

# SANPIETRO TRAVEL PRIZE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION DIRECTIONS

Due 3pm, March 10, 2022

***Please follow these directions when preparing your application:***

- All application materials must be submitted as one continuous PDF
- Assemble your application in the order of the Bishop Checklist (available on FASA website)
- Title your application document First name.Last name (Sara.Smith)
- Type your name in the upper right-hand corner of every page of the proposal.
- Type the page number in the lower right-hand corner of every page of the proposal.
- Email all materials to the Fellowships Advising & Study Abroad Office:  
SAapplications@caltech.edu
- Reference forms and letters need to be emailed directly from the recommender, submitted to  
SAreferences@caltech.edu

Craig SanPietro, Caltech class of 1969, has generously endowed a summer travel prize open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Travel provided Mr. SanPietro with a new perspective and allowed him to broaden his horizons. In his words, "Since leaving Caltech in 1969, I have traveled through 50 countries, mostly in the third world. This travel has greatly enriched my life and I want to make similar experiences available to Caltech students. Hopefully, this travel can immerse you in unusual cultural and physical situations that challenge you and make you feel more alive." It is in this spirit that he wishes to share this opportunity with Caltech students.

The SanPietro Summer Travel Prize allows students to travel solo or as a pair to travel during the summer, in the **U.S. or abroad for two weeks to 12 weeks**. Travel cannot begin before the end of spring term and must be completed before the start of fall term. Students must spend at least 14 days on the ground, not including roundtrip travel (that means that the day you arrive and the day you leave do not count).

This travel is meant for fun, adventure, and to expand students' sense of the world during the summer after their sophomore, junior, or senior year. It can be a great follow-up to a summer research experience, before studying abroad in the fall, or as a summer experience on its own. The experience should be one that expands the applicant's horizons and challenges him or her. Note there is no limit on the number of countries visited nor are there any language skills required. There is no academic component to the proposal. Note students must be enrolled all 3 terms of the current academic year.

***Winners are REQUIRED to share their experiences with the Caltech community to help broaden the horizons of their fellow students. This applies to all winners, including graduating seniors. Continuing undergraduates must attend and speak at the January SanPietro Information Session following their SP travel. Graduating seniors who remain in the LA area must also attend this meeting. Those graduating seniors not residing in a convenient distance from Caltech, MUST write a detailed article on their SanPietro travels for the Tech published in the Fall term of the SP travel.***

**Travel can be done alone or with another Caltech student.** This means that two students can propose to travel together. However, **both members** of the pair must currently be Caltech students who meet the requirements for the prize. The applicants should clearly articulate how the experience will challenge them and expand their horizons in their joint essay, proposal, and itinerary. Each member of a pair must submit an individual application and 2 letters of reference. No one can combine references. The joint proposal should be written by both applicants (see directions below).

Adventurous travel is different for everyone. It does not have to mean hiking in the jungle or riding a camel across the Sahara. You can also take a road trip along the Mississippi River, a canoe trip in Vermont, travel to Ireland to discover the culture, or visit a remote location rarely traveled to, e.g. Siberia, Western China, Shetland Islands, etc. It is best to avoid travel to locations that you have traveled to before. See something new. We also caution against selecting a partner who is “along for the ride.” Choose a partner who is as eager to travel to the locations proposed as you are and who is willing to equally share in the planning of the trip and preparation of the application materials.

### **Applicant requirements:**

There is NO GPA REQUIREMENT and NO CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT, but students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing and enrolled during winter and spring term. **All students must be current Caltech sophomores, juniors, or seniors and must be enrolled all three terms of the current year. Early graduates or students on leave are ineligible. Applicants must be 18 years of age by application deadline. All students applying must be fully vaccinated with a WHO approved vaccine. (No religious or medical exceptions.) Winners will be required to receive a booster at least one month before departure if they have previously not received one yet. No exceptions to any requirements.**

Freshmen are not eligible for the SanPietro. Exchange students are ineligible. Alumni/are ineligible. Students in degree programs at other universities are ineligible.

Applicants cannot be on leave. Those who go on leave or are taking early graduation are ineligible to apply.

### **SanPietro Travel Prize rules** (please review these carefully!):

- Travel to visit friends/family is not permitted. Students may not stay with friends, relatives, or couch surf.
- The proposal may not fund travel to obtain a medical procedure, to do volunteer work, or to do research, etc. This prize is strictly for independent travel – not to pursue other goals.
- Students must spend at least 14 full days on the ground, not including arrival and departure days.
- Students must plan travel so that at the latest they are returning to the U.S. the Friday before Caltech classes resume.
- Students should not propose guided tours that are more than one-day long or unreasonably costly, i.e., not within the realm of student level travel. Students must plan and organize their own travel and not use travel agents.
- Students MAY NOT propose travel to countries that:
  - Do not have diplomatic relations with the U.S.
  - Do not allow independent, non-group unsupervised travel
  - Are sites of active conflicts/wars
  - Have serious civil unrest.
- If there is a travel warning or travel alert in any of the countries an applicant wishes to visit, the applicant must provide a copy of the alert or warning in the application AND discuss in the “Country Synopsis” section of the application how they are going to travel safely in that area or country. Make sure to check the U.S. State Department for any warnings or alerts at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html>.
- You may not request additional money from any other outside sources (Housner Fund, Studenski Award, offices such as Student Activities and Programs, etc.) or use personal funds beyond those stipulated below.
- Students are not allowed to rent cars or motorcycles.
- If applicants need any kind of visa for their travel, it must be described in their proposal. Awardees pay their own visa fees.

- If awarded, students must show proof of travel health insurance for their time abroad. This is not included in the requested budget.
- SanPietro Prize funds are to be used for the summer the recipient(s) are selected and not for any other time period. Travel must begin after the student's last final in June. If studying abroad on an official study abroad program, SanPietro travel must end before the start of the required arrival date for your program. All awardees must return to the United States from their travels the Saturday prior to the start of the fall term.
- All applicants must be enrolled all 3 terms of their senior or eligible year.
- If one recipient of a pair withdraws for any reason, both awardees forfeit the prize.
- The SanPietro cannot be used to fund research, social service projects, work, medical procedures, a conference, or be a part of another trip or any activity not directly related to the purpose of the prize. If a student is going abroad for research or work, e.g. CERN research, the Japan internship program, other internships, etc., that travel will **not** be awarded. This means that applicants cannot receive roundtrip travel to that destination. However, travel within that country or to a nearby country, would be funded. For example, if you are working in Japan and wish to travel to London, then that travel will not be paid. If you are working in Switzerland and wish to travel to Germany, that travel would be awarded. The SanPietro can be used to fund travel before or after that experience.
- Return travel must be to your U.S. permanent address or Caltech.
- All work must be the applicants own writing—Do not copy material from written or internet sources. Any ideas that are not your own should be properly cited giving the specific source and publication. **Plagiarism** of any kind will lead to disqualification at any stage pre-or post in the selection process. Cite sources accordingly and do not wholesale copy and paste.

### **Current Covid Requirements:**

1. **Only travel in one country + 1 adjacent country max during pandemic:** Travel in one country, max two with a shared land or river border is MANDATORY to lower infection and lock-down risk versus the max of two during the pandemic.
2. All countries must have 70%+ vaccination rate and stable or falling infection rate. Check NY Times World Covid Tracker: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-cases.html>
3. Students must sign an "Acknowledgement and Assumptions of Risk Form upon accepting the prize.
4. Winners must be prepared to make last minute changes in case of changing travel restrictions or rising health concerns.
5. Prize will be deferred up to one year max/one time for the following summer ONLY if the pandemic situation is safe for travel. Graduating seniors cannot defer.
6. Recipients will need to be able to show proof of full vaccination and booster at least one month before departure.
7. Cannot travel to a country that has a quarantine upon entry of more than 48 hours.

Students may use **personal funds** as outlined below:

- In **developing countries**, students proposing 2 to 4 week trips can spend up to \$300 per person(pp) and 5 to 7 week trips can spend \$500pp, and 8 to 12 week trips can spend up to \$600/pp.
  - In **developed countries** (including the U.S.), students proposing 2-4 week trips can spend up to \$600/pp, 5 to 7 weeks can spend up to \$800/pp and 8 to 12 week trips can spend up to \$900/pp.
- These funds are to be used for personal items not covered by the SanPietro such as: a special meal, Internet fees, cell phone chargers, souvenirs, social activities, etc. All such items should be explained in the proposed budget.

The SanPietro cannot be an "add-on" to other personal travel or to travel motivated by another reason or purpose, e.g., summer research, trip to see friends, to pursue a hobby or personal goal in the proposed travel

locations. For example, wanting to tick one more mountain off your “mountains climbed list,” going to a place where you want to visit family and friends, pursuing a job, internship, or research immediately before or after your SP travel,

See Budget section for more information.

**\*\* Please note that after completion of your travel, all continuing students who are prize recipient(s) must attend and present at the SanPietro information meeting in January. Graduating seniors are encouraged to do this however if work or graduate school duties make travel difficult, such recipients may fulfill this obligation by submitting a well-written article to the Tech by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, all recipients of the prize must submit a detailed report of their trip and required receipts within 14 days of their return.** There are samples of proposals and reports available in the FASA library for review.

All articles must be approved by the Director of Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad in order to qualify.

**Students who fail to adhere to the rules above will have to return all prize monies.**

### **Application Procedure**

#### **1. SanPietro Summer Travel Prize Application Form per applicant.**

#### **2. Essay for All Applicants**

Write an essay, up to 1 page, single-spaced, that outlines the trip, articulates why you have selected these specific destinations, and what you hope to get out of the experience. Also highlight what skills or traits you possess that will help on your journey. Pairs and solo travelers must adhere to the 1-page limit (**one essay per application**).

Describe your personal motivation for this trip. Why do you want an adventurous travel experience? Why did you choose this itinerary? If you are with a partner, why are you choosing to travel together? If you are traveling solo, why? What experience, if any, do you have with independent travel? How do you think this trip will impact your life? How is this travel *adventurous for you*? If you are traveling to a developing country, how will you be able to handle the associated challenges? First time travelers are welcome to apply!

Essay for Pair Travelers:

If you are planning on travelling as a pair, each applicant must provide an additional essay written without your partner’s input explaining why each of you is choosing to travel with your partner specifically. Explain why you are selecting to travel with this person, what traits and experience your partner has that you think will compliment yours for your proposed SanPietro journey, what characteristics or experience make this individual a strong travel partner for you and what could present challenges in your partnership, e.g., you are an early riser and they like to sleep in. Write this without consulting or collaborating with the other person. In other words, the essay must be written independently, and each person must provide one. The essay must be at least half a page long, no more than one page, single-spaced.

#### **3. Travel Proposal**

Provide a Travel Proposal explaining destinations, activities, and rationale. This proposal should be a max of 4 pages (single spaced) for trips that are 2-4 weeks long. Itineraries for trips that are 4+ weeks long have a max of 8 pages. Longer is not necessarily better!

For example:

*Sept 1-2, Chawton, England: We will spend 2 days in the small town of Chawton to visit the home of Jane Austen as well as take a tour of a local distillery. We are both avid readers of Ms. Austen's books, and the distillery is a large part of the local economy. We also hope to spend an evening or two at the Seven Bells pub, which has been open since 1659. We will stay at the Alton Grange, a local B&B and then take the train south to Cornwall on the morning of Sept. 3.*

Or:

*June 20, Lima, Peru: Having arrived the previous day, I will use this day to settle into my hostel and begin exploring the city. I will walk through the neighborhood I am staying in, the Barranco District, an artsy enclave with art galleries and lots of colonial architecture. I will visit the MAC, the contemporary art museum, or the Museo Pedro de Osma, then walk back along the Bajada de los Baños to watch the sunset over the beach.*

The travel proposal should follow the page limits listed above, and not be programmed down to the minute. This is a general outline of each day and location. Students should not cut and paste descriptions from websites, nor should they fill the proposal with photos.

You must include a map or two showing the trip's route to clarify the itinerary (make sure it's legible).

The proposal should be feasible yet exciting and should reflect the applicants' genuine interest in and research into the location. If certain steps need to be taken before departure, such as getting a visa, this should be described at the beginning of the proposal.

Itineraries should be created with the view that this is what you will follow. Make sure you know the major sights in the area, what you definitely want to see and do, and what places you are not comfortable visiting. Last minute changes are only approved under exceptional circumstances.

#### **4. Cost Breakdown**

This cost breakdown shows the locations, dates, and associated costs for your trip. Items should be listed in the local currency and also converted to US dollars. Exchange should be calculated within 2 weeks of the SanPietro deadline. Amounts should be rounded up to the dollar.

#### **5. Budget**

In addition to the cost breakdown by location, you must complete a categorized total budget for airfare, meals, accommodation, activities and transportation. Please refer to the budget form.

The SanPietro will only fund airfare between the student's home or Caltech and destination (whichever is less) and will not fund airfare from other summer activities to SanPietro start-point destinations. Note that if the traveler(s) will be abroad already (e.g., doing research in CERN in Switzerland) or intend to be abroad after the SanPietro travel, (e.g., for a study abroad term), the budget MAY NOT contain a request for roundtrip airfare to and from the U.S., but may contain land (train, bus) travel costs between destinations abroad. Applicants departing from their homes or Caltech should then include airfare to and from (or within, for domestic proposals) the U.S. Frequent Flyer miles can be used towards airfare.

Here are some examples of items:

- Funded by SanPietro
- Meals
- Accommodation
- Airfare, rail, or bus travel – list separately by destination
- Tickets to sporting events, museums, tours, exhibitions or other activities that are a **central part of the experience**

Not Funded by SanPietro

- Visa and Passport costs
- Inoculations/vaccinations
- Camera

- Cell phones, phone cards, personal calls, Wi-Fi travel hotspots, etc.
- Souvenirs
- Social activities such as bars or club

**Additional Notes**

- Travel does not have to have a theme but could. This is not a *project*, but rather independent travel.
- Students should be aware that a fluctuating exchange rate could significantly affect their travel plans!
- Note that lodging in hostels or bed & breakfasts is usually quoted per person and not per room.

**6. Health resources and copies of two travel insurance policies** that you are looking at enrolling into for your time abroad. You must include the coverage details and the calculated cost to cover your proposed trip. The policies must include emergency and urgent care in the country you will be, as well as medical evacuation coverage with a minimum of \$50-100,000. It could also be a personal health policy if it meets the required international coverage. Up to \$200 will be provided if a student's health insurance does not have emergency evacuation coverage. Students must also provide details and information regarding health resources, for example if students require to have a negative Covid test after arrival, where/what approved site will you go to complete that requirement, etc.

**7. Country Specific Synopsis:** Include a summary that lists entry requirements such as any visas or vaccinations you are required to obtain independently beforehand, state seasonal weather threats for the area you are travelling to, language(s) spoken in the country/areas you are traveling, is there a mask mandate, any Covid testing or quarantine entry requirements, as well as detail any travel advisories the country may have listed on the Travel.State.gov site: (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>).

**8. Transcript** – Unofficial transcript may be submitted.

**9. Two SanPietro Reference Forms and reference letters** from faculty, employers, administrators, etc. are required. References should focus on the student's capacity for growth through travel, personal qualities that would enhance a student's ability to have a successful travel experience, as well as any other qualities the writer deems relevant to the application. If applying as a pair, applicants must submit 2 references each. Joint references are not allowed.

**10. Optional Peer Reference** from a friend at Caltech or another university. You may not submit letters from relatives.

### **Tips from previous SanPietro winners:**

- Don't underestimate food, transportation, or lodging costs.
- Don't try to include too many activities in one day – keep a decent pace so you can enjoy yourself.
- Don't try to go to too many places in your trip – it is better to see 3 places in depth than the surface of 8 places. Also, you will need some flexibility in your itinerary for unseen circumstances (weather, sore feet, something better came up, etc.)
- Do find something that you're very enthusiastic about. It's a lot easier to write the proposal about something that really connects with who you are, than to make up reasons why you want to visit a particular place. Be honest and show why your travels will help you grow.
- Don't just go to all the usual destinations – get off the beaten path!
- Don't choose a travel partner just because you want *someone* with you. It is not desirable when one person is motivating the trip. The travel plan should be developed together, and both partners should be excited about the trip.
- Do make sure to budget time for the extensive research that will go into your proposal.
- Don't underestimate the advice of seasoned travelers! People who have traveled where you're traveling are a great source of information (but don't let their biases become yours).

### **Below is an overview of Mr. SanPietro's own travel and comments on why he has endowed this exciting prize:**

1971: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama; 1972: Peru, Bolivia; 1974: Antigua, Guadeloupe, Dominica; 1975: Canada; 1976: Japan; 1977: Egypt; 1978: Kenya, Tanzania; 1981: Holland, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal; 1983: England; 1984: Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti; 1986: Venezuela, Brazil, Paraguay; 1991: Portugal, Spain; 1994: Jamaica, 1995: Italy; 2000: Israel, Jordan; 2005: Ireland; 2007: Argentina, Turkey; 2008: Thailand, Cambodia; 2009: Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary; 2010: Colombia; 2011: Dominican Republic, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; 2012: Cuba.

*"Award decisions should be based more upon the potential for broadening the students' cultural experiences than relevance to academic coursework, and some preference should be given to cultures more different from America's. Since leaving Caltech in 1969, I have traveled through 50 countries, mostly in the third world. This travel has greatly enriched my life and I want to make similar experiences available to Caltech students. Hopefully, this travel can immerse you in unusual cultural and physical situations that challenge you and make you feel more alive.*

*I've driven to Panama, been held up in Mexico City, had a bus driver handcuffed and arrested in the Yucatan, driven through rivers in Honduras, been married in Peru, fixed dead-in-the-water steamship engines on the Amazon, been arrested myself at gunpoint in Brazil, gambled in Paraguay, blown out 2 tires in a dry river bed in Kenya and been charged by an elephant later the same day, body surfed in Indonesia, bent fenders in Dominica and Italy, guided lost taxi drivers in Japan and Uzbekistan, walked across fields of compressed human feces in Nepal, locked myself out of my car in Sri Lanka, been stranded in the Delhi airport, capsized a raft in New Zealand white water, temporarily lost my daughter in Spain, slept in a Turkish hotel carved out of rock, broke Ramadan fasting with Kurdish dissidents who had guided me past army tanks, almost flooded a Guatemalan village while working with Caltech students, picked the liquor cabinet lock on a Danube river boat, and attended Jewish Sabbath services in Uzbekistan."*