Websites such as PayPal, gofundme.com or fundmytravel.com offer a great way to start an online fundraising campaign.

Contact clubs, organizations and churches in your hometown. In exchange for a donation, offer to do a presentation upon your return.

Newspapers or radio stations in your hometown may be willing to contribute if you offer to write articles or do podcasts while abroad.

HEDGE YOUR BETS
While it’s important to apply for as many education abroad scholarships as possible, you shouldn’t expect to receive every award. It’s important to consider other funding options & remember that every little bit helps. Small amounts can add up to big rewards!

Pick up people’s unwanted clothes, furniture and knickknacks, and organize a yard sale. One person’s trash is another person’s ticket abroad.

In exchange for heavy promotion and new customers, a local business may be willing to donate a percentage of a given day’s sales.

more ideas...
- Sell a custom calendar with pictures from your time abroad (pre-ordered & created upon your return).
- Raffle the chance to win a date with one of your friends or a local celebrity
- Offer to take pictures abroad with a business’s logo or merchandise that they could use in future advertising
- With the help of family & friends, organize a dinner or party & ask attendees for donations.
- Create a fun campaign where once you’ve raised X amount of money, you’ll shave your head or donate your hair to Locks of Love (or, even better, get someone else to do it).

From your mom’s co-workers to your uncle’s golf buddies... Use your network and others’!

How will you give back? Writing a blog & sending updates from abroad is just one great way to keep contributors engaged.

People don’t want to donate to a vacation. Make sure you always tell folks how this experience will help you academically & professionally.

Be creative with your fundraising by incorporating your host location. (Is there a local org. with a connection to your host country?)

Always look for ways to save your own money. Keep your wish list for your birthday or holidays in mind too.
Dear Uncle Phil,

As you know, for the past few years I've been studying Psychology and Spanish at the University of Kentucky. During this time, I've been able to broaden my horizons through a variety of classes and gain experience through lab research in my field. I am working hard to make sure that my education and activities prepare me for graduate school and the job market.

In my preparation, I have decided to enroll in an intensive Spanish language study abroad program in Argentina this fall. Not only will this program give me real-world Spanish language experience, I will even be able to earn credit towards my psychology degree. Psychology courses, in Spanish, will allow me to explore my field in a new context, from a fresh perspective.

Because only 14% of U.S. college students study abroad, I know this experience will serve me well into the future by setting me apart from my peers.

The total cost of this program, including my airline ticket and other expenses, comes to about $11,000. While I am able to use some of my normal financial aid, apply for education abroad scholarships, and tap in to my savings, I will still come up short.

If you could contribute, any amount would be greatly appreciated. And to let you know your money is going to good use, I will happily send you blog updates while abroad!

Thanks so much for supporting my current (and future) goals!

Love,
John

I would like to contribute:

☐ $25 Last month’s electric bill was killer, but I support you!
☐ $100 I expect a cool trinket when you get back. Rock it out!
☐ $50 Bueno. I dig it. Best of luck with the espanol!
☐ $250 It’s been a good year. Since I love you so much, I'll share the wealth.
☐ Other: _______ You know me. I’ve gotta go off the beaten path... sorta like someone going to Argentina ;)

To make giving easier for contributors (and increase your chances of receiving funds), you may want to consider including a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your letter.