# Image result for bvo logo vikings

# BVO Scholarship Application: Spring 2026

## Background Information

Each year, the Brittingham Viking Organization (BVO) invites students from UW-Madison to study abroad at universities in Finland, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, and welcomes Scandinavian students from these countries to study at UW-Madison. For over 70 years, the BVO’s cultural exchange program has provided valuable and unique study abroad experiences and welcomed scholars into its active alumni organization. The BVO is recognized by UW-Madison as an independent scholarship program.

In 2026, the BVO will send UW-Madison students to Helsinki, Finland and Copenhagen, Denmark for the spring semester. **The entire program runs from January through May 2026, plus a weekend in late August 2026 to attend the annual Brittingham Viking Organization Convention in Scandinavia.** The total value of the program is approximately $20,000 depending on academic status and available programs.

All scholarships are designed to cover housing, roundtrip flights to Scandinavia, visas, insurance, a generous living and travel stipend, and tuition up to the WI or MN resident rate. Scholars travel together around the Nordic countries to visit Viking alumni and celebrate cultural holidays.

**All our scholars become lifelong members of our alumni network consisting of around 500 scholarship recipients from the last seven decades.** Our alumni serve as a valuable support system for our scholars while they are abroad and can provide connections for academic and professional opportunities during and after the scholarship period has ended. The people you meet might become your lifelong friends, and the social, academic, and professional contacts you gain make the Brittingham Viking Organization unique.

## Important Notes (READ BEFORE APPLYING)

* Currently, Brittingham Viking scholars studying in Copenhagen study on exchange through UW-Madison’s International Academic Program (IAP) office. Students in Helsinki study as free moving students, which means that the credits they receive in Finland are **not considered in residence** (unlike on IAP programs). This is subject to change as IAP makes changes in its own policies, so make sure you know what you need academically from your time abroad and communicate that with the selection committee as much as possible. **Question 8 on the written application provides you space to do so.** If needed, talk to your academic advisor before completing your application!​​

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* Scholarships are designed to cover housing, roundtrip flights to Scandinavia, visas, insurance, a generous living and travel stipend, and tuition up to the WI or MN resident rate. **Students paying out-of-state tuition at UW-Madison will still need to pay the difference between MN resident and out-of-state tuition rates.** Visit the Office of Student Financial Aid's cost of attendance page for more information.
* Scholarship funds are given as a lump sum **upon arrival in Scandinavia**. Scholars may be asked to pay some costs (e.g., visa fees) prior to arriving in Scandinavia but will be able to reimburse themselves after receiving scholarship funds. Scholars assume responsibility for additional miscellaneous study abroad expenses (e.g., entertainment, personal travels, clothing, etc.).
* Commitment requires scholar availability from January through May 2026, plus a weekend in late August 2026 to attend the annual Brittingham Viking Organization Convention in Scandinavia.
* S**cholars must be planning to return to the Madison area for one full academic year after scholarship, either to study or for employment.** We expect that returning scholars will be involved in welcoming new Scandinavian scholars to Madison in September 2026 and selecting the next group of American BVO scholars in spring 2027.

**​​Available School and Study Opportunities**

The BVO sends UW-Madison students Helsinki and Copenhagen for the spring semester. The scholars study abroad in different cities at different universities during the spring semester, but also form a scholar group that travels together during school breaks.

​​To find out more about available classes and subjects at our partner universities, please visit their respective websites (listed below). Available universities have different GPA and student classification requirements. Please take this into consideration when determining your preferred study abroad destinations in your written application.

## COPENHAGEN, DENMARK (SPRING SEMESTER OPTION)

[**University of Copenhagen**](https://studies.ku.dk/visiting/overseas/course-information/)

*Topics(s):* Arts, Humanities, Science & Technology, Social Sciences

*Requirements:* Open to 2025-26 Juniors, Seniors, and Graduate Students with a 2.5 GPA

## [Copenhagen Business School](https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/internationals)

*Topic(s):* Business

*Requirements:* At this time, Copenhagen Business School is only an option for applicants eligible to concurrently apply for the [Copenhagen Business School Exchange](https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/program/?programId=566) (applications due March 3, 2025). If the applicant is selected to be a Brittingham Viking Scholar but later finds out they are denied a spot in the Copenhagen Business School Exchange, they will study instead at the University of Copenhagen.

## HELSINKI, FINLAND (SPRING SEMESTER OPTION)

## [Aalto University](https://www.aalto.fi/en/international-students/exchange-students)

## *Topics(s):* Engineering, Science & Technology, Business, Design

## *Requirements:* Open to 2025-26 Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, and Graduate Students with at least a 3.0 GPA

## [Hanken School of Economics](https://www.hanken.fi/en/apply/international-opportunities/incoming-exchange-students)

## *Topic(s):* Economics, Marketing, Finance, Business

## *Requirements:* Open to 2025-26 Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, and Graduate Students with at least a 3.0 GPA

## [University of Helsinki](https://guide.student.helsinki.fi/en/exchange-and-visiting-students)

## *Topic(s):* Arts & Humanities, Science & Technology, Social Sciences

## *Requirements:* Open to 2025-26 Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, and Graduate Students with at least a 3.0 GPA

## Application Instructions

* Complete the scholarship application thoroughly and with respect to the word limits.
* Create **a single PDF** of your written application with the file name *FirstnameLastname.pdf* (e.g., BuckyBadger.pdf) and submit it [here](https://form.typeform.com/to/OC55Qxv1) (<https://form.typeform.com/to/OC55Qxv1>).
* Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2025. Late applications will not be accepted.
* Applicants who are selected for an interview will be notified by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 28, 2025. Selected applicants must be available for interviews on Saturday, April 5, 2025 (virtual) and Saturday, April 12, 2025 (in person in Madison). Please note that not all applicants will be invited to the second interview.
* Any questions about the scholarship or the application should be directed to [us.scholarships@brittinghamvikings.org](mailto:us.scholarships@brittinghamvikings.org) with the email subject “Application Question.” A member of the selection committee will get back to you as soon as possible.

## Summary of Timeline

* March 21 — applications due
* March 28 — all applicants are notified via email of their interview status
* April 5 — first interview for selected applicants
* April 12 — second interview for selected applicants

**Save your written application as a PDF with the file name *FirstnameLastname.pdf*. File size for upload is limited to 10MB. You may delete the instruction pages.**

**Upload your completed written application** [**here**](https://form.typeform.com/to/OC55Qxv1) **and answer the brief questions in the Typeform to finish your application.**

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# BVO Scholarship Application: Spring 2026

*When you are finished, save this document as a PDF (FirstnameLastname.pdf). Submit your completed application as a PDF at* <https://form.typeform.com/to/OC55Qxv1>*.*

# Full Name:

# Contact Information:

# Email:

# Phone Number:

# Academic Information:

# Current degree and/or major in progress (e.g., B.S. in Psychology):

# Numeric year in school (e.g., first, second):

# Classification based on credits (e.g., junior, senior):

# Cumulative GPA:

GPA in most recent semester:

# Expected graduation date:

If applicable, other universities attended (include university name, year(s) attended, and degree pursued/received):

1. **Have you applied for a Viking scholarship before? If so, please list the year and whether you were invited for an interview.**

1. **List 3 recent (the past three years) extracurricular activities, work experiences, awards, hobbies, or interests that you think tell the scholarship committee the most about you. For each listed item, provide up to a 150-word description of what it is and how it has shaped who you are today.**

Experience #1:

Experience #2:

Experience #3:

1. **What appeals to you about this scholarship over other study abroad scholarships? How will it benefit you and why would you be a good choice?** (250 words or less)

1. **What is your first choice for a spring semester scholarship location (Helsinki or Copenhagen) and why is this your first choice? Examine the university website(s) for that scholarship location. What programs or courses are you most interested in there?** (250 words or less)

1. **Do you have any specific academic requirements (e.g., specific courses) you will need to complete during the spring 2026 semester? If so, what are they and is there any flexibility in the timeline for these requirements?** (250 words or less)

8b. **Does your major or degree program require you to study abroad? (Yes/No)**

1. **During your scholarship you will have the privilege of traveling across Scandinavia to visit Vikings, attend Viking gatherings, and experience local cultural events. What about your personality or prior experiences makes you feel prepared for this aspect of our scholarship program?** (250 words or less)

1. **As part of the Viking scholarship experience, you become a member of a close-knit alumni community which continues far past your scholarship. Vikings routinely get together in Madison and across the world for social gatherings and to reunite with close friends. What unique perspectives or other contributions could you bring to this group?** (250 words or less)
2. **Returning Viking scholars are expected to play a significant role in welcoming and supporting new Scandinavian Viking scholars during their academic year at UW-Madison. This may include activities like offering informal tours of Madison, introducing scholars to campus organizations, and planning and attending social events for Vikings. What steps would you take to ensure that Scandinavian Vikings’ experience is robust, both socially and academically?** (250 words or less)
3. **Describe something about yourself, your interests, or your thoughts beyond what you have expressed in the questions thus far.** (250 words or less)