



# GLOBAL SKILLS OPPORTUNITY (GSO) STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION PACKAGE

Global Skills Opportunity (GSO) Student Travel Grants are funded through the Government of Canada’s Outbound Student Mobility Pilot Program. These grants are designed to increase participation in study/work abroad experiences (particularly to non-traditional destinations) and reduce barriers for underrepresented groups including Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, Métis) students, students with disabilities and students with financial need.

## PART A – APPLICATION GUIDELINES

### HOW TO APPLY

Submit this completed application form, along with all relevant documentation outlined on the Completion Checklist, to the VIU Education Abroad office **a minimum of four (4) weeks prior to departure**. Only complete applications can be considered.

A Step-by-Step Guide to Successful Submission	
<b>STEP 1</b>	Download the GSO Student Travel Grant Application Package
<b>STEP 2</b>	Read all information contained in the package guidelines; contact our office if you require any clarification
<b>STEP 3</b>	Gather all necessary supporting documents applicable to your circumstances
<b>STEP 4</b>	Email completed applications and supporting documentation to: <a href="mailto:edabroad@viu.ca">edabroad@viu.ca</a>

### GRANT AMOUNTS

**For applicants declared as Indigenous, Low-Income and/or Persons with Disability:**

- Up to \$10,000 CAD for PHYSICAL SHORT/MEDIUM TERM participation.

**Other Eligible Students:**

- Up to \$5,000 CAD for PHYSICAL SHORT/MEDIUM TERM participation.



Duration of Study/Work Abroad Program	
*NOTE: Duration of the program must be at minimum of 1 week (7 days).	
<b>SHORT TERM (i.e., Field School/Practicum)</b> 1 - 4 weeks	<b>MEDIUM TERM (i.e., Exchange/Internship)</b> 5 - 16 weeks

## COMPLETION CHECKLIST

For my application to be considered, I must:	
	Be a domestic VIU student enrolled in an undergraduate program and in good academic standing.
	Have submitted a complete application to a VIU GSO designated Field School.
	Have completed all applicable sections of this GSO Student Travel Grant application form and submit via email to: edabroad@viu.ca
	Attach <b>all relevant documentation</b> for Self-Declaration to this application, if applicable.
	Submit an <b>unofficial VIU academic transcript</b> with this application.

## CONSIDERATIONS

1. The GSO Student Travel Grant is available for domestic VIU *degree seeking* students participating in an approved study/work abroad program OUTSIDE of Canada. Please note, applications to non-traditional destinations (countries outside of Australia, United Kingdom, U.S.A, and France) may be prioritized.
2. Students may choose to declare more than one personal status under the Self-Declaration, in which case the supporting documents should be provided for all applicable categories.
3. Students can only receive a GSO Student Travel Grant once during their academic career as an undergraduate student at VIU.
4. Although receiving this award should not affect a student's eligibility or funding amount under the provincial loan system, students are advised that they may need to reassess their student loan to reflect increased income, should they be successful in their application for GSO Student Travel Grant funding.

## ELIGIBLE COSTS:

Students may use their GSO Student Travel Grant to cover direct costs related to the study abroad program including:

- Tuition
- Living expenses
- Dependent care



- Health insurance
- Immunizations
- Transportation (in Canada and abroad)
- Accommodation during the study abroad experience
- Field school fees

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*I understand that:*

- If my study/work abroad plans change to something other than what was reported on this application, I will inform the Education Abroad Office immediately, as this may jeopardise my award.
- The value of this fund, its associated policies and procedures, and the terms of this Student Travel Grant may change at VIU's discretion.
- I further acknowledge that this Student Travel Grant cannot be used for any travel to a country or region of a country with a Global Affairs Canada travel advisory of level 3 (avoid all non-essential travel) or level 4 (avoid all travel) even if the advisory comes into place after the grant has been awarded.
- The funder requires GSO Student Travel Grant recipients to complete a *pre-departure form* as well as a *post-experience report*. I agree to participate in program evaluations which may include surveys, interviews, case studies, among other activities.
- Successful GSO Student Travel Grant recipients must review and sign a *Terms & Conditions document* upon acceptance of the award.
- All participants in VIU study/work abroad experiences must attend a mandatory *Pre-Departure Orientation Session* prior to the scheduled departure as well as re-entry programming upon return to Canada.
- Education Abroad may contact the third-party individual listed under Student Information, for a reference regarding your application for a GSO Student Travel Grant.
- Applicants must be eligible for VIU's mandatory travel medical insurance coverage under [Guard.Me \(Global Plan A or B\)](#) in order to be eligible for GSO funding.

*I have read, understood, and agree to the above.*



# PART B - APPLICATION

## STUDENT INFORMATION (Please complete all fields)

<b>First Name:</b>		<b>Last Name:</b>	
<b>Middle Name:</b>		<b>Student ID:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>		<b>City:</b>	
<b>Province:</b>		<b>Postal Code:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Program of Study at VIU:</b>			
<b>Please list the name &amp; contact information for someone we can reach to learn more about you. This could be a VIU faculty member, advisor, staff person, elder, neighbour, employer, or community member.</b>			
<b>Name:</b>		<b>Contact Info:</b>	

How did you hear about this opportunity?

## STUDENT DECLARATION

### 1. Self-Declaration of Indigeneity (if applicable):

- I am an Indigenous Student (First Nations – Status Indian / Non-Status Indian; Métis; Inuit).

*We may verify this declaration with personal information provided on your VIU Student Record.*

### 2. Self-Declaration of Low-Income (if applicable):

- I received a government grant through the government student loan program in the current academic year.
- I have attached **relevant loan/grant document(s)** to this application, confirming the total government funding received.

**If you cannot provide proof of a government grant, please indicate why here:**



I received a supplementary VIU Scholarship, Award or Bursary in the last academic or the current academic year.

Please provide details (award name, amount, year, etc.):

We may verify this declaration with personal information provided on your VIU Student Record.

### 3. Self-Declaration of Disability (if applicable):

I am a student with a disability.

I am registered with [VIU Accessibility Services](#) and consent to you verifying with their office. I have **attached my Accommodation Letter** with this application.

If you do NOT wish to register with Accessibility Services for the sole purpose of participating in a study/work abroad experience, but still wish to be considered under this category:

Complete the fast-track **VIU Education Abroad Accessibility Accommodation Form** and submit with this application.

*NB: This accommodation form will act as your proof of disability for the grant. To arrange appropriate accommodations at a partner institution (if applicable) please refer to their specific accommodation process.*

### 4. All Other Students

None of the above Self Declarations apply to me.

TYPE OF STUDY/WORK ABROAD PROGRAM (select one):

<b>Field School</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Name of Field School:</b>	
<b>Destination country:</b>	
<b>Departure Date:</b>	
<b>Return Date:</b>	
<b>Total duration of Program (# of days):</b>	

Short Answer Questions (max. 300 words)



1. How do you expect this study abroad experience will impact your personal, professional or academic growth (or all three)?

2. Describe a challenge or barrier you had to overcome in your personal, professional, or academic life (or all three). What kinds of strategies and skills help(ed) you to overcome this challenge or barrier?

## DECLARATION

**I have answered all applicable questions in this application, and that the answers given by me are true to the best of my knowledge.**

<b>Applicant Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	

*Thank you for completing your Global Skills Opportunity Student Travel Grant application.*

If you have any questions regarding this application or study abroad, please contact Education Abroad at: [edabroad@viu.ca](mailto:edabroad@viu.ca)

