

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

**Who is eligible?**

Student 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 home-stay.
- c) Student(s) must participate in at least 15 lessons per week of Spanish study during their experience.

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 Grand 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 DCSD 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 DCSD 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, and 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 March 1 each year.** Completed applications shall be submitted to the DCSD Central Administration building and forwarded to the selection committee. Selection shall be made by March 30. 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.).