

Decorah Community School District Foundation  
Russ Freerking Spanish Study Grant – Criteria & Application

**Who is eligible?**

Students in grades 9 through 12 and enrolled in a Spanish language class taught at Decorah High School will be eligible. This grant is open to students who graduate in the spring and are applying for a study abroad experience during the summer preceding their college matriculation.

**What programs will be eligible for funding?**

- a) Grant is intended for student(s) to have an “immersion” experience in a country where Spanish is the primary spoken language. The grant is not intended for a language study experience in the U.S.
- b) Student(s) experience must include a homestay.
- c) Student(s) must participate in at least 15 lessons per week of Spanish study during their experience.

Examples of places students could look to find this type of program include:

- <http://studyspanishinpanama.com>
- <http://www.spanishabroad.com>
- <http://www.rotary.org/en/studentsandyouth/youthprograms/rotaryyouthexchange/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

Students may also devise their own study-abroad experience if it meets the above criteria.

**How much will be awarded?**

- ❖ The finance committee of the DCSD Foundation shall determine the amount of funds available each year. The total amount awarded shall not exceed 5% of the principal amount of the Freerking Spanish Study Grant fund as of December 31.
- ❖ The level and number of awards will be based on the availability of funds.
- ❖ If the student is unable or chooses not to attend the program after the Foundation has advanced the funds, the student shall reimburse the Foundation for all funds advanced.
- ❖ If the student participates in a pre-existing program, awarded funds will be paid directly to the program upon notification to the DCSDF board treasurer.
- ❖ If the student arranges his/her own experience and is selected, awarded funds will be paid to the student upon arrangement with the DCSDF board treasurer.

**What shall be the selection criteria?**

- ❖ Students shall complete an application for the Freerking Spanish Study Grant located on the DCSD website.
- ❖ The application shall be signed by the student, the student’s parent or guardian, and by a Spanish faculty member from the Decorah High School.
- ❖ The application shall identify the program for which funding is requested, the institution sponsoring the program, and the dates the program is offered. The application shall include any printed material about the program that is available.
- ❖ If the student designs his/her own Spanish study experience, he/she shall submit his/her proposed itinerary (dates, country, housing arrangements, contacts).
- ❖ The application shall include an estimate of all expenses associated with attending the program, and an estimate of the sources of funding.

**Who shall serve on the selection committee?**

The committee shall consist of at least two Spanish teachers at Decorah High School and at least one DCSD Foundation member.

**When are applications due?**

Applications shall be due by the **last school day of April of each year**. Completed applications shall be submitted to the DCSD Central Administration building and forwarded to the selection committee. Selection shall be made by the end of the first full week of May. Students will be notified if they are selected to receive an award and the amount awarded. They will also be notified if their request is not funded.

Study abroad may be any time during the year, and is not limited to summer study.

**What are the post-program requirements?**

Student(s) must share their experience with members of the Decorah community (by blogging, letter to newspaper or online, speaking to community group, speaking to Spanish class upon returning, etc.) and must also report to the DCSD Foundation members (presentation, letter, Powerpoint, etc.).

DECORAH COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION  
FREERKING SPANISH STUDY GRANT

**APPLICATION FOR FUNDING**

*Please complete in ink.*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Current grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Study Abroad  
Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsoring  
Institution (if  
applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of your selected Study Abroad program (please attach any relevant printed materials)**

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**Why do you want to attend this program, and what do you hope to gain from attending?**

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**How will you share your experience with other students and teachers?**

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**What are the costs of attending the program? (fill out as many as apply)**

- Tuition \_\_\_\_\_
- Room & Board \_\_\_\_\_
- Materials \_\_\_\_\_
- Transportation \_\_\_\_\_
- **Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**These expenses will be paid from the following sources (please list the amount):**

- Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_
- Fund-raising \_\_\_\_\_
- Scholarships \_\_\_\_\_
- Freerking Award request \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Are there any special circumstances the selection committee should consider?**

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**AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

I, the undersigned, do authorize the Decorah Community School District Foundation to release information which is contained in my Freerking Spanish Study Grant application form to any person or entity for any purpose which is related to the goals and objectives of the DCSD Foundation.

*A photocopy or exact reproduction of this authorization for release of information shall have the same effect as the original.*

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of \_\_\_\_\_  
Spanish faculty member recommending student

*Please return this form to Central Administration Office, 510 Winnebago St., Decorah, IA 52101  
**no later than the last school day in the month of April (Monday, April 30, 2012).***