



A Project Abroad on a Tight Budget? Freepackers is Here to Help

Since its creation, Freepackers has always incorporated training to stay informed about all financial aid options for international mobility. Our goal is to provide maximum information so that students and young people with limited resources can access international programs.

To help you finance and carry out your project abroad, here are some ideas, tips, and, most importantly, reliable and up-to-date tools and resources. Our team continuously monitors available options to make international experiences accessible to as many people as possible.

A Few Key Points:

- Fundraising or securing financial aid can take time. We encourage you to explore multiple options among those listed below and begin well in advance of your intended departure date (6 to 12 months beforehand).
- The funding process is an integral part of the project. Learning how to finance a project is already a step into the humanitarian field. This is a highly valued skill in the sector, requiring organization and perseverance.

The following topics will be covered in the Funding section:

- The Erasmus+ Program
- International Mobility Scholarships
- Corporate Sponsorship
- Youth Services Offered by Municipalities
- Paid Work Abroad (Working Holiday)
- Fundraising Ideas (Crowdfunding, Events, Rotary or Lions Clubs, Private Sponsors)

1. The Erasmus+ Program

a. Who Can Benefit from the Erasmus+ Program?

Erasmus+ is open to anyone pursuing studies, apprenticeships, work-study programs, or professional training, as well as those teaching, training, seeking employment, or wishing to become a volunteer abroad.

There is only one requirement: the stay must have a goal related to learning, training, or sharing experiences and knowledge.

Important: To benefit from the Erasmus+ program, you must contact an organization managing a project funded by the program. For example, a student must approach their institution (e.g., university) and apply through it to receive a grant.

b. Erasmus+ for Students

Who is eligible? All students enrolled in higher education programs, whether in traditional studies or work-study programs.

Universities are not the only institutions involved. All public and private higher education institutions offering Erasmus+ mobility options are eligible, such as business schools, engineering schools, agricultural institutes, art schools, music conservatories, high schools offering BTS courses, nursing schools, or apprenticeship training centers.

To apply, contact the international relations office of your institution, or, for BTS courses, the *Enseignant Référent pour l'Action Européenne et Internationale (ERAEI)* in your high school. They will guide you on partner institutions where you can study or on the steps to undertake for an internship abroad.

Key Information:

- Study or internship mobility opportunities are available starting in the first year of study.
- Mobility periods range from 2 to 12 months per study cycle.
- Destinations include EU member countries and, since 2021, any country in the world!
- Grants range between €460 and €750 per month for internships abroad, depending on the destination (amounts are set by each institution).

c. Erasmus+ for Young People and Professionals

If you are registered with a local employment mission, a job center (*Pôle emploi*), or an association, your supervising structure will facilitate access to Erasmus+ opportunities for internships in Europe. Since 2021, this also applies globally in the field of vocational education and training.

Anyone, regardless of status or qualification level, can benefit from Erasmus+ training opportunities.

For more information on Erasmus+, click here.

<https://agence.erasmusplus.fr/profils/vous-souhaitez-partir-a-letranger/>

2. Scholarships for International Mobility

a. Scholarships from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

If you are not participating in an exchange program (such as Erasmus), alternative financial aid options are available. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for instance, offers the *Univers Linguistic Scholarships* program, which provides funding to students at least two years into their higher education (*bac+2 level*) for internships abroad lasting between two weeks and six months.

b. International Mobility Aid

The International Mobility Aid is available to students wishing to pursue higher education or complete an internship abroad.

To apply, students must submit a request for mobility aid to their institution's international relations office. The duration of the study program or internship must be between 2 and 9 consecutive months.

For the 2022–2023 academic year, the aid amount is €400 per month. This aid is granted for a minimum of 2 months and a maximum of 9 months. Before departure, your institution will inform you of the total aid allocated to you. Throughout your higher education, you can receive mobility aid multiple times.

c. Scholarships for International Mobility from Regional Councils

Contact your Regional Council, which may offer co-funding for your mobility in Europe, depending on your status. Regions actively support youth mobility and collaborate with employment centers to analyze the job market and address in-demand professions.

Examples of Regional Scholarships:

- *Explo'ra Doc*: Mobility aid from the Rhône-Alpes region
- *Explo'ra Sup*: Mobility aid from the Rhône-Alpes region
- *Aquimob*: Mobility aid from the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region
- *Euroregional Scholarship*: For students from Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Euskadi, and Navarre
- *Regional Scholarship for Study and Internships Abroad*: Alsace
- *ERASMUS Scholarships*: Paris
- *Mobility Passport for Overseas Students*: DOM-TOM
- *Occitanie Regional Scholarship*
- *Poitou-Charentes Internship Scholarships*

Scholarship amounts vary between €300 and €1,000 per month, depending on social criteria and the project's destination.

By visiting etudiant.gouv.fr, students can learn about eligibility criteria for international mobility grants.

Explore regional mobility scholarships by downloading this document:

https://freepackers.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Bourses-Etudiants-France_1.pdf

3. Corporate Sponsorship

Creating an association, often within a group project context, allows participants to raise funds from individuals and companies. Donations can be collected through platforms like *Hello Asso*, which simplifies the management and financing of associative activities. Donations are tax-deductible, a compelling argument when seeking funds for organizing humanitarian trips.

Examples of Associations Created to Fund Humanitarian Projects:

- Bureau des Étudiants (BDE) in major schools or universities
- Sports associations, such as diving clubs engaging in marine conservation projects
- Associations promoting education and cultural exchange
- Parent-teacher associations

4. Youth Services Offered by Municipalities

Since 2017, Freepackers has collaborated with municipal youth services in the Paris region to create solidarity trips, offering young people from modest families the opportunity to participate in humanitarian projects abroad.

Over the past five years, 1–2 groups of young people (aged 15–20) have participated annually, under the guidance of municipal facilitators. These programs are fully funded by municipalities, and participants are selected based on their motivation, profile, and social criteria.

These initiatives hold special value as they democratize humanitarian action, provide young people with international exposure, and allow them to connect with peers worldwide.

Examples of Past Projects:

- **Argentina:** Youth from Trappes collaborated on a social project with Peruvian and Panamanian immigrants, organizing cultural workshops and football matches. This experience fostered strong bonds between individuals from geographically distant yet socially similar backgrounds, leaving a profound impact.
- **Tanzania:** Participants immersed themselves in Maasai communities and led workshops in local schools.
- **India:** The group contributed to renovating local infrastructure, beautifying a school, and organizing activities for children in Kochi. Facilitators reported moments of meaningful exchange, with participants feeling a sense of both giving and learning.

Families interested in these programs can inquire with their municipality's youth services. Numerous funded trips are organized every year, catering to diverse ages and interests.

5. Paid Activities

Another alternative to fund your stay abroad: the Working Holiday program.

a. Working Holiday Visa: Definition

The Working Holiday Visa allows you to travel and work for one year in a foreign country! No specific skills are required—just being between 18 and 30 years old makes you eligible for this visa in up to 16 countries worldwide.

The concept of the *Permis Vacances Travail* (the French term for Working Holiday) is primarily about financing your trip. By finding a job locally, you can quickly cover your flight and living expenses. However, the goal of a Working Holiday is not just about working for a year but also exploring a new country, learning a new language, meeting young people from around the globe, and experiencing a culture through immersion.

b. Programs to Find Work Abroad

Our partner Realstep specializes in professional experiences abroad. Seasonal jobs, training, and internships are available in over 30 destinations.

In Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, or South Korea, our local teams welcome participants and assist them in settling into the country: administrative formalities, housing, guided tours, and help finding a first job—everything is arranged to ensure your Working Holiday starts in the best possible conditions. Some programs even guarantee a job before departure!

Examples of Working Holiday Programs:

- **Australia:** After a one-week training, you'll begin [working on a farm](#). With food, lodging, and good pay provided from day one, you could save up to AUD \$10,000 in just three months! This gives you the financial freedom to explore the country to the fullest!
- **New Zealand:** [Working Holiday and English courses](#). After a one-week orientation in Auckland, you'll take English lessons while staying with a local host family to practice the language as much as possible. Seasonal jobs in New Zealand can earn you a minimum monthly salary of approximately €2,000.
- **Canada:** Work and Study in [Canada](#).
- **Japan:** Work and Study in [Japan](#).
- **South Korea:** Work and Study in South [Korea](#).

6. Top 5 Fundraising Actions

Whether you're working alone or as part of a group, there are many ways to raise funds to help you achieve your goal. We've gathered 10 ideas in this section.

1. Create an Online Fundraising Campaign

This is the first step in your fundraising process, and it's also the most important! You can create an online fundraising campaign on a crowdfunding platform and share your goals. Be sure to carefully craft your presentation, and if possible, include videos and all the elements that help showcase your project.

There are many crowdfunding platforms, but Wweeddoo or Globedreamers specialize in humanitarian projects and will guide you through every step to raise funds or find sponsors.

If you're part of a group, we recommend creating an association, appointing a president, treasurer, and secretary, and opening an account on Hello Asso. These steps are more involved but are less costly than an online campaign. Also, Hello Asso's platform encourages corporate sponsorships, which can allow businesses to reduce their taxes by up to 66% on their donations.

Once your project is online, you can share your story with the world and, most importantly, have a platform to reach out to your loved ones and potential sponsors to fund your project.

2. Media Campaigns

Now that your crowdfunding page is online, it's time to spread the word across all of your social media accounts. Post it in relevant groups, student associations, professional networks, or contact engaged influencers who are willing to share your message with their followers.

Another option is to request an interview with a local newspaper. Many student groups who traveled with Freepackers have shared press articles featuring their photos, project descriptions, and their online fundraising campaigns.

3. Contact Corporate Foundations

Search for and create a list of all companies that have a foundation, a philanthropic organization, or a social responsibility program. Many companies today claim to be committed to sustainable development and supporting social and environmental causes. Most have significant funds available to support humanitarian or solidarity initiatives.

Here are some recent statistics about corporate foundations:

- In France, 47% of corporate foundations were created after 2009. They are important players: two-thirds of corporate foundations spend over €200,000 per year, and a quarter of them exceed one million euros in spending. *Source: Le Monde*

How to Obtain Sponsorship: 8 Key Tactics!

1. Research potential sponsors.

2. Tell the story of your organization and present your project.
3. Offer incentives. Sponsors are looking for visibility.
4. Approach reliable and strong companies.
5. Use statistics and data to support your argument.
6. Find the right contact or department within the company.
7. Build a relationship with regular contacts.
8. Follow up!

4. Contact Private Foundations

- **Lions Club / Rotary Club**

Lions Club and Rotary Club foundations distribute funds and support projects in the following areas: youth, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, health, fighting hunger, education, and the environment.

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million community-minded individuals who believe in a world where people come together to take action and make a lasting impact.

Less elitist, Lions Clubs consist of mid- to senior-level professionals from small businesses, while Rotary Clubs mainly bring together business leaders and professionals.

Environmental and Humanitarian-Focused Foundations

Some private and philanthropic foundations offer grants for participation in environmental, animal, and social projects. Don't hesitate to contact them to present your project and inquire about their eligibility criteria for funding a project. Here are a few examples:

- **Foundation for Nature and Man**

The Foundation for Nature and Man, initially called the Ushuaïa Foundation and later the Nicolas Hulot Foundation for Nature and Man, is a French public utility foundation focused on raising awareness of environmental issues.

- **Brigitte Bardot Foundation**

Founded by Brigitte Bardot in 1986, this French foundation is dedicated to animal protection. It has been recognized as a public utility foundation since February 21, 1992, and operates both nationally and internationally.

We encourage you to consult online directories of foundations; there are more than 2,000 in France

5. Think Local!

a. Sports Challenges

Sign up for a race or sports competition and ask your friends and family to donate to support your participation. Another option is to organize a trash collection event and ask donors to contribute per trash bag filled. The possibilities are endless, so let your creativity flow!

b. Organize Events

A group of nursing students from St. Etienne hit the jackpot by organizing a one-day hike. With a participation fee of €5 per person, they raised €7,000 in one day—almost all the funds needed to finance their internship in Thailand!

Other events such as raffles or quiz nights can also be organized with a participation fee. Remember to approach local businesses or shops to ask them to sponsor prizes for the winners!

c. Partner with a Restaurant

Present your project to nearby restaurants or find a local restaurant owner who agrees to donate a portion of the proceeds from meals ordered during an event. This is a great way to invite your friends and family and boost your fundraising efforts!

d. Donations as Gifts

Take advantage of special occasions like Christmas, birthdays, or holidays to ask your friends and family to donate instead of buying you a gift this year.

e. Sell Your Stuff

Clothes, books, games, and other accessories that have been sitting in your closet for years can bring in some extra cash during a yard sale or through second-hand selling platforms (Vinted, Le Bon Coin, etc.). If you don't have enough items, encourage your friends and family to donate their books and declutter while raising money!

f. Collect Miles

Airplane tickets are a significant cost of an international project. Reach out to your travel-savvy friends—some might be willing to help by donating their frequent flyer miles. A great way to reduce travel costs!

g. Use Your Talents

Put your skills to work! If you're good at photography, you can organize an exhibition to sell your photos, create a calendar, or offer portrait sessions in exchange for a small donation. Get creative and use your talents to reach your goal.

h. The Classic: Bake Sales

Everyone knows how to make pancakes, yogurt cake, or cookies. Whether at university, during a flea market, a fair, or within a company, selling baked goods or treats is always a reliable option!

Conclusion: The Power to Act is Within Everyone's Reach!

Embarking on a sustainable development project, whether solo or as a group, requires significant resources. Unlike a tourist trip, traveling with an impact requires logistics, supervision, equipment, and a solid structure. This is the minimum to ensure that missions are long-lasting, managed by specialists, and conducted in collaboration with local communities.

Financing a humanitarian trip is an integral part of the project. Just like the field experience, it's a learning process. You have a goal—now, you need to find the means to achieve it. And the good news is that it's achievable! The keys to success? Anticipation, planning, research, and perseverance.

We send hundreds of students and young people on projects every year, and they all manage to put together the resources they need to make their dreams a reality.

So, why not you?

Got a question? The Freepackers team is here to help!



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