

Student Opportunities Fund – College of Letters and Sciences Travel Study

In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in interest from students in the College of Letters and Sciences to participate in travel study. This includes domestic trips, such as the popular Yellowstone National Park trip, and international destinations such as Scotland, Australia, and Japan.



In addition to study abroad programs, the college offers extended domestic travel study programs, such as the popular Natural History of Yellowstone National Park, above. Winter and summer trips provide students with opportunities to track animals in their natural habitat and conduct in-depth field study work. These travel study experiences give students a competitive edge in applying for graduate school or employment.

Students who have participated in study abroad opportunities have regularly reported these as “transformative” experiences. The fact that many students fortunate enough to participate in travel study often participate in a second or even third travel study provides more evidence of the positive impacts of these experiences.

Beyond the added expense of traveling to study at one of many partner locations around the world, many students have to give up income from jobs that help pay their college expenses. And for several majors in the college, such as marine biology and international studies, study abroad is a requirement.

For these reasons, the College of Letters and Sciences receives over a 100 applications per year for support to offset the added cost of travel study. Of these scholarship applications, the college is able to support only about one out of every four, typically with \$1,000 scholarships.

Currently, the college uses funds from a small number of scholarships dedicated to support study abroad, as well as the limited discretionary funding that is available. An endowed fund specifically meant to support travel study opportunities would provide an important stable source of funding to ensure these opportunities are regularly available to students.