



## MISSION

To provide scholarships and ongoing support to students with financial need who are underrepresented among the U.S. study-abroad population.

FEA makes life-changing, international experiences accessible to all by supporting students of color, community college, and first-generation college students before, during, and after they participate in education abroad programs.

## VISION

In today's inter-connected world, we believe education abroad is an integral component of higher education. We envision a future in which all U.S. students are given equal access to education abroad experiences, regardless of socio-economic status.

We foresee a future in which our scholars work to increase global understanding, give back to their communities, and mentor future generations of Fund for Education Abroad scholars.

## JEDI STATEMENT

FEA was born of the imperative to increase access to education abroad. Our call to action is Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) and has been since day one. We provide access to students who represent the rich diversity of our nation yet who are underrepresented in study abroad. In our day-to-day work we are grounded in these principles.

FEA is committed to the ongoing development and implementation of inclusive best practices in scholarship awarding, student support, nonprofit governance, and organizational development and management.



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Through the generous support of Academic Travel Abroad (ATA), the Fund for Education Abroad was established in 2010 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization to address the need for an independent scholarship provider to enable more American college students to study abroad. Applicants from groups underrepresented in study abroad are given preference, in an effort to make the demographics of U.S. undergraduates studying abroad reflect the rich diversity of the U.S. population. Since 2010, FEA has awarded over \$3.5 million in scholarships to over 1200 undergraduates, helping students from all over the United States follow their dreams of studying abroad. In 2017, FEA established its Access Partnership program, allowing providers, organizations and institutions abroad to support FEA's scholarship programming.

FEA remains the only national non-profit study abroad scholarship provider funded exclusively with philanthropic support, and the only independent organization dedicated to providing scholarships to students from backgrounds historically excluded from education abroad opportunities.

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



“Over the course of these three years, FEA awarded scholarships totaling \$1,745,000 to 478 scholars—nearly as much as we had awarded in FEA’s first ten years.”

**On behalf of the Fund for Education Abroad Board of Trustees, I’m pleased to share with you our 2021-2023 Achievement Report. As you’ll see, over these three years we’ve made significant progress as we work to make study abroad more accessible to all.**

2021 marked a leadership transition at FEA, as we welcomed Angie Schaffer as our new Executive Director and thanked our outgoing ED, Jennifer Calvert Hall, for her 7+ years of remarkable service to the organization. Angie brings to the position the perfect mix of study abroad, nonprofit, and JEDI experience, and in her first three years she has made her mark on every aspect of our work. We’ve also had a series of transitions on our Board, as we’ve said goodbye to some Trustees and welcomed some new ones. I had the honor of succeeding Anne Krieg as FEA’s Chair (thank you, Anne!), and I served in that role from 2022-2023. In December 2023, I passed the gavel to our current Chair, Amar Rewari. Amar brings a fresh perspective and new energy to the role, and I’m excited to see how he will lead our strategic growth during his tenure.

We look back on 2021-2023 as a time when study abroad resumed after the pandemic, and demand for our scholarships reached new levels. Over the course of these three years, FEA awarded scholarships totaling \$1,745,000 to 478 scholars—nearly as much as we had awarded in FEA’s first ten years. By the end of 2023, our thirteenth year of operation, we had awarded a total of \$3.4 million to 1091 scholars. Our sophisticated applicant review system, which relies on our hard-working volunteers, successfully identified qualified scholars who are traditionally underrepresented among US study abroad students. Of those scholars who received awards at the end of 2023, 90% identified as students of color, 88% were first-generation college students, and 30% were current or former community college students. We are proud of these statistics, which demonstrate that we are truly making strides in our mission to increase access for students who typically do not get to study abroad.

This period was also one of significant change, a time when FEA needed to quickly adapt to new realities. The pandemic upended the study abroad industry, introducing new trends and new players. Our scholars, who were learning to reengage with their universities in person, came to FEA with new expectations and needs, particularly in the realm of mental health. The Supreme Court’s decision to restrict the use of race in college admissions in 2023, as well as changing political views about DEI work, led us to rework some of our messaging about our mission. And fundraising and board engagement also changed during this time. FEA pivoted from virtual events in 2021 to in-person events in 2022 and 2023, continually seeking the most effective ways to connect with donors and partners whose interests and priorities are also changing.

As we look ahead to the future, we know FEA will continue to face new challenges and opportunities. What won’t change is the importance and urgency of our work. This last spring, FEA reviewed 2770 applicants for 2024 awards—our largest pool yet. The need to fund students who have big study abroad dreams, but limited resources, will only grow. We are working to make sure our scholarship pool also grows so that we can meet this increased demand.

Whether you are a donor, volunteer, or corporate partner, we thank you for all the support you have given us, particularly as we navigated the pandemic and its wake. We’re still here, and stronger than ever. Together we will continue to make life-changing study abroad experiences more accessible to all.

Mark Lenhart  
*Board of Trustees Chair, 2022-2024*



# ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

2021

**130**  
**total scholars**  
**\$595k**  
**awarded**

READ MORE:  
[ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22](#) | [SPRING 2022](#)

2022

**191**  
**total scholars**  
**\$675k**  
**awarded**

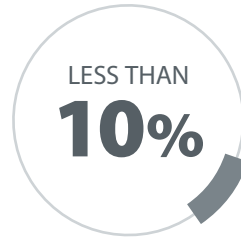
READ MORE:  
[ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23](#) | [SPRING 2023](#)

2023

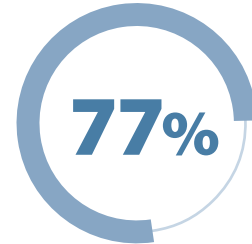
**157**  
**total scholars**  
**\$535k**  
**awarded**

READ MORE:  
[ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24](#) | [SPRING 2024](#)

## FEA vs. US average



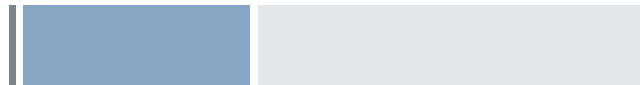
of all US study abroad  
students are first-generation  
college students.



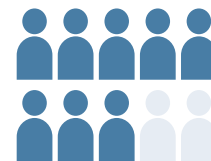
of FEA Scholars  
are first-generation  
college students.

Less than **1%** of US study abroad students  
are community college students.

**37%** of FEA Scholars  
attended community college.



of US study abroad students  
are people of color.



of FEA Scholars  
are people of color.

**100+** volunteer  
reviewers each year

## 2021 SCHOLARS

**Julie Kim** | ROME, ITALY

*Received the Malú Alvarez Global Access Scholarship for Spring 2021,  
Attended the 2023 FEA Gala*

"Before coming to Italy, I was nervous about how my identity would be perceived here. The Korean-Italian community was particularly fascinating to me because the Korean culture is less prevalent in Italy than it is in America... Thankfully, I have not felt that my identity has influenced the way others in Italy treat me."

*From Blog Post: "[Reflections: Asian Hate Crime at Home](#)"*

**Abraham Garcia Nunez** | PARIS, FRANCE

*Received the FEA General Scholarship for Fall 2021*

"I truly feel that I've experienced an immense amount throughout my time here and that all of these experiences that I have lived abroad really have a deep impact on me. I've grown tremendously as a person, not just as a student. Interestingly enough, it feels as if studying abroad for a semester, or for a year in my case, really does more to shape you as a person rather than necessarily enhancing your academic traits."

*From Blog Post: "[Reflections](#)"*

**Axel Jeconiah** | COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

*Received the DIS Access Partner Scholarship for Summer 2021*

"I learned how to work in a team environment, how to brainstorm, how to communicate as clearly as possible, and try to understand people from different backgrounds. That was definitely precious for me. I [want to] incorporate those skills that I learned in the current setting that I'm working in... in a research lab, leading the team at Texas Inventionworks. I appreciate having that [opportunity] to work in a team environment [abroad]."

*From Blog Post: "[Looking back to Denmark](#)"*





## Nina Gaona-Menchavez | SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

*Received the Malú Alvarez Global Access Scholarship for Fall 2022,  
FEA Intern in Spring 2023*

"Since studying abroad, I hope to continue to do things that take me out of my comfort zone, even though it's scary or a little bit difficult, I really want to try a lot of new things. While abroad, I tried so many new things, especially by myself, so I hope that I can continue to carry that type of strength and [bravery] that I had while abroad into my future... whether it's exploring new careers or exploring new skills."

*From Vlog: "[Post-Return](#)"*



## Isaac Kyeremateng | MUKONO, UGANDA

*Received the Artigas-Etchegaray Scholarship for Fall 2022,  
Attended the 2023 FEA Gala*

"Here, I am reminded of the essence of humanity in that we are all connected and much of what we do does not occur in isolation. The seeds sown today will certainly bear fruit tomorrow. The question is, are the proverbial methods of seed planting sustainable? Ultimately, do the methods of planting stand faithful to the idea of paying our blessings forward while holding the sanctity of familial, social, physical, and spiritual human connections intact? I think you know the answer."

*From Blog Post: "[Paying It Forward: A Sustainable Life Circle](#)"*



## Makenzie Kuykendall | LONDON, ENGLAND

*Received the Cyril Taylor Memorial Scholarship for Study in the UK  
for Spring 2022, Scholar mentor in 2022 and Spring 2024,  
Attended the 2022 FEA Gala*

"A lot has changed [since studying abroad]. I feel like my world has really been opened up, and there are a lot of new opportunities for me. I have some pretty different goals and I'm setting my life on a new trajectory because of my experience. I really want to live and work in Europe. I feel that the lifestyle is very in line with my values... I am studying to become a teacher, and I still want to be involved in that field or something [related]... so I'm already looking into master's programs that I could do involving that in Europe."

*From Blog Post: "[Returning Home from the United Kingdom](#)"*



## 2023 SCHOLARS

**Anica Acuña** | AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

*Received the IFSA Access Partner Scholarship for Spring 2023, Scholar Mentor during AY 2023-2024, FEA Intern in Fall 2023*

"I feel so fortunate to have been able to experience a world in which sustainable resources and ecological awareness matters... I have definitely grown in my eco-friendly lifestyle journey. I feel like the term "reduce, reuse, recycle" was always thrown around when I was growing up, but I never learned how to do such a thing and there were no systems in place to support that... I want to work towards a more sustainable world and I thank New Zealand for giving me a taste of what that might look like."

*From Blog Post: "[Growing in New Zealand to Become More Eco-friendly!](#)"*

**Jannatul Ferdaus** | SWITZERLAND

*Received the Breakout Scholarship for Community College Students for Summer 2023, Scholar Mentor in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024, Attended the 2023 FEA Gala*

"Throughout our program, we had the privilege to meet more than twelve ambassadors and we had a lot of guest speakers come in and give lectures. Their time is important, so they would have briefing sessions with us for an hour or two and give us their personal opinions. I was able to incorporate the things I learned in the classroom and ask them critical questions... I would say throughout this program, I had the honor and privilege to hone my critical thinking skills."

*From Blog Post: "[Post-Return Jannatul Ferdaus Switzerland](#)"*

**Sam Willard** | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

*Received the Kacenga-Cladera Family Rainbow Scholarship for Summer 2023, Scholar Mentor in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024*

"As I reflect on my study abroad experience in South Africa, I am grateful for the opportunities it offered me to grow academically, professionally, and personally. The ability to strike a balance between these aspects of my life was instrumental in making this journey a transformative one. Studying abroad not only broadened my horizons but also allowed me to develop crucial skills that will continue to benefit me in my future endeavors."

*From Blog Post: "[Studying Abroad in South Africa: A Transformative Experience](#)"*



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Mentor program

Many FEA Scholars are the first in their family to go to college, study abroad, or travel outside of the United States. The FEA Peer Network was created to address our scholars' needs to connect with someone who could understand and relate to their experiences.

We pair interested FEA Alumni with one or two FEA Scholars preparing to go abroad. To date, the Peer Network has paired over 70 FEA Scholars and Alumni based on shared interests or identities. FEA Scholars who had a mentor frequently go on to become alumni mentors themselves, and many of our alumni serve as mentors for multiple semesters or years.

**"Being a mentor figure was entirely new to me, so I felt excited to answer my mentee's questions. From giving advice on how to make the most of her experience abroad to helping her pick out what kind of adapter she needed, I felt fulfillment from assisting her in any way I could."**

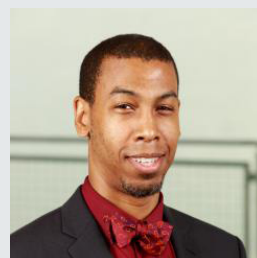
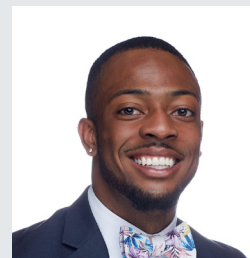
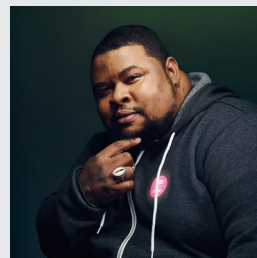
- Makenzie Kuykendall, *Returning Alumni Mentor*

## Equitable Practice Highlight

In 2023, FEA began taking loans into account as an additional indicator of a student's financial need. This innovative practice allows us to more fully understand a student's unique financial situation and increase access to education abroad by awarding students whose need is not fully taken into account by more traditional means of financial need assessment (for example, reception of the Pell grant).

## FEAtured Perspectives

FEA regularly hosts virtual gatherings featuring unique perspectives on a range of topics relevant to our work, including career paths, travel, access and inclusion, and international education.



### 2021

- Predictions on Post-Pandemic Travel Norms with Rick Steves
- An Evening with FEA, Michael Twitty, and QueenEarth

### 2022

- Eurostepping the Status Quo: Supporting International Opportunities for All Athletes with Tim Bryson
- JEDI Perspectives in International Education with CEACAPA

### 2023

- Ocean-Focused Studies (Abroad!): Inclusive Maritime Career Pathways with Sean Carswell and Sea Education Association
- Experiences of Travel Professionals, moderated by Makeda Haughton

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEOS](#)

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



## 2021: First-ever FEA Day

Launched in 2021, concluded with capstone speaker Michael Twitty (award-winning culinary historian) & music by musician QueenEarth. Engaged more than 300 people throughout day's events that included information sessions for students, advisors, and access partners, and a midday session on "Who Gets the Money and Why: Unpacking Inequalities Within Scholarships in Higher Education."



## 2022: Bringing the World Home Campaign

FEA launched its first comprehensive capital campaign in 2017, coinciding with our five-year Strategic Plan 2017-2022. Little did we know what would happen in the middle of the campaign, as the pandemic changed life as we knew it in 2020. Despite the pandemic, FEA achieved over 70% of its ambitious \$10 million fundraising goal through the Bringing the World Home Campaign. The campaign helped us to launch more than a dozen named, dedicated scholarships through the generosity of donors. We are grateful to organizations like NAFSA: Association for International Educators, The Cyril Taylor Charitable Foundation, and Gateway International Group for their annual support of named scholarships.



## 2023: Rainbow Scholarship Fundraising

The NAFSA Rainbow SIG partners with FEA to fundraise for and administer the Rainbow Scholarship for LGBTQ+ students who wish to study abroad. In 2023, the Rainbow SIG celebrated its 30th anniversary and set a goal of \$100,000 in fundraising to establish an endowed scholarship--and we succeeded! The Rainbow Scholarship will be awarded in perpetuity thanks to the strong partnership between FEA and the **Rainbow SIG**.





## FEA Annual Galas

On December 1, 2022, in Washington D.C., FEA held our first in-person Gala since 2019. The FEA Gala, an event for students, donors, access partners, and supporters to come together, hosted 241 people from around the world, including 12 FEA Alumni. The Gala, held at the City Club of Washington, DC, raised \$50,000 to fund scholarships for FEA Scholars to study abroad in 2023. Our 2023 FEA Scholar Gala continued the tradition at the Longview Gallery, with eight FEA Alum joining over 200 guests to celebrate study abroad access and inclusion and to dance the night away! The event raised more than \$60,000 including a generous Board match of \$30,000! We are grateful to our sponsors and guests who make this event possible every year.

*"The work of the Fund for Education Abroad, and the work to which I have devoted my career, has been driven by addressing the historical inequities in higher education that have prevented minority students from study abroad. Your advocacy, fundraising, and mentoring removes the academic and financial barriers that make it harder for students to study abroad. We know how important these opportunities are for our students and to create a more just and peaceful world. It is up to each one of us to work every day to ensure that there are no more dreams deferred or dreams denied in international education."* - FEA's 2022 Fritz Kaufmann Champion Dr. LaNitra Berger

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## The Fritz Kaufmann Award

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A lawyer by training, journalist and professor of economics, Professor Fritz Kaufmann fled his native Austria during World War II ultimately, settled in the United States. In 1948 he created The Marshall Plan Action, a 250 member study abroad tour Europe to evaluate political economic effects Plan. His personal experience war its devastating impact inspired lifelong devotion advancing cross-cultural understanding through international educational travel, multicultural awareness language leading founding Association Academic Travel Abroad 1950. A lawyer by training, journalist and professor of economics, Professor Fritz Kaufmann fled his native Austria during World War II ultimately, settled in the United States. In 1948 he created The Marshall Plan Action, a 250 member study abroad tour Europe to evaluate political economic effects Plan. His personal experience war its devastating impact inspired lifelong devotion advancing cross-cultural understanding through international educational travel, multicultural awareness language leading founding Association Academic Travel Abroad 1950. Austria during World War II and ultimately, settled in the United States. In 1948 he created The Marshall Plan in Action, a 250 member study abroad tour of Europe to evaluate the political and economic effects of the Marshall Plan. His personal experience of the war and its devastating impact inspired a lifelong devotion to advancing cross-cultural understanding through international educational travel, multicultural awareness and language training, leading to the founding of the Association of Academic Travel Abroad in 1950.

FEA honors his legacy, awarding the Fritz Kaufmann Award each year at its Annual Gala to an individual who embodies his resilience and dedication to advancing cross-cultural understanding.



**LaNitra M. Berger**  
**The 2022 Fritz Kaufmann Awardee**

LaNitra M. Berger is an award-winning scholar, educator, and social justice advocate working towards making higher education accessible to low-income, first-generation, and minority students. Her scholarly interests are in art and social activism in the African and Jewish diasporas. For over 15 years, her work as an educator has focused on creating and expanding education abroad opportunities for underrepresented students, particularly in international education. As a social justice advocate, she supports student activism through her teaching, advising, public speaking, and research.



**Malú Alvarez**  
**The 2023 Fritz Kaufmann Awardee**

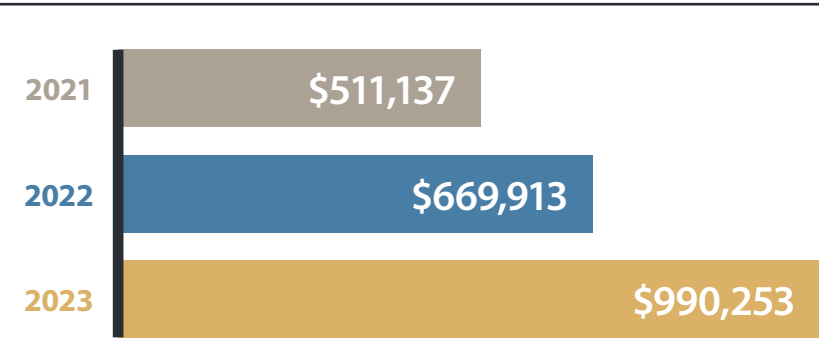
Malú Alvarez is a Mexican-American photographer based in Austin, Texas, and New York City. Building on her multicultural heritage, international education, and passion for seeing the world, Malú focused her photography career on culture and travel. With shoots from Montenegro to the Sahara, West Bengal to Bora Bora, her portfolio boasts a kaleidoscope of countries, people and colors, with collaborations on behalf of The New York Times, The New Yorker, Travel + Leisure, and non profits including School Year Abroad.



# BUDGET & FINANCIALS

FEA is a fully philanthropic organization, and recognizes our work could not be done without the generosity of our donors.

## Contributions & Revenue

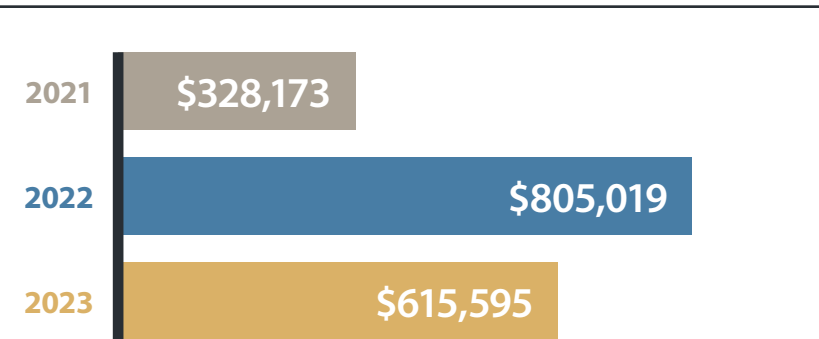


AVERAGE

**250 donors**  
per year

**40% donor**  
retention

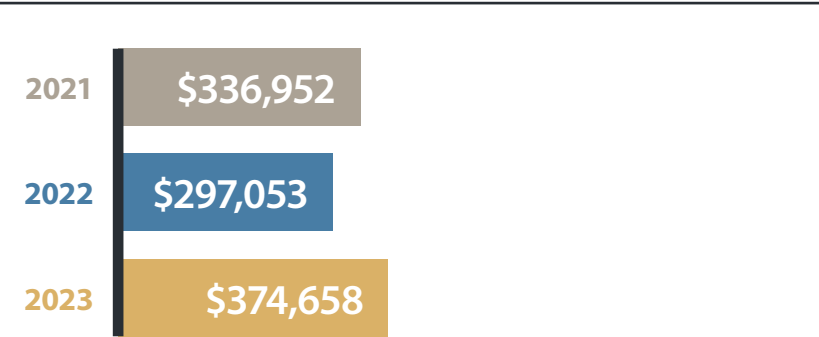
## Grants Awarded



**20 named**  
scholarships

[VIEW LIST HERE](#)

## Operating Expenses



“I support FEA because I strongly believe that the more students study abroad and understand and care for other cultures, the better off the entire world will be.”

### NOTES

2021

Many scholarships deferred to following year.

2022

First audited financials. Scholarships higher due to deferred awards from 2020-2021.

2023

Audit in progress.



# THANK YOU MESSAGE

## FEA Staff



Angie Schaffer  
Executive Director



Joelle Leinbach  
Program Manager



Kaylee Henderson  
Program Coordinator

**I am humbled to serve as FEA's Executive Director, and to have been entrusted with stewarding the organization in its second decade as a change-making force in the study abroad landscape. As a first-generation college graduate, I was fortunate to experience firsthand the life-changing power and impact of international education through my own study abroad experiences. The support that FEA provides our applicants and scholars—before, during, and after study abroad—is crucial in making U.S. study abroad more inclusive, inviting, and accessible.**

The past three years were indeed a time of great transition for FEA. I am grateful to our previous ED Jennifer Calvert Hall and former Program Manager Lyndsi Jones, FEA staff & interns, our Access Partners, and our Board of Trustees for their guidance as we charted a course through the effects of the pandemic. And, of course, for the dedication of our donors, whose support has allowed us to continue offering life-changing scholarships to students during these uncertain times. Never have flexibility, understanding, and patience seemed more relevant as we navigated changes in both our organizational plans and our work with FEA Scholars. We look towards 2024 and beyond by taking stock of where FEA is and where we want to be. We're excited to develop a new strategic plan, centering equity and access in all we do as a small mission-driven organization. We continue to remove barriers to study abroad in our own operations and systems. Our adherence to JEDI principles goes beyond our approach to scholarship administration: As a JEDI-driven non-profit—and the only philanthropically-funded nationwide study abroad scholarship program—we commit to sustainable, inclusive, and just practices when we select vendors for events, source goods for swag, and consider FEAtured speakers and awardees. We look to our stakeholders (that's you!) and 1000+ FEA Scholars and Alumni to inform our work and inspire us in the paths we take to make study abroad possible for ALL students who seek it.

Angela Schaffer  
FEA Executive Director

## AWARDS

FEA is a Candid-Guidestar Platinum participant and was awarded the 2023 Organizational Champion Award by Diversity Abroad, the 2020 Innovation in Diversity Award by GoAbroad.com, the 2019 Scholarship Provider of the Year Award by the National Scholarship Providers Association, the 2015 Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion in International Education (EDIIE) Award by Diversity Abroad, and the 2015 Innovation in Philanthropy Award by GoAbroad.com.



# FEA ACCESS PARTNERS

**FEA Access Partners engage in the FEA mission through annual support towards co-branded or allocated scholarships and receive sponsorship recognition. Access Partners also serve as members of the Access Advisory Board (AAB), providing critical leadership-level feedback on the Access Partner Program. Membership is renewed annually.**

The program has four goals:

- Engage Access Partners in the FEA mission to provide scholarships and ongoing support to students who are underrepresented among the U.S. study abroad population.
- Assist Access Partners in identifying high-need students of high potential they may struggle to identify through traditional recruitment.
- Increase the number of scholarships FEA provides annually by hosting Access Partner allocated or co-branded scholarships.
- Empower Access Partners to support high-performing, non-awarded students in the FEA pipeline with pre-determined incentives to further increase access.

In 2021, we awarded 20 deferrable FEA Access Partner Scholarships. FEA is proud to have worked with more than 15 Access Partners since 2019, and we look forward to adding more international education organizations and institutions as Access Partners in the future! Our partnership with Education in Ireland provides tuition waivers and scholarship funds for FEA Scholars to study in Ireland.

We are grateful for our Access Partners, and recognize that their support of FEA is just one of many ways that many of our APs promote more just, equitable, diverse and inclusive study abroad.



[EXPLORE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH FEA HERE](#)



Fund for  
Education Abroad

1155 Connecticut Avenue NW  
Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20036  
202.349.7340



## How to get involved

FEA's work is largely made possible thanks to the generous support of our community. This includes hundreds of dedicated volunteers who donate their time to review scholarship applications each cycle, and our Access Partners whose allocated and co-branded scholarships directly support our mission of increasing access to education abroad. Additionally, we are deeply grateful to our corporate partners and event sponsors who help make FEA Scholarships a reality for more than one hundred students each year.

**For more details on how you can get involved with FEA, please visit our website:**  
**[fundforeducationabroad.org](http://fundforeducationabroad.org)**