

SAI Grant/ Internship FAQs

Eligibility

Q: Who is eligible?

A: Any returning Harvard student (undergraduate, graduate and doctoral) including spring first semester seniors returning in fall of the following year.

Q: Are extension school students eligible for funds?

A: No, Extension School students (degree-seeking or non-degree seeking) are not eligible for our grants.

Q: Is there a cost for the program?

A: No – there is no set cost or program fee charged by SAI to participate. Students should apply to SAI and other sources for funding. Some SAI Internship Partners are able to offset costs by offering room & board, or a monthly stipend, etc. Check with each individual opportunity to see what is offered.

Q: Is there a minimum stay in South Asia to be eligible for funding?

A: Yes, to be eligible for SAI funding a minimum of 6-8 weeks is required.

General Questions

Q: Can SAI Funds be used to travel to non-South Asian countries?

A: Yes, as long as the research is for South Asia focused research.

Q: Does SAI offer J-term funding?

A: Yes, however applications must be received by the previous year's summer funding deadlines, ie for J-term 2013 applications must be received by February 17, 2012.

Q: Can funds received for a previous summer be used the following year? I.e. can an award from spring 2011 be used towards summer 2012 travel?

A: No – funds must be used within one calendar year of the date of the award, or returned to SAI. Applicants must re-apply by the current deadline.

Q: Can students apply for funding for non-partnered organizations?

A: Yes, students are able to find opportunities outside the SAI partners and submit funding applications.

Will I receive Harvard course credit?

No.

Application Components

Q: Can recommendation letters be emailed?

A: Yes, if arrangements are made in advance with SAI, and so long as they come directly from the recommender or his/her assistant, and not from the applicant. Hard copies are preferred.

Q: Is a letter of acceptance from the organization required with the application?

A: Yes, the position must be secured in order for the application to be considered complete.

Q: Who do the recommendation letters need to come from?

A: Students can choose their recommenders from whomever they believe will give the strongest letter. SAI advises one internal (Harvard) recommendation, one external (prior work experience) when applying for funds for internship experiences, though this is not required. Both required letters can be internal or external.

After Obtaining Grant

Q: How do I get my grant check?

You must submit three* documents to SAI:

1. Grant Recipient Form
2. SAI Grant Agreement
3. Assumption of Risk and General Release

*If you are foreign national, you will also have to fill out the foreign national form

SAI will e-mail you when your grant check is ready. You can pick it up in person from Kathryn Maldonis, Rm. S117, 1730 Cambridge Street.

Q: May I defer my summer internship until next year?

A: Internship grants may not be deferred beyond their intended academic year (July through June). However, we welcome you to re-apply for the next summer according to our regular application timeline.

Q: May I defer my internship from summer to winter?

A: No, we will not accept requests to defer grants.

Q: May I change my internship site?

A: Changes to your internship site must be approved by SAI. You must also discuss your change of plans with your intended organization as early as you can since abrupt changes may cause them significant problems. Please contact both your organizational partner and SAI as soon as possible.

Travel

Q: Is a visa required?

A: Yes, visas are required for all foreign citizens.

How do I obtain a visa?

A: You should learn the requirements and begin your application as soon as possible. Visas are issued by a consulate or embassy of the country in which you will be staying and application requirements and location vary by country and nationality. You can find a list of foreign entry requirements for U.S. citizens and consular contact numbers on the U.S. State Department's website at: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4965.html.

In the past, students have also found it helpful to use www.travisa.com.

The process may differ for non-US citizens. Check with your host organization/program or with SAI if you have further questions.

Q: How have students found housing in the past?

A: Harvard does not provide or guarantee housing during your internship. Most SAI-partnered organizations can offer guidance. You will be best served to contact students and colleagues who are residents of the country you are travelling to in order to learn about housing options. You can also look for local expat list-serves, which can cater to short term renters in larger cities such as Mumbai and Delhi.

Q: Where can I find resources on health & safety, money, culture, etc.) to help prepare for my travel and stay?

A: Harvard College's Office of International Programs (OIP) publishes a handbook that will help you plan and prepare for most aspects of your trip. You can access the handbook online at: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~oip/handbook/cover.html>. The OIP website also lists other helpful resources worth your time to investigate.

Q: Where can I get information related to health issues and medical facilities in my host city/country?

A: You can get information from the state department website under "Country Specific Information" at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis_pa_tw_1168.html. You should also consult the country-specific material on the CDC website at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>

[destinations/list.htm](#). Here you will find information on suggested vaccinations and other important information pertaining to health and safety in your host country.

It is your responsibility to ensure personal medical insurance coverage you during your time abroad. You should familiarize yourself with your policy and with the claims protocol and consider purchasing short-term travel insurance if your current policy is insufficient. All Harvard students have access to a medical referral and emergency evacuation service called International S.O.S.

Contact the Harvard College Office of International Programs (OIP) for details.