeds the amount of award funds available, and therefore, not every applicant will receive a scholarship.
- Students **must** earn academic credit for the course or courses in order to receive the scholarship.
- Students who apply to study abroad in a country for which the U.S. Department of State has issued a travel warning are not eligible for IEFS.
- The IEFS Committee reserves the right to suspend awards to students who have selected programs that are deemed to follow insufficient academic quality and/or health and safety practices. Suspension of awards will be removed once the issues have been resolved to the satisfaction of the university's administration and the IEFS Committee.

**Scholarship Awards**

The IEF Scholarship Committee awards scholarships to qualified students based on the availability of funds and the number of applicants.

**Application Deadlines**

<b>Program takes place in:</b>	<b>The application deadline is:</b>	<b>Awards will be announced:</b>
May, Summer sessions	March 1	March 20
Fall	June 1	June 15
Winter, Spring	October 1	October 15

Students will be notified by email and will have ten business days to accept award. If an award is declined or if a student fails to accept an award by the stated deadline, a second round of awards may be given to those eligible students who failed to receive an award in the first round due to applications exceeding available funds.

**Distribution of Study Abroad Scholarship Awards:**

- Scholarships will firstly be applied to your student account. If your account is up-to-date, then the scholarship will be deposited into your personal bank account; if you have not set up direct deposit, the Business Office will send you a check to the mailing address on file. It is your responsibility to notify the university Registrar's Office if your address has changed.
- You must sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) on Buff Advisor to get your scholarship automatically deposited. You will receive the scholarship the first week of classes for the semester you are studying abroad, unless otherwise indicated by the OSA.
- The Scholarships Office requires that you complete the general scholarship application before awarding you the funds; please visit <https://apps.wtamu.edu/scholarships/> to complete the application.