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Fund for Education Abroad Awards \$195,000 to 39 Scholars for Study Abroad in Spring 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 4, 2021 – The [Fund for Education Abroad](#) (FEA) has increased access to international education by offering 39 flexible scholarships totaling more than \$195,000 for study abroad in spring 2022 to students traditionally underrepresented in study abroad.

Including this new cohort, a total of 744 scholars, including students of color, first-generation college and community college students, have benefited from close to \$2.4 million in scholarships granted since FEA's inception in 2010. The newly awarded FEA scholarships are flexible, an innovation introduced in spring 2020 in response to the disruption in higher education and travel triggered by the global pandemic.

This application cycle, 95% of awarded scholars identify as students of color: 8% Middle Eastern or North African, 21% Black/African-American, 10% Asian/South Asian, 35% Hispanic/Latinx, and 15% identified as mixed race. Additionally, 38% of these FEA scholars identify as LGBTQ+. Characteristic of FEA scholars, 90% are first-generation college students, and 34% are current or former community college students.

“The resilience and enthusiasm of our new FEA scholars gives hope that the world is reopening and opportunities for advancement and connection are resuming robustly,” said FEA Executive Director Angela Schaffer.

FEA awards many different types of scholarships, including Named Scholarships that are funded by specific donors, Designated Scholarships that are destination- or demographic-specific, and Access Partner Scholarships. FEA [Access Partners](#) engage in the mission of the organization through annual support towards co-branded and allocated scholarships, and they participate on the Access Advisory Board, providing critical leadership-level feedback to FEA.

The newly named FEA Scholars, including their home university and planned study abroad destination, are:

1. Alondra Graham Hernandez - Santa Barbara City College - Italy
2. Ana Hernandez - Santa Barbara City College - Italy
3. Abiola Ogunkoya - University of Virginia - Denmark
4. Eden Tesfay - University of Notre Dame - South Africa
5. Abigail Cumberbatch - Brandeis University - South Africa
6. Mumtas Mohamed - University of St. Thomas MN - United Kingdom
7. Belize Iteriteka - Bates College - Sweden, Ireland

8. Folly Folivi - Denison University - Japan
9. Innocent Nsengiyumva - Concordia College - Cuba
10. Kadietwo Fahnbulleh - Western Kentucky University - South Korea
11. Ann Nguyen - University of Florida - Italy
12. Julie Nguyen - California State University, Fresno - South Korea
13. Troy Gladstone - University of Connecticut - Ireland
14. Alondra Velazquez - Lake Forest College - Costa Rica
15. Noemi Guzman - College of Saint Benedict - United Kingdom
16. Melany Montesdeoca - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign - Spain
17. Naomi Sanchez - The University of Texas at Austin - Spain
18. Nicole Ramirez - Hamilton College - France
19. Luz Alfaro - Grinnell College - India, South Africa, Jordan
20. Joelette Organista - University of Utah - Portugal
21. Megan Staudt - University of Connecticut - Hungary
22. Nadine El Maalem - Rowan University - Morocco
23. Pegah Shadalo - University of Utah - Switzerland
24. Gabrielle Charney Di Bernardo - Chapman University - France
25. David Barbier Jr - Syracuse University - Japan
26. Mariah Roseboro - University of North Carolina at Charlotte - South Korea
27. Cailyn Matthews - Gustavus Adolphus College - Vietnam
28. Reshan Selvavelautham - Vassar College - Singapore
29. Lucky Whitburn-Thomas - San Francisco State University - Denmark
30. Makenzie Kuykendall - University of Idaho - United Kingdom
31. Taylor Kim - University of California Los Angeles - Japan
32. Jacob Lively - University of Houston - United Kingdom
33. Arisley Rodriguez - University of Florida - United Kingdom
34. Brian Vislar - University of Texas at El Paso - France
35. Ingrid Valladares - University of Maryland, College Park - Japan
36. Ruth Solano-Cardel - Arizona State University
37. Maria Alcaraz Vargas - California State Polytechnic University, Pomona - Germany
38. Isis Exum - San Diego State University - Italy
39. Ashley Messier - University of Massachusetts Amherst - Denmark

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About the Fund for Education Abroad

The Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to provide scholarships and ongoing support to students who are underrepresented among the U.S. study abroad population, making life-changing, international experiences accessible to all by supporting students of color and first-generation college students before, during, and after they participate in education abroad programs. FEA Access Partners participate on the FEA Access Advisory Board (AAB), established to share best practices in international education and actively engage in FEA's mission to increase the number of Americans studying abroad. FEA is a [Guidestar Gold](#) participant, and won the [2019 Scholarship Provider of the Year Award](#) from the National Scholarship Providers Association, the 2015 [Diversity Abroad Excellence in Diversifying International Education Award](#) and [GoAbroad.com's 2015 Innovation in Philanthropy Award](#). Follow FEA at www.fundforeducationabroad.org, and on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Tumblr](#) and on Twitter: [@FEAScholarships](#).