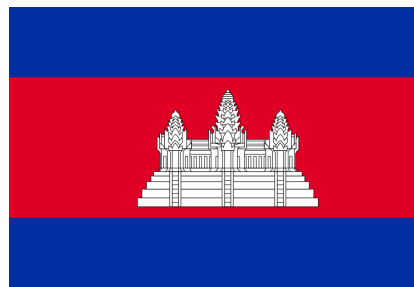


SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

Morgan Haefner



Study Abroad Scholars Scholarship Recipient

Morgan's Major: Journalism and Religious Studies

Program: UW Buddhism and Service Learning in Cambodia

How did you hear about the scholarship? My professor encouraged me to apply for as much financial aid as possible when preparing for my program. Since my program went through IAP, I worked closely with representatives from IAP who directed me toward specific scholarships for my program as well as broader, general IAP scholarships.

How did the scholarship help you study abroad? My scholarship made my program possible. I don't say that lightly. Upon entering UW Madison, my dream was to study abroad, but I had succumbed to the fact that it might not happen due to expenses. However, when my professor told me how much money I could receive to go on my program, my dream started to morph into a goal. When I received my scholarship funds, I knew I could broaden my horizons in Cambodia. It became a reality.

What is your biggest piece of advice for those applying for scholarships. It is simple to get discouraged about money. When I first called my parents and told them about possibly taking a summer class in Cambodia, they replied with reserve, making it very clear they were unable to assist me monetarily in my pursuit. However, I continued to go to information sessions and even applied to go on the program without half of the adequate funding in my bank account. I never lost sight of my goal, and my persistence paid off in the form of funding. Things fall into place if they are meant to.

In addition to your scholarship, what other resources did you use to fund your study abroad experience? When it became set in stone I was going on the program, several family members approached me and asked how they could help with my program. Many family members gave me monetary gifts to help with other expenses, such as food and simply living in another country.



Morgan studied abroad in Siem Reap, Cambodia as part of a First Year Interest Group (FIG)

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