

Bishop Summer Study Abroad Prize

Description and Application Directions

Application Deadline: **March 01, 2026**

Turn all materials into the FASA Office via email listed below.

Please follow these directions when submitting your application:

- All application materials must be submitted as one continuous PDF
- Assemble your application in the order of the Bishop Checklist (available on the FASA website)
- Title your application document name – Bishop Application (e.g. Sara Smith – Bishop Application)
- Put your name in the upper right-hand corner of each page of the proposal.
- Put the page number in the lower right-hand corner of each page of the proposal.
- Email all materials to the FASA office: SAapplications@caltech.edu
- Reference forms and letters need to be sent from the recommender to SAreferences@caltech.edu.

The Amasa Bishop Prize funds students to study abroad during the summer months in an **organized** study abroad program for two up to ten weeks. Programs should be run by reputable universities, non-profit or private-sector organizations. No independent, self-designed study or research is eligible nor does this prize fund internships. The Amasa Bishop Prize was established by the Bishop family in honor of Dr. Amasa Bishop, who graduated from Caltech with a B.S. in physics in 1943. Dr. Bishop served as Chief of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Controlled Thermonuclear Branch and went on to become the Atomic Energy Commission's European Scientific representative. This prize honors Dr. Bishop's understanding of the need for scientists and engineers to gain exposure to international issues and cultures.

Previous winners have spent two weeks studying the language and culture in the changing technological landscape of Japan, six weeks immersed in French life, and four weeks exploring the natural wonders and underlying geology of Tibet and Nepal. Examples and old awards info is available in the FASA Library and can be reviewed during regular office hours.

Applicant Requirements:

- Current Freshmen, Sophomores, or Juniors with a 2.8 and above GPA and must be enrolled at Caltech for the winter and spring term of the current academic year. *Remember that some academic programs may have higher GPA requirements.*
- Applicants must be in good standing – no disciplinary problems or ongoing issues.
- Applicants may not be on leave from Caltech for the current year or fall following the summer program abroad.
- U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and international students may apply. Applicants cannot study in a country in which they hold citizenship or are a permanent resident. Exchange students are not eligible.
- Students must be at least 18 years old at time of application.
- Only individuals may apply (no pairs).

What the Bishop Prize Covers:

Roundtrip airfare, all tuition fees and living expenses as proposed in the student's budget request (see application procedures below), up to the maximum amounts specified \$7,500. The Bishop Prize covers all approved costs after a winner(s) is selected. No expenses are ever reimbursed or refunded to students for any application fees, program deposits, or other registration costs if made before the winners are selected.

Within this budget, applicants can request funds for travel within the country of their study program. The awarding of such additional funds is at the discretion of the selection committee. Bishop-funded personal travel may requested and take place after the study program for up to five days total, not including departure day. These days do not need to be consecutive (*total travel cannot exceed five days and must be within the chosen country of the study program*), nor do they include formal trips arranged by the study abroad program or weekend trips during the period of study sponsored by the program. In lieu of or in combination with funds for travel before or after, students can request funds for independent weekend trips that are not part of the official program.

We do not guarantee funds for travel. You may propose weekend trips or up to five days of travel after your program ends, but it may or may not be awarded. A complete and detailed budget that breaks down the cost of the program into components such as tuition, fees, meals covered, additional meal costs, estimated round-trip travel, and books is required. See detailed application information below.

Bishop funds cannot be used to pay elective personal costs such as cell phone rental or charges or to purchase equipment such as cameras, travel guides, etc. Bishop funds do not cover costs associated with the following: visas, passports, inoculations, health insurance, souvenirs, etc. Airport transfer transportation funds may be granted if funds allow. Some programs offer transport for a fee to the program and sometimes for the return. Applicants may include this, but if the price is out of line with a dedicated airport to city bus or train or a taxi or similar service, it may not be granted. Check prices on airport to program site travel instead of automatically booking travel through the program.

Travel after the program funded by the Bishop should be done independently. All travel funded by the Bishop Prize should be for the purpose of self-education and students are expected to return to Caltech no later than the day prior to the first day of Fall term instruction.

Program Requirements:

1. Applicants may only apply for formal programs – no independent study is allowed. The Bishop Prize can only be used for classroom based or structured learning study abroad programs sponsored by bona fide universities, language schools (e.g., Languages Abroad — <http://www.languagesabroad.com>), or non-profit education agencies such as the Institute for International Education (see the IIEPassport link above).

2. Programs must be academic, have at least four hours of daily academic activities, e.g., classes, fieldtrips, lectures, etc., including at least 50% language instruction. Program must have at least 10 weekdays of instruction, not counting the arrival and departure days. Language study must be a component of the program in countries in which English is not one of the official languages. Exceptions will be made for archaeology-related programs. Also, some field programs or science/technology programs are permitted if a cultural and language component is part of the program. Students may study in an English-speaking country, but the program must have a strong cultural component to their program, e.g., be taking classes in literature, politics, history, etc., of that country.

Language study must be offered and administered by a program – not self-arranged tutoring. Daily language study is preferred, but if a student is taking several other classes, a minimum of eight hours of instruction per week is required. If language study is the focus, at least four daily hours of active instruction are required.

3. Students may combine two programs in a country or if they need to add a language component to another program. But, they must have at least 10 hours a week of language instruction at a time that does not interfere with their other program. The language program must run concurrently with the other program. It cannot be virtual. Such costs must be within the maximum budget rules.
4. Students may not do internships that are equivalent to work experience and work in for-profit organizations. Some programs offer a field or applied component that is more akin to a structured learning experience should submit a complete hard copy description as part of their application and clearly describe what the field or experience entails and clearly indicate why this aspect of the proposed program is academic in nature and not a work experience.
5. The Bishop Award cannot be used to fund work, research, self-designed study programs, or volunteer work.
6. Faculty-let programs run by U.S. universities are not allowed
7. The study program must be in one country only.
8. The Bishop Award cannot be held in conjunction with a Caltech SURF, unless the study period is before or after the SURF or your mentor allows the applicant to take a leave from research for the study period. Applicants should explain this in their proposal and obtain an email or letter from their SURF mentor explaining the terms of the leave.
9. Students may propose travel for a maximum of 5 days after the program ends. Students may request funds for weekend travel arranged by the program or day trips within the program city, which will not count towards the 5 day after trip maximum. Any Bishop funded travel must be done in the country in which you choose to study. Any independent travel proposed and awarded must be solo travel. Students are not allowed to join friends and travel with them with prize funds or personal funds.

10. The proposed program must provide housing organized by the program. Housing can be in dormitories, home stays, apartments, or hotels. Housing arranged by the student will not be allowed. Homestays must be organized through the official program. No housing with relatives or friends.
11. Students may not solicit or obtain funding from any other funding source to fund any aspect of their activities abroad as a Bishop Prize winner. Students may not use personal funds to contribute to tuition, any other program costs, apart from activities or day/weekend trips offered officially by the program and not proposed in their budget. Students may provide a maximum of \$500 to cover personal expenses, but those funds cannot be used for additional travel. Air miles may be used to supplement or pay for travel. Students may not combine the Bishop with funds from another grant or prize, e.g., the Studenski, Housner Fund, etc.
12. Some summer programs begin as early as late May, but these are not allowed, as study cannot conflict with the end of Caltech's third term. Programs must end in time for the student to return to Caltech one day prior to the start of the fall term.
13. Students may not apply to programs that require a language placement test to be admitted. Nor are they allowed to apply to programs in which they engage in any aspect of the program before the start of their Bishop. This includes pre-departure modules, a class during Caltech's term or applying to the program before the Bishop decisions are made.
14. The program may be in any country with level 1 or 2 on the travel advisories page by the Department of State. For a list of countries and their current advisory level, go to: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>.
15. Destination country must not require a quarantine upon arrival of more than 3 days.
16. The study program, aside from the language/cultural requirements, may have study in areas such as economics, public policy, environment, science or engineering, architecture, photography, fine arts, anthropology, sociology, psychology, or history. Courses in science, engineering, or mathematics are allowed provided they are secondary to the cultural component of the proposed study program.
17. While students cannot take classes for credit, they are required to take them for a grade or other assessed mark versus pass/fail, unless the classes are only taught pass/fail. A discussion of the grading must be made in their proposal with a list of the options from the program's website or email.
18. Bishop Prize holders are required to do weekly check-in's with the FASA Office during duration of their trip
19. At the completion of the trip and within 4 weeks of the end of the program, a report must be submitted detailing the experience that includes a detailed budget, description of the program, and activities. It is the responsibility of the prize winner to report what they did and what they learned from his or her time abroad. Examples of such reports can be found in the Fellowships and Study Abroad Library.

20. Winners will also be required to either participate in the Bishop Information Session the following year or write an article upon their return.
21. It is important to obtain cost information or estimates for the coming summer – do not base your budget on the previous summer's costs. Contact your prospective program to obtain the costs for this summer.
22. Airfare can be estimated based on an online search. Please provide an average of three airfares, i.e., not only the lowest airfare you find, because such fares may not be available come time of purchase. Take your airfares to the point prior to booking when estimating fares to make certain that taxes are included
Students must show in their budgets the exchange rate at the time of submission, as well a quote of the highest, lowest and average exchange rates over the past 12 months. Students should be aware that a fluctuating exchange rate can significantly affect their travel plans!

Application Procedures

1. **Bishop Check list** – link online
2. **Summary/Overview page** – link online
3. **Application Part I and Part II** – link online
 - These sections require the applicant to provide the name of the program, country and city of study, sponsoring organization/university, start and stop dates, fees, site of study, host university, type of living accommodations, etc.
 - If you are applying to 2 programs you must fill out Part II of the application twice once for each program
 - Detailed Budget Proposal Form is part of the, Application Part II and must be completed for each program
 - Additional independent travel after the program (max of 5 days) should be detailed and an itinerary submitted with a specific budget. Such travel may not be funded by the committee.
4. **Essay:** Describ why they are seeking this experience, your goals should reflect the ideals of Dr. Bishop and reflect in some way his interests in the importance of global interaction and experience, the environment, and his love of science. Applicants should also describe their proposed program of study, the number of weeks of the program's duration and what they hope to gain from the summer intellectually and personally. Applicants should comment on how the program will enhance or positively impact their academic and/or career goals
5. **Program Brochure:** Submit a copy of the program brochure or webpages that provides information on the program. Please limit this to 5 pages.
6. **Current transcript**
7. **Two letters of reference including reference form:** link online

- From Caltech faculty, lecturers, instructors, graduate TA's, postdocs, or administrators. Peer references or references from family or friends are not allowed.