Dear Campus Partner,

Education Abroad (EA) is accepting nominations of students by faculty and staff for the 2020-2022 Flight Voucher program. As you may know, part of our mission in EA is to make study abroad more accessible to UMD’s diverse student body. We are proud to continue the Flight Voucher program. This is an exciting initiative that will award at least $10,000 annually to cover the cost of airfare for study abroad.

I am writing to you to encourage you to nominate a student for the 2020-2021 to 2021-2022 award cycle. This initiative is unique in many ways but, most importantly, EA awards students based on nominations from faculty and staff. The nomination deadline is at 11:59 pm on Sunday, December 1, 2019.

Here is why we think you should take the time to nominate a student:

- International airfare is a high-priced, out of pocket expense for students studying abroad - easily reaching up to $2,500.
- Students cannot use financial aid or regular scholarships for the purchase of flights due to federal regulations and disbursement of funds.
- You work with students who may not have previously interacted with EA or thought study abroad was possible!
- A nomination means we are relieving a student from additional steps in the study abroad process, which can sometimes feel overwhelming to a student who is already balancing school, work, extracurricular activities, and more.

We know you work closely with students who may qualify for this award and see this as your opportunity to invest in the students you believe in most!

Scholarship information is included below, but feel free to contact Conrad Zeutenhorst (czeut@umd.edu) if you have any questions. **NOTE: EA will only accept nomination letters from faculty and staff, and will not consider self-nominations from students.**

**PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY**

Please nominate a student who meets the following criteria:

1) Has an expressed interest in study abroad (student does NOT need to have visited the EA office or have an application started);
2) Has not previously studied abroad in college;
3) Is in good academic standing of 2.5 or higher (as most study abroad programs require a 2.5-3.0 to be considered for admission, nominees who meet this GPA requirement will be given priority);
4) Demonstrates high financial need (Education Abroad will review student’s financial aid profile through the Office of Student Financial Aid);
5) Identifies with one or more of the following:
• First generation college student
• LGBTQ+
• Racial/Ethnic minority
• Student with disability
• Student Veteran

6) Additionally, EA gives special consideration to students who meet the above criteria and who are actively engaged in one or more of the following:
• College Success Scholars
• Black Male Initiative
• MCNAIR Scholars
• Academic Achievement Program
• Incentive Awards Program

**NOMINATION PROCESS & DEADLINE**

Submit nominations by email to Conrad Zeutenhorst (czeut@umd.edu) by **Sunday, December 1, 2019**. Students who have heard about the flight voucher are welcome to request a nomination from faculty and staff. **However, the student must still have the faculty or staff member submit the nominating letter of endorsement on their behalf to EA to be eligible for the award.** EA will review nominations in December, and anticipates selecting 5-6 students from the pool.

Your nomination must include the following:

1) **Student’s name, UID, and Contact Information** (e-mail and/or telephone)

2) **Letter of endorsement** that gives the student’s profile/background and answers the following questions:
   • How has this student demonstrated that he/she/they will benefit personally, professionally, and academically by a credit bearing international experience?
   • In what ways does this student show promise that he/she/they will represent the rich diversity of the University of Maryland and the United States in a positive manner while abroad? (This can be though a variety of indicators e.g. campus engagement, written work, behavioral conduct, academic performance, faculty/staff/peer interaction.)
   • Why is this student highly deserving and in need of the support of the EA Flight Voucher program?
   • (Optional) Based on your interactions with the student, where (region or country) does the student wish to study? For how long (semester or short term)? This does NOT affect the student’s nomination.

*While there is no page requirement, the length of the endorsement letter should concisely and fully answer the questions and effectively highlight the positive attributes of the student.

**TERMS OF PROGRAM**

By accepting a nomination, students must commit to studying abroad within the 2020-2021 to 2021-2022 academic years. EA will hold their nomination in trust for up to two years. The flight voucher is only eligible for an EA approved, credit bearing study abroad program during the following terms:

• Summer 2020/ Summer 2021
Fall 2020/ Fall 2021
Full Year 2020-2021/ Full Year 2021-2022
Winter 2021/ Winter 2022
Spring 2021/ Spring 2022

By the time of application for study abroad, the flight voucher recipient must have an academic background that meets the admissions requirements for study abroad programs (good academic standing, no judicial or financial blocks, a GPA of 2.5 or higher)

By nominating a student into the Education Abroad flight voucher program, you are giving a UMD student:

- A strong incentive for them to consider studying abroad, and a reason to begin the study abroad process.
- A free roundtrip flight to their study abroad destination should your nominee be selected for an award.
- Membership into a supportive, study abroad advising program that will connect the student to invaluable resources to additional study abroad funding, scholarship application support, program selection, and academic advising.
- A welcome reception that will allow each nominee to establish a cohort with other flight voucher nominees who will also be studying abroad.
- Someone outside of Education Abroad who believes in their potential to be a symbol of the UMD and American diversity that can be a fearless and innovative global citizen.

Thank you in advance for your nominations and supporting the EA Travel Voucher program.

Sincerely,

Education Abroad