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Respondent

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Anonymous

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Time to complete

Application Information

1. Name: *

Kevin Mack

2. GCC Title/Position: *

Study Abroad Director

3. Department: *

Instructional Services

4. Campus: *

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7. Dean or Department Head's Name: *

Agnes Eguaras

Project Proposal

8. Name of Project/Program: *

Study Abroad 2027 Programs

9. Please select which category best describes your project: *

- Arts & Culture
- Athletics & Fitness
- Career & Work Training
- College Operations & Facilities
- Humanities/Social Sciences
- Science & Technology

10. Amount requested: *

\$48,000

11. What do you propose to do? *

This money would be used to support students' ability to participate in study abroad programs at GCC, in the form of scholarships or reducing students' costs by funding educational opportunities (which won't come from student fees). This helps offset rising costs to students while making our programs more robust: specifically, the winter 2027 program to New Zealand/Australia and the summer 2027 programs to Armenia, Bali, and London.

12. Who will be involved in the project/program? *

Faculty and students. Faculty include the study abroad committee, the three faculty teaching in winter 2027, and the six faculty teaching in summer 2027. There should be 80+ students participating across the four programs.

13. What are the benefits of this project/program to the students, college, and the community? *

The study abroad program brings countless benefits to the institution and community. It broadens students' perspectives and exposes them to diverse cultures and experiences. It fosters intellectual curiosity that students (and faculty) bring back to the classroom. For example, the London program would use the grant to pay for students to attend a live theater performance at the West End--an activity that would otherwise be cost prohibitive.

The costs of our programs--in addition to airfare and expenses abroad--have risen exponentially the past few years. For instance, the Spain 2024 program cost \$3,350 before airfare, and that program filled with 24 students. By summer 2026, the Spain program cost \$4,895, and the program was cancelled due low enrollment. This financial support is essential for keeping our programs accessible and viable amidst rising costs.

14. How does this project/program support the College's Institutional Strategic Plan? *

View ISP at <https://www.glendale.edu/home/showpublisheddocument/68172>

The study abroad programs support many elements of the College's ISP and its values.

In terms of DEIA, Foundation support makes our programs much, much more accessible. Without scholarships, many of our low-income students (often from marginalized communities) would simply never even consider enrolling in a study abroad program (much less leaving Southern California).

In terms of "Educational Excellence," it continues GCC's strong history of study abroad; it has consistently had a top-ten study abroad program (in terms of students served) for community colleges despite its small size.

Finally, "Community Building" is another common result of study abroad. Our programs routinely foster lifelong friendships among students and between students and faculty, and our reunions are typically packed full of students who relished their life-changing experiences abroad. Students who study once while abroad often choose to pursue other international learning opportunities together.

15. Timeline for the project/program. *

These funds would be used for the following programs:

- New Zealand/Australia, 4 January-5 February
- Armenia, 23 June-13 July
- Bali, 28 June-30 July
- London, 14 June-16 July

16. How do you propose to use the funds requested? Please include specific budget information. *

Each of the four programs would receive \$12,000.

For New Zealand/Australia, Armenia, and Bali, the money will be used exclusive for student scholarships. For New Zealand/Australia and Bali, this would be in the form of \$1,000 for twelve students, or \$500 for 24 students (or something similar, based on students' need). For New Zealand/Australia, we are currently recruiting, and a major hurdle for prospective applicants has been the high cost of the program (\$4,795). We would tie scholarships funds to (A) their status as a student at GCC (B) their financial need, as demonstrated by a scholarship application. Quite literally, these funds would make the difference between participating and non-participation, especially for a few film students whose lives would be changed by studying cinema in New Zealand but whose pocketbooks cannot bear the cost. For Armenia, the plan would be very similar. Armenia plans to award the funds as an even split to current GCC students in good standing.

For London, the funds would be distributed between \$7,650 for scholarships (each student would receive between \$300-\$500) and enriching learning opportunities: \$3,000 for London Live Theater Performance (which is essential for one of the classes), \$1,000 for an afternoon tea (the Orangery at Kensington Palace costs about \$70 per person), and \$300 for a Chatbook from students' classwork and photos (students will photograph notable historic and cultural sites in London while writing evidence-based captions; after the trip, a ~\$17 Chatbooks book will be printed for each participant to highlight the students' work, what they learned, and the places they visited).

17. Please list any other sources of funding you have applied for and include dollar amounts if already awarded. *

Besides the Gilman and Gilman McCain scholarships, there are not many scholarship opportunities at the community college level for students. All program funding otherwise comes from student fees.

18. How will the Foundation's support be recognized? *

Students who receive funding are notified of the Foundation's support, and oftentimes write thank-you letters at the conclusion of the program (I've excerpted some language from thank-you letters below).

We also recognize Foundation support in the dozens of presentations we give to students and faculty across campus about study abroad.

Dear Glendale College Foundation,

Please accept my most appreciative thanks for this scholarship. Accepting this award allowed me to attend the study abroad in Italy without the stress of wondering if I had enough funds, thus allowing me to take in the Italian beauty and concentrate on my studies while there. I learned a lot about Italian culture and how their global issues are both similar and dissimilar to the United States. I also learned how to cook some local dishes and was ecstatic that I could fully immerse myself in the local eating culture by dining at several restaurants with varying cuisine styles throughout the country.

Offering this scholarship is a chance to broaden student thinking from a global perspective and provides great supplemental education in a way that classroom learning alone cannot. Study abroad programs are inspirational and are important for connecting the dots between a textbook or lecture and real life as well as developing empathy for cultures other than our own. This is why I would like to see other students have the same opportunity through the continued disbursement of this scholarship.

Dear Glendale Community College Foundation,

I wanted to let you know how appreciative I am of being awarded this scholarship. I became increasingly aware of how important this opportunity was to me as I was in Italy actively participating in the Study Abroad program. Being able to take my education beyond the classroom and experience learning in a new environment was something I've always hoped for, but it didn't feel possible without support. I am greatly inspired by the Foundation's belief in students like me, which adds to the significance of the entire experience.

Before going to Italy, I was particularly looking forward to the experience that lay ahead of me unaware of what was going to happen and what I was going to experience. I am eternally grateful that I was able to participate in this program with financial support. Professor Leaver's class really changed the way I see my future because it made me realize how much I genuinely care about sustainability and the idea of contributing to a healthier planet. Through the course, I began to see that engineering is not just about solving technical problems, but also about creating solutions that can have a meaningful impact on the world around us. That experience helped me understand that I want to be part of developing technologies that support long term environmental progress and allow me to directly contribute to building a more sustainable future. Chef Flores' class allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of Italian culture and showed me how food serves as a powerful form of identity and expression. Through learning about the traditions, history, and care behind each dish, I began to see how food reflects values like community, pride, and connection, and how it plays a central role in shaping the way people share their stories and preserve their culture. I was able to travel to different cities in order to experience different cultures, foods, and architecture thanks to the generous scholarship I received. It was truly amazing to have pizza in Verona one day and then be in Florence to experience rich history and museums the next. Most importantly, I made so many delightful memories with people I learned and grew alongside, which turned the experience into something far more meaningful than just a class. I know that this experience would not have been as easily accessible without the Foundation's generosity. This scholarship gave me the chance to fully take advantage ...

19. How do you plan to evaluate this project's success? *

We constantly review and evaluate the success of every program. At the end of a program, we survey students to see what worked and what didn't (and whether the costs of some things were justifiable). Faculty also submit a written report about the program. Finally, the study abroad committee reviews these surveys and reports and makes recommendations for future programs.

20. If your project/program is successful, how will it inform your practice moving forward? *

As noted in #19, we take best practices from every program and incorporate them in future programs.

21. Please provide a 2 – 3 sentence summary of your project proposal. *

This application is asking for essential financial support for the four 2027 study abroad programs. These funds are used either to offset student costs or to offer education experiences that would otherwise be unaffordable. The \$48,000 requested, or \$12,000 per program, reflects the rapidly-rising costs of travel abroad.

Signature and Acknowledgments

22. I hereby acknowledge/certify: *

- My Dean or department head is aware of this application and has authorized its submission.
- If my proposal involves the hiring of temporary/contracted professionals, I will obtain approval from Human Resources before proceeding and will provide documentation to the Foundation that the hiring/contracting has been reviewed and approved.
- If my proposal involves conference and/or other travel, I will complete the GCC travel approval process and adhere to GCC travel guidelines.