



FINANCIAL AID WITH WHERE THERE BE DRAGONS

The reality of providing the highest-quality and best-staffed cultural immersion experiences in the industry is that the associated costs are high. Although Dragons program tuitions are still competitive with the general market, we recognize that summer and gap year programming can feel out of the realm of financial possibility for some students. To make Dragons more accessible to students/families of all economic means, we offer need-based financial aid. In fact, more than 20% of the students on Dragons programs do so with the assistance of financial aid (Average aid packages generally cover between 20% and 80% of the cost of a program). If you feel certain that Dragons is right for you, then we encourage you, regardless of your financial considerations, to go through our aid application process. Don't worry: It can seem intimidating at first, but if you have the passion and motivation, we're here to answer your questions and help you through the process. If you need some extra encouragement, we've even included a few quotes of guidance from some of our past financial aid recipient students at the end of this document.

THE PROCESS FOR APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

- **STEP 1:** Fill out the standard online application. The \$850 application fee is waived for students applying for financial aid.
- **STEP 2:** Submit a cover letter and supplemental financial documents. Email them to info@wheretherebedragons.com.
 - Your cover letter should include:
 1. Your reasons for wanting to participate in a program, and why we should consider you for aid
 2. Why you think you would be a great Dragons student
 3. Your top THREE preferences for program/country/area.
 4. A summary of how much tuition you and your family can contribute toward a program and any other relevant information about your family's finances you think we should know.
 - Financial Documents: Please submit either a copy of your parent's most recent tax returns OR a copy of your FAFSA.
- **STEP 3:** As soon as we have all of the three pieces of your financial aid application (online application, cover letter, and financial documents), we will get in touch with you. You can expect to hear back from us within a couple weeks. If you are selected by the Financial Aid Committee to move onto the next steps of the application process, we will set up a phone interview.
- **STEP 4:** You can also find this information, and more about our Financial Process, on our website at: www.wheretherebedragons.com/students/admissions/scholarships-financial-aid

OUR ADVICE

- **APPLY EARLY:** We accept students and award aid on a rolling basis. You can apply anytime, but the sooner you apply, the greater the chances funds still remain to be allocated.
- **PATIENCE:** It can take time for the Financial Aid Committee to make a decision as the enrollment and fund allocation process involves many moving variables. Feel free to check in on the status of your application by getting directly in touch, but also be aware that the process might take some patience before a final decision is reached.

- **FLEXIBILITY:** The more flexible you are in terms of the location and type of program you seek, the more likely we will be able to find a space for you. It's for this reason we ask you to list your top three preferences for program/location. You can also be open to going on any program!
- **JUST APPLY!** When in doubt, just apply! Some students don't apply for financial aid because they assume they won't qualify or be selected. But we encourage you to take the chance and time to apply, regardless of your personal questions and concerns. If you feel strongly that Dragons is right for you, we want to hear from you.
- **TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF:** As much as we would like, we cannot award aid to all students. We select students who are the best fit for our programs, students who will bring the most into a course and get the most out of it, and those who take the time and energy to demonstrate that in their application.

ADVICE FROM PAST FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS

There are a number of student alumni who are willing to be touch with prospective students considering applying for aid. **If you would like to be connected with any of these past students, just let us know.** They are great resources for navigating the application process as well as for tips on how to raise additional funds to cover the remaining costs associated with a program.

"I do not have a lot of money and had doubt if I would get any financial aid at all, but I took the time to tell Dragons about myself, my past experiences, and why I wanted this. I ended up being able to go the Thailand for a month for a tuition that was affordable. It was absolutely worth the 30-mins for the 30-days of incredible experience. Just take the time to apply."

-THAILAND SUMMER PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

"I had an idea to write up a brief letter about this trip opportunity and send it to local businesses or organizations and family asking for a donation in a specific amount or for a specific item in return for a presentation (or something less formal for family) on my experiences."

-NORTH INDIA SUMMER PARTICIPANT

"What really convinced me was talking with a Dragons Instructor and an alum student. Hearing their perspectives helped me realize that Dragons was the right program for me. I was nervous about the Financial Aid application, but Dragons was very helpful and supportive through the entire process. Being a scholarship/financial aid student was stressful because there was no specific location at first to dream incessantly about, until I was told. In the end, this allowed me to think critically about skills and experiences I wanted to gain as opposed to specific places I wanted to see."

-SENEGAL SUMMER PARTICIPANT

"I never thought studying abroad would be possible for me given my family's financial situation. My mom immediately shot down the idea, but nevertheless I contacted Dragons asking about the financial aid process. They were incredibly helpful. With diligence and hard work, a few months later I got an email saying they would make it possible for me to study in Nepal for the summer. I cannot begin to express what a transformative experience it was for me. The financial help is out there if you have a true passion for travel and learning about the world around you!"

-NEPAL SUMMER PARTICIPANT

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID VISIT:

WWW.WHERETHEREBEDRAGONS.COM/STUDENTS/ADMISSIONS/SCHOLARSHIPS-FINANCIAL-AID

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US WITH ANY QUESTIONS, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER THEM.

CALL 303.413.0822, OR EMAIL INFO@WHEREHEREBEDRAGONS.COM