

Institute of Political Science, National Sun Yat-sen University

Hercules Study Abroad Scholarship

A Guide

98.1.14 97 academic year, approved at the 7th business meeting
101.10.3 101 academic year, approved at the 2nd business meeting
105.12.14 105 academic year, approved at the 3rd business meeting
108.10.23 108 academic year, approved at the 2nd business meeting

1. Main purpose

To help graduate students at the institute foster international perspectives, encourage them to develop international views, and promote international academic exchanges, the institute has established a scholarship for funding students' studies abroad. The scholarship is named after Hercules, the son of Zeus in Greek mythology. It is our hope that all graduate students awarded this scholarship have the same courage as Hercules to face any difficulties and challenges, continue improving themselves during their study abroad, and complete the difficult tasks that they are assigned. More importantly, we expect that the experience of studying abroad will inspire the graduate students to reflect on their lives and bring about positive changes that will better prepare them to contribute to Taiwanese society in the future.

2. Funding sources

The scholarship accepts funding from individuals, government agencies, businesses, and other organizations.

3. Scholarship specifics and eligibility criteria

The scholarship supports students of the institute in their pursuit of short or medium- to long-term studies abroad by paying their expenses. The number of qualified applicants and the amounts of the scholarships awarded are determined at the institute's business meeting based on the total funding available and the applicants' circumstances. To ensure that all students have equal opportunities to access this resource, each student is limited to funding once per semester. Applicants should first apply to other funding sources within and outside of the National Sun Yat-sen University (which will be referred to as "the university" throughout this guide). Students can only apply for the Hercules Scholarship if their application for funding from other sources is rejected, there is still a gap between other funding secured and the expected expense, or the application does not meet the criteria of other organizations. When submitting the application, students should provide proof that funding from other sources is not available (e.g., the application was submitted to other organizations but has not been approved or the application did not meet the review criteria).

(1) Short-term study abroad:

Sponsors studies abroad for less than 3 months, including collecting materials, attending international conferences, and researching as a visiting scholar.

(2) Medium- to long-term study abroad:

Sponsors studies abroad for over 3 months, such as studying as an international exchange student or visiting scholar.

International exchange students should first consider universities that have exchange agreements with the institute, but their choices are not limited to these universities. Students shall complete two professional courses before application. If the study period needs to be extended while a student is studying abroad, the request should be approved by the institute's business meeting, and the extension will be limited to one academic year (the student is responsible for expenses incurred during the extension).

4. How to apply

(1) Eligibility of applicants:

1. **Short-term study:** Graduate students who are currently enrolled in the institute and studying toward master's or doctoral degrees.

2. **Medium- to long-term study:** Graduate students who are currently enrolled in the institute and studying toward master's or doctoral degrees and who have passed the oral examination for the thesis or dissertation plan.

(2) **Application period:** Applicants should follow the institute's notice to complete and submit the application form and required supporting materials one semester before the semester they plan to study abroad (December 1-15 during the first semester of the academic year and May 1-15 during the second semester of the academic year; applications for attending international conferences can be submitted after the student returns from the conference). Within one month of the application deadline, the institute will review the applications at its business meeting and publicize the results.

(3) Documents required: Please submit the following information for review:

1. Application form (please follow the format described in the attachment)
2. Original transcripts for each year of enrollment in the university with rankings for each year.
3. Study plan (please follow the format described in the attachment)
4. Schedule of estimated expenses (please follow the format described in the attachment)
5. University, department, or institute you will attend for the study/proof from faculty members at the organization that they will accommodate your study or proof that your paper has been accepted
6. Proof that you have submitted funding applications to other organizations within and outside of the university, but the applications were not approved or did not meet the funding criteria
7. Other documentation that demonstrates your performance excellence and helps with your application
8. If applying for medium- to long-term study abroad, provide original test results to prove your foreign language proficiency (the original documents must be still valid and will be returned upon review)
 - Requirement of English proficiency: Internet-based IBT-TOEFL: minimum score of 79; General English Proficiency Test: high-intermediate level
 - Requirement of French proficiency: DELF A2
 - If you plan to study in a country where neither of the above languages is the official language, the requirement of language proficiency will depend on the requirement of the university, department, or institute that you plan to attend (please attach supporting documents)

5. Scholarship payment

Upon approval by the institute's business meeting, a lump-sum payment will be made to successful applicants.

6. Obligations of successful applicants

Students who are awarded the scholarship must meet the requirements listed below. Failure to do so will result in termination of the funding at any time upon approval by the institute's business meeting (including recovery of funding already received) and a public announcement of the decision.

- (1) During the study abroad, the student should maintain student status with the university (schooling is not suspended).
- (2) The student should attend the university (institute) abroad at the planned time.
- (3) If there are any changes to the Study Plan, the student shall complete and submit the Application for Change of Study Plan. Changes can only be made after approval by the institute's business meeting.
- (4) International exchange students shall complete at least two professional courses.
- (5) Within one month of returning to Taiwan, the student must submit a Report on Study Abroad (minimum 2,500 characters) that is signed and approved by the advisor or mentor to describe the student's experience and thoughts about the study. A PowerPoint document (with pictures) shall be attached for publication within the institute and on the institute's website.

7. This guideline and any revisions will be implemented upon approval at the institute's business meeting.