

Smith Grant Funded Travel Abroad

Smith has long had an international emphasis in its curriculum including an extensive study abroad program. However, this compartmentalization of our global world into strictly “curricular” study may not address the rapidly changing global context. Today’s students will move in and out of countries and other cultures rather seamlessly. Rowers will travel to England to race in the Henley, singing groups might perform in Vienna, some classes might take a short travel trip to learn first hand about elections in Latin America or study rainforest habitation or architecture feats, or students will do internships abroad during J-term or summer vacation.

If we are creating a global world, then Smith’s efforts should include funding travel to other countries for curricular and co-curricular endeavors. This kind of forward thinking would advantage Smith in several ways.

- 1) We could enhance our recruiting pool since this international travel is rarely funded at other colleges and universities for co-curricular activities and would create a recruiting niche for Smith.
- 2) Students would learn to move comfortably in and out of other countries and cultures in their every day lives leading to world that is more tolerant and understanding of differences.
- 3) Students who often cannot spend an entire semester or year abroad; ie science majors, would have the opportunity to experience being abroad in another context.

PROPOSAL

Create a fund on campus that allowed for organizations, teams, and other co-curricular groups to travel abroad in support of the mission of a more global world. Groups would apply/write a grant requesting funding for travel abroad. Requests would be accepted for travel of less than 10 days in duration supporting the notion that our global world will be seamless and not structured in semester or year long courses. This fund would operate similar to say the “lecture fund” in that there would be a deadline for submittal and a committee would review applications and make determinations about who gets funding and how much.

Submitted By,

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