

FSU Gap Year Application 2019-2020

FSU Gap Year

The American Gap Association defines a gap year (also known as a bridge year) as a structured period of time when students take a break from formal education to increase self-awareness, engage in service, and learn from different cultures. Typically these experiences are achieved by a combination of traveling, volunteering, or interning. A guiding principle is that the year should engage you in new, challenging experiences that encourage you to reevaluate your assumptions about yourself and the world around you. Long popular in the United Kingdom, Australia, and elsewhere, gap years are increasingly common among students in the United States. Examples of gap year programs can be found [here](#).

Gap Year Fellows

Through this application, you can apply to be an FSU Gap Year Fellow, which allows you to complete your gap year with financial assistance of up to \$5,000, and to enroll at FSU the following year.


As a Gap Year Fellow, you will work with FSU's gap year specialist to design, and then reflect on, your gap year. You will be expected to attend weekly webinars for the month of June to plan and prepare for your gap year. You will then complete a monthly blog during your gap year, meet with the gap year specialist quarterly by phone/video chat, attend a gap year debrief session upon arrival at FSU, share your gap year experience with the FSU community upon your return, help promote the FSU Gap Year Fellows, and any other requirements of the program.


FSU Gap Year Policies


Be sure to review these policies before starting this application. Admitted students who are approved to take a gap year **may not apply to any other colleges or universities** during their gap year, and **they should not earn college credit during the year.** The Office of Admissions reserves the right to review the status of any admitted student, including those on a gap year, and to rescind its offer of admission if a student's academic and personal record does not meet the conditions of admission to the University. Deferments granted by the FSU Office of Admissions apply to general admission to FSU only. Students also applying to special, limited access, academic programs (dance, film animation, film production, music, or theatre) would also need to coordinate a gap year deferment with their specific academic program. If there are any policy changes at FSU during the period of a student's gap year, the changes will apply to the student just as they will to all a members of his/her matriculating class. Since you will not be enrolled at FSU, Florida Bright Futures funding would not apply to a gap year. FSU Scholarships awarded to the student will be deferred until the student matriculates the following year. Gap year students should confirm financial deferment eligibility with private or other non-FSU scholarship programs (e.g., ROTC Scholarships cannot be deferred). Gap year students should remember to apply for federal financial aid (via FAFSA) after October 1 during their gap year.


Student Information

Full Name	_____
Date of Birth	_____
EMPLID	_____
Email address (one that you will be checking during your gap year experience)	_____
Intended Major(s)	_____


 For this next section, please limit your responses to 250 words maximum for each.


 Describe an issue you have been passionate about and how you have engaged with it in high school.

 Tell us about a time when you had a cross-cultural interaction (in the U.S. or abroad). What did you learn about yourself and others from the cross-cultural interaction?

 Please identify 1-2 regions and topics of interest. then identify 1-2 organizations you could see yourself volunteering with. Elaborate on what kind of service you would do with this organization and why.


You will NOT be tied to your responses.


 Please outline learning objectives you have for your gap year and how the gap year will support your educational goals. What do you want to learn? How does this relate to what you want to do while at FSU?


 Are you planning to earn credit for college courses during your gap year?


Per FSU policy, you are not allowed to earn college credit while on a gap year. However, you can take classes for no credit while completing your gap year.

- Yes
 No

 As an FSU Gap Year Fellow you may be awarded funding of up to \$5,000.

 In 100 words or less, please describe your financial need.

 Is there anything else you would like the committee to know?

 Off-campus Accommodations

Students that conduct a gap year abroad are often presented with unexpected and unanticipated opportunities and challenges. In order to avoid compromising your independence abroad, it is important to understand that reasonable accommodation laws and regulations are not consistent worldwide for people with disabilities and/or health, mobility and psychiatric impairments. Visiting a

foreign country may introduce new barriers to accommodations that you may be accustomed to in the United States. Gathering and critically examining adequate information through research is essential and critical. It is recommended that students utilizing accommodations in the United States consider the following before engaging in an international internship:

- Thoroughly research known available accommodations in each country.
- Examine the socio-cultural differences regarding the perception of disability within the cultural norms of each country.
- Confirm regulations for service animal entry into each country.
- Identify and consult with a professional organization in each country.

For example, before traveling to Rwanda a student identifying with a visual impairment may choose to consult with the Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB) to discuss available accommodations, emergency medical care if needed, and socio-cultural differences regarding the perception of a visual impairment within their country.

In consultation with your licensed medical provider(s), you will need to determine if your intended destination(s) provide(s) your expected, preferred or needed accommodations.

I understand not all destinations will provide expected, preferred or need accommodations:

- Yes
- No

Release of Liability

By submitting this application, I understand and agree that I assume full responsibility for initiating a request to defer my enrollment at Florida State University for a period of one (1) year under FSU's 1+4 Option, also known as a "bridge year" or "gap year." I further understand and agree that should Florida State University grant my voluntary request to defer my enrollment under FSU's 1+4 Option, I knowingly accept all risks and agree to relieve The Florida State University and The Florida State University Board of Trustees, including their employees, agents, representative, assigns and successors, of any responsibility, liability or cost for any accident or injury of any nature to me arising from my activities, programs, and/or experiences during said "bridge year" or "gap year." Further, I waive any and all claims I may have in the future, including claims of negligence and gross negligence as a result of or arising from my activities, programs and/or experiences during said "bridge year" or "gap year" and give up and forever release any right that I may have to file any lawsuit against The Florida State University, The Florida State University Board of Trustees, the Florida Board of Governors, and the State of Florida, including their employees, agents, representatives, assigns and successors, involving any accident or injury to me resulting from any activity, program, and/or experience associated with the "bridge year" or gap year."

I understand and agree with the release of liability statement:

- Yes
- No