



# FINANCING SUPPORT FREEPACKERS



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## HOW TO FUND YOUR PROJECT?

### A project abroad on a small budget? Freepackers is here to help!

Since its creation, Freepackers has always built in training to stay on top of every **funding option for international mobility**. Our goal is to provide as much information as possible so that students and young people with limited resources can access international programmes.

To help you fund and carry out your project beyond borders, here are ideas, advice and above all **reliable, up-to-date tools and resources**. Our team is constantly on the lookout for every option, to make international experiences accessible to as many people as possible.

### A few important points:

Raising funds or finding financial aid can take time. We encourage you to **explore several avenues** among those we suggest, and to start well ahead of your planned departure date (between 6 and 12 months).

The funding process is an integral part of the project. **Knowing how to fund a project already means having one foot in the humanitarian sector!** It is a sought-after skill in this field, one that requires organisation and perseverance.

## The ERASMUS+ Programme

### Who can benefit from the Erasmus+ programme?

Anyone pursuing studies, an apprenticeship, work-study or training, anyone who teaches or trains, is looking for work or wishes to volunteer can go abroad with Erasmus+. There is only one requirement: **the stay must have a learning, training or knowledge- and experience-sharing objective.**

Please note: to benefit from Erasmus+, you must apply through an organisation running a project funded by the programme. For example, a student should contact their institution (e.g. their university) and apply through it to receive a grant.

### Erasmus+ for students

**Which students is Erasmus+ for?** All students enrolled, in initial training or work-study, at a higher-education institution. Universities are not the only ones concerned: **all public and private higher-education institutions offer Erasmus+ mobility** – for example business schools, engineering schools, agronomy institutes, art schools, music conservatoires, secondary schools offering BTS courses, nursing training institutes and apprentice training centres.

To apply, contact the **International Relations office of your institution**, or the Lead Teacher for European and International Action. They will point you to partner institutions where you can study, or the steps to take to go on a work placement.

### Good to know:

- Study or placement mobility is possible from the first year of study.
- Mobility periods last from 2 months up to a maximum of 12 months per study cycle.
- You can go to EU member states and, since 2021, to any country in the world!
- You may receive a grant of between €460 and €750 per month for a placement abroad depending on the destination (the amount is set by each institution).

## Erasmus+ for young people and professionals

If you are registered with a local youth employment agency, a public employment office or a community organisation, it is **through your support organisation that you can access a company placement in Europe**. Since 2021, the programme has opened to countries worldwide for the vocational education and training sector.

Anyone can benefit from Erasmus+ training periods, whatever their status or qualification level.

[\*\*FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ERASMUS+\*\*](#)

### Grants for international mobility

## Grants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

If you are not travelling as part of an exchange scheme such as Erasmus, alternative financial aid is available. Ministries of Foreign Affairs, for example, offer **grants** to undergraduates and graduating students to do a work placement abroad lasting from 2 weeks to 6 months.

## Regional Council grants for international mobility

Contact your **Regional Council**, which, depending on your status, may co-fund your mobility within Europe. **The regions support youth mobility** and work with employment offices to analyse the job market and occupations in high demand.

Grant amounts can vary **between €300 and €1,000 per month** depending on social criteria and the destination of the project.

## Sponsorship & Patronage

Setting up a non-profit association — often done in the context of a group project — allows participants to **raise funds from individuals and companies**.

Calls for donations can be run through an online platform, which helps manage and fund community activities. **Donations are tax-deductible** — a genuine argument when raising funds to organise a humanitarian trip.

### Examples of associations created to raise funds for a humanitarian project:

- Student unions of Business schools, Engineering schools or universities
- Sports associations — for example, divers who want to get involved in a marine conservation project
- Associations promoting education and cultural exchange
- Parents' associations

## Work Abroad programs

### The Working Holiday Visa

The Working Holiday Visa lets you **travel and work for 1 year in a foreign country!** No skills are required — you simply need to be **between 18 and 30 years old** to be eligible for this visa in no fewer than **16 countries worldwide**. The idea behind the **Working Holiday Visa** is above all **to be able to fund your trip**. By finding a job locally, you can quickly cover your flights and living costs.

### Secure your job before you leave

**Our partner RealStep specialises in work abroad experiences.** Seasonal jobs, training courses and internships are available in more than 30 destinations.

In Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan and South Korea, **local teams welcome participants and help them settle in** – administrative procedures, accommodation, guided tours, help finding a first job... everything is in place to start your Working Holiday in the best conditions. Some programmes even guarantee a job before departure!

### A few examples of Working Holiday programmes:

After one week of training, you'll start [working on a farm in Australia](#). With food and accommodation provided and good pay from day one, your savings can reach up to AUD \$10,000 in 3 months! Plenty to make the most of the country!

[Working Holiday + Japanese course in Tokyo](#). After a week orientation, you'll take Japanese classes and you will be guided through the administrative procedures to get a work permit. You can earn around €2,000 per month in a seasonal job in Japan.

**Canada:** [Seasonal jobs in Canada](#)

**South Korea:** [Work and Study in South Korea](#)

## Fundraising ideas

Whether alone or in a group, there are many ways to raise funds to help you reach your goal. We've gathered 10 of them in this section.

### 1. Create an online fundraiser

This is the first step of your fundraising – and the most important one! You can **create an online fundraiser on a crowdfunding platform** and share your goals. Take care with the presentation: if possible, include videos and anything that helps present your project.

There are many online fundraising (crowdfunding) platforms, but **Wweeddoo and Globedreamers specialise in humanitarian projects** and will guide you through every step of raising funds or finding sponsors.

If you're a group, we recommend setting up an association, appointing a president, a treasurer and a secretary, and **opening an account on Hello Asso**. The process is more involved but cheaper than an online fundraiser. Also worth knowing: Hello Asso facilitates corporate sponsorship, allowing companies to **deduct up to 66% of their donation from their taxes**.

Once your project is online, you can share your story with the whole world – and above all you'll have a platform for reaching out to friends, family and potential sponsors to fund your project.

### 2. Media campaigns

Now that your crowdfunding page is live, it's time to **share it across all your social media accounts**. Post it in relevant groups, student associations and professional networks, and/or reach out to socially engaged influencers willing to pass your message on to their followers.

Another option: request an **interview in a local newspaper**. Many student groups who travelled with Freepackers have shared press articles featuring their photo, a description of their project and their online fundraiser.

### 3. Contact corporate foundations

Search for and draw up a list of all the companies that promote a foundation, a philanthropic arm or a corporate social responsibility policy. **Many companies today claim commitments to sustainable development and to supporting social and environmental causes.** Most have substantial funds available to support humanitarian or solidarity initiatives.

#### A few recent figures on corporate foundations:

In France, **47% of corporate foundations have been created since 2009.** They are major players: two-thirds of corporate foundations spend more than €200,000 per year, and a quarter of them exceed one million euros (*Source: Le Monde*).

#### How to secure sponsorship: 9 key tactics!

1. Research potential sponsors.
2. Tell your organisation's story and pitch your project.
3. Offer something in return — sponsors are looking for visibility.
4. Approach reliable, well-established companies.
5. Use statistics and figures to back up your case.
6. Find the right contact or department within the company.
7. Build a relationship through regular contact.
8. Follow up!
9. Contact private foundations.

### 4. Contact private foundations

#### Lions Club / Rotary Club

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

**Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million community-minded leaders** who envision a world where people come together and take action to create lasting change.

Less elitist, Lions Clubs are made up of middle and senior managers from small businesses, while Rotary Clubs tend to bring together executives and members of the liberal professions.

### **Foundations focused on the environment and humanitarian causes**

Some private, philanthropic foundations award grants for participation in environmental, animal-welfare and social projects. Don't hesitate to contact them to present your project and learn their eligibility criteria for funding.

We encourage you to browse online foundation directories.

## **5. Think local!**

### **Sports challenges**

**Sign up for a race or a sports competition and ask your friends and family to donate** in support of your participation. Another option: organise a litter clean-up and ask donors to give per rubbish bag filled. The options are endless — let your imagination run free!

### **Organise events**

A group of nursing students from France hit the jackpot by organising a one-day hike. With a participation fee of €5 per person, they managed to raise €7,000 in a single day — almost all the funds needed for their placement in Thailand!

Other events such as **raffles and quiz nights can be organised with an entry fee**. Consider approaching companies or local shops to sponsor prizes for the winners!

### **Partner with a restaurant**

Present your project to restaurants near your school or find a restaurant owner in your neighbourhood willing to donate a set amount per meal ordered for one evening. The perfect time to invite your friends and family to run up the bill a little :)

## Donations instead of gifts

Make the most of special occasions to **ask your loved ones for a donation**. Christmas, birthdays, name days... send your fundraiser link to friends and family and ask them to donate instead of buying you a present this year.

## Sell your belongings

Clothes, books, games and other accessories gathering dust at the back of your cupboards can earn you a tidy sum at a car-boot sale or on a second-hand website (Vinted for example). And if you don't have enough stock, invite friends and family to donate their books — **earn money while decluttering homes!**

## Collect air miles

Flights make up a large share of the cost of an international project. Ask your globetrotting friends — some might give you a helping hand by **donating their air miles**... A great way to travel at minimal cost!

## Put your talents to work

Use your skills! If you're good at photography, **you can organise an exhibition to sell your photos**, create a calendar, or offer portraits in exchange for a small donation. Be creative and use your talents to reach your goal.

## The great classic: the bake sale

Everyone knows how to make crêpes, a simple yoghurt cake or cookies. At university, at a flea market, a school fair or in the workplace, **selling pastries** and small treats is always a safe bet!

## **Conclusion: the power to act is within everyone's reach!**

Setting off solo or as a group on a sustainable development project requires **significant resources**. Unlike a tourist trip, **travelling with impact requires logistics, supervision, equipment and a serious organisation**. That is the minimum needed to ensure missions are built for the long term, run by specialists and carried out in collaboration with local communities.

Funding a humanitarian trip is therefore an integral part of the project. Just like the field experience itself, it is a learning process. You have a goal — you need to find the means to reach it. And the good news is: it's achievable!

**The keys to success? Anticipate, plan, research, persevere.**

We send hundreds of students and young people on projects every year, and all of them manage to put the means in place to make their dream happen. So why not you?

**Any questions? The Freepackers team is here to help!**

## **Freepackers Team — Work and volunteer abroad**

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