



Middlebury College Sustainable Study Abroad Student Grants

Sustainable Study Abroad Grants of up to \$500 are available to students studying abroad through Middlebury College. Undergraduates studying at the Middlebury C.V. Starr Schools Abroad, as well as Middlebury students studying abroad on approved externally sponsored programs, are eligible for these grants.

Students should submit proposals that outline research or projects related to sustainability in which they will be participating during their semester abroad (see definition of sustainability below). **Grants may be used for research projects or participation in events or projects related to sustainability issues; this may include projects or research that look at ways of reducing the human impact on the environment, enhancing social well-being, or economic development that addresses the environment and/or social well-being.** A list of sample research projects/questions can be found on the application form, and a list of past grant recipients and their projects can be found on our web site. Grant recipients who are Middlebury undergraduates will be expected to present their projects back on campus; students from other institutions are also encouraged to seek out a venue on their home campus to present their projects.

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of faculty and staff and will be awarded on a competitive basis. To apply for this grant, students must submit a completed grant application form, which is signed and approved by a faculty member (and the program director abroad for students studying at Middlebury Schools Abroad).

Applicants will be required to submit a proposed budget for their projects. Grant recipients must submit receipts of expenditures for approval and reimbursement upon return (or in some cases in-country prior to returning home, at some Middlebury Schools Abroad).

Please note that sustainable study abroad projects must be undertaken in addition to a normal full course load; these projects cannot be done in lieu of a course abroad.

Sustainable Study Abroad Student Grants are co-sponsored by International Programs and Off-Campus Study and Environmental Affairs. Please contact Stacey Thebodo (sthebodo@middlebury.edu) in International Programs with any questions.

Sustainability projects aim to create “a delightfully diverse, safe, healthy, and just world, with clean air, water, soil and power - economically, equitably, ecologically and elegantly enjoyed.” (Wm. McDonough)



**Middlebury College
Sustainable Study Abroad Student Grants
APPLICATION FORM**

Name: _____ ID# _____

Program Abroad: _____ Country: _____

Major(s): _____ Phone: _____

Please describe on a separate sheet the sustainability project you are interested in pursuing abroad. Explain the expected outcomes of this project and what you hope to achieve. Please also include an estimate of the time you propose to spend on this project, as well as a budget, with a brief explanation of the expenses you expect to incur. In addition, describe what your final product will be (paper, audio story, video, web page, etc.).

Student Signature:

I agree to the terms of this grant and agree to present my project at Middlebury (if applicable) upon return.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Faculty or Program Director Section:

Is this student prepared to carry out the project described? Yes No (Circle one)

Do you support this project? Yes No (Circle one)

Please add any additional information that you think would be relevant for the selection committee to consider:

Faculty or Program Director Name (Please print): _____

Faculty or Program Director Signature: _____

Please submit completed applications to Stacey Thebodo: sthebodo@middlebury.edu

Sample Research Topics/Questions*

- 1) What is the average home size in the country/community where you are? How are homes constructed? How does it compare to US home sizes and what are the implications for sustainability?
- 2) Are there particular communities or organizations that are working on sustainability initiatives? What do those initiatives look like and what can we learn from them?
- 3) Is there a consciousness of the need for energy conservation? How is this manifested and what can be learned from it?
- 4) What do the people in the country where you are studying eat and from where does their food come? How does that compare to the US and what can be learned in terms of sustainability?
- 5) What does the health care system look like? Is there a traditional medicinal practice still in use? How does that practice depend on the natural environment and its conservation?
- 6) How are people in the country where you are studying generating power? How does that compare to the US and what can be learned in terms of sustainability?
- 7) How are media such as film, newspaper, theater, and/or music being used to educate about sustainability or the need for resource protection and conservation? How does that compare to the US?
- 8) What kinds of transportation do people use and how do they use it? How does that compare to the US and what can be learned in terms of sustainability?
- 9) What is the family structure like? How do families work together to consolidate resource use? How does that compare to the US and what can be learned in terms of sustainability?
- 10) What are innovative technologies that are being used in order to reduce energy consumption? How does that compare to the US and what can be learned in terms of sustainability?
- 11) Are children being educated about the need to be conscious of the earth's carrying capacity and their role in caring for the earth? How does that compare to the US and what can be learned in terms of sustainability?
- 12) How are local businesses taking leadership in their community to educate about the need for sustainably produced products? How does that compare to the US?
- 13) How is climate change and the reducing of CO₂ being addressed in this country or region of the world?
- 14) What is the CO₂ foot print of the study abroad office in the country in which you are studying? How could the CO₂ footprint of the study abroad office in the country in which you are studying be reduced?
- 15) How do poverty and inequality affect the potential for achieving sustainability in your host country?

* These sample topics are used with permission from Ithaca College's Global Footprint Grant.