



Education Abroad  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

## Freeman Awards for Study in Asia (Freeman-ASIA)

The [Freeman-ASIA Scholarship](#) provides need-based funding for U.S.-based undergraduates who are planning to study overseas in East or Southeast Asia. The goal of the program is to increase the number of U.S. citizens and permanent residents with exposure and understanding of Asia and its peoples and cultures. Recipients must share their experiences with their home campuses or communities to encourage study abroad and fulfill the program's goal of increasing understanding of Asia in the United States. Freeman-ASIA is supported by the Freeman Foundation and the Institute of International Education (IIE).

### Freeman-ASIA Scholarship Deadlines

Applications for awards to support summer programs will open in **late January** while applications for awards to support fall and academic year programs will open in **late February**. Applications for awards to support spring programs will open in **late August**. Please refer to the [Apply](#) website for specific deadlines.

### Starting your Freeman-ASIA Application

- Review the Freeman-ASIA eligibility requirements to ensure you meet all the requirements to apply.
- Identify an Education Abroad program in East or Southeast Asia that qualifies you for a Freeman-ASIA Award.
- Complete the on-line Freeman-ASIA Application by the Student Deadline.
  - Your Education Abroad contact is Steven Rose: [Steven.Rose@Colorado.edu](mailto:Steven.Rose@Colorado.edu). Choose Steven as your Study Abroad Adviser Certifier in the Freeman portal.
  - Your financial aid contact is Alexandra Masse: [Alexandra.Masse@Colorado.edu](mailto:Alexandra.Masse@Colorado.edu). Choose Alexandra as your Financial Aid Adviser in the Freeman portal.
- Follow up with your Study Abroad Office and the Office of Financial Aid to ensure that both have received your Freeman-ASIA Application Endorsement Request E-mail.
- Check with Education Abroad and the Office of Financial Aid to ensure that the endorsement of your Freeman-ASIA Application from both has been submitted to IIE by the Adviser Deadline.



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## Tips for Completing Your Freeman-ASIA Application

### Preference will be given to students who:

- Participate in language study that will enhance their ability to engage with the host culture.
- Enroll in a study abroad program with at least 20 hours per week of class time, incorporating the study of an East or Southeast Asian language, culture, and history.
- Participate in a study abroad programs taught by host country faculty members.
- Demonstrate sincere interest in incorporating East or Southeast Asian Studies into future academic and/or professional plans.

### The three primary criteria used to evaluate Freeman-ASIA Award applications are:

- Financial need
- Commitment to and demonstrated interest in East or Southeast Asian Studies
- Quality of the service project proposal

## Tips for a More Competitive Freeman-ASIA Application

### General tips from the CU study abroad staff:

- **Your essay matters!** Don't write the essay online at the last minute. Take some time with the essay and revise it at least once. Have someone look over your essay to check spelling and grammar. Thoroughly address all questions asked.
- **Hook the reader from the beginning.** Scholarship reviewers read hundreds of essays from students who are all writing about study abroad. Catch their attention with an interesting, short anecdote or quote, or start with information about why you are unique.
- **Make yourself stand out.** What is unique about you as a person? Do you have a unique interest or hobby? Are you involved with something on campus or in your community? What are your goals for study abroad above and beyond the formal requirements of your program?
- **Make a clear case for how/why your program is relevant to your major, career goals, future plans or all of the above.** Freeman wants your study abroad location/program choice to be well-researched and that you have academic or career-related reasons for your choice. Make these connections and explain them in as much detail as possible. Including personal goals can be appropriate, but they should include other intellectual interests (i.e. visiting museums or other cultural/historical sites) or extra-curricular activities such as internships, volunteer options, etc. Mention of personal travel and social activities will not be viewed positively by the selection committee.
- **If your GPA is below a 3.0, explain reasons.** Has your GPA steadily improved? Do you work a large number of hours each week and, thus, cannot devote as much time to your studies? Do you have extra obligations such as running the family business, or caring for young or elderly family members? Did you have one particularly rough semester due to illness, family situation, etc.? If a situation like this applies to you, explain this in your essay.