

OWHC Young Travelling Scholarship 2026



For the quick reader – the OWHC Young Travelling Scholarship in a nutshell

What?

Win a 1.500 € scholarship for a trip through World Heritage in Europe and/or North America

When?

For at least 2 weeks from June until October 2026

Who?

Young adults between 18 and 28 years

How?

You will travel at least 2 weeks through World Heritage Sites and Cities in Europe or North America – preferably in a sustainable mode.

During your trip, you actively share your experience on all social media channels as well as on a special travel blog website. In a final output, you will summarize your experiences and contribute to enhance the narrative on habitability of World Heritage Cities by including the point of view of young people.

How to apply?

Send us your application as a presentation or text, include your travel plan with details on what cities you wish to visit, let us know how experienced and successful you are already using social media (Instagram, LinkedIn...) and think about your creative output as a final summary. Apply directly via our website: www.owhc-youngtravelling.com

The OWHC Young Travelling Scholarship in detail

Visit our World Heritage Cities with a 1.500 € scholarship and help us find new perspectives!

You are between 18 and 28 years old, love to learn more about culture and heritage and you wish to explore challenges in heritage management? You also like to tell others about your experiences on social media? Then you are invited to apply for our OWHC Young Travelling Scholarship 2026!

The Organization of World Heritage Cities ([OWHC](#)) sends you on a trip through its member cities in Europe and North America and supports your own travel budget with a grant of max. 1.500 €. You will discover World Heritage Cities and reflect on the contemporary challenges that UNESCO World Heritage nomination brings.

We expect you to work on the specific topic of habitability of historic centres and what challenges our cities are facing. Habitability refers to a city's ability to provide not only a high-quality urban environment but also good living conditions for its residents.

Expected output

1. Frame your output as a narrative – what constitutes heritage “as seen by a young person” focused on use and people, not on the monuments. We want to hear about your specific perspective.

2. Share your experience

We want you to actively share your experience on social media, especially Instagram and maybe LinkedIn – use your outreach to illustrate World Heritage Cities in all their facets (Reels, Stories etc.)!

3. Submit blogposts on our travel blog website www.owhc-youngtravelling.com answering the following questions for each of the visited cities:

- Where do we see tensions between tourism, housing, and local life?
- What uses make this historic centre “habitable” or not?
- What lever (mobility, public space, housing, governance, etc.) seems to be the most structuring?

4. You should deliver your final creative output within one month after finishing your travels. Examples for your projects could include:

- a mini-case study,
- a resident testimony focusing on a specific topic,
- the detailed observation of a municipal project in one of our member cities
- or a critical look at a development you learned about.

→ We expect more than only food and touristy locations in your stories 😊

Our rules

- You must be between 18-28 years old
- You can apply individually or as a team (**the maximum grant is 1.500 € also for a team!**)
- Travel anytime from June until October 2026, for at least 2 weeks
- Travel destination: you choose a route, but we require that you visit at least three World Heritage Cities in at least two different countries (the cities must be OWHC member cities <https://www.ovpm.org/members/cities> - see the map for cities in red or the list with links in black)
- Regular posts on social media and our travel blog
- Reflect on actual topics in our cities which are concerning especially functions of habitability and develop relevant output from a young perspective

Your benefits

- max.1.500 Euro as a free budget for your travel expenses - **the budget does not increase when travelling as a team of two!** - which of course could add to your own budget
- support from our member cities on site with personal contact and information wherever possible
- invaluable experiences when travelling our World Heritage Cities

Application

Please hand in your application (in English) and tell us briefly about your interest to participate in the project (could be a letter, a poster, a presentation – be creative!). The application should include the following:

- A short description of yourself (background, age, studies/work, activities on social media indicating your accounts) and tell us why *YOU* should win this trip.
- Reflect on some of the following questions:
 - What does “World Heritage” mean to you?
 - Which heritage should we pass on to future generations?
 - What is the “World Heritage of tomorrow”? How can we guarantee habitability in our World Heritage cities?
- A travel itinerary to give us an idea what cities you would like to visit (this is important for the selection process; your travel route is a decisive criterion we look after).

➔ Please apply online on our website www.owhc-youngtravelling.com or by sending your material to owhc@regensburg.de

DEADLINE: 14 June 2026

The winners will be selected by an international jury and informed by 19 June 2026 via email. Make sure to check your inboxes!

Background information

OWHC Young Travelling Scholarship

In 2026, the OWHC Regional Secretariat for Northwest Europe and North America organizes this Travelling Scholarship for young people for the sixth time already. You can find more information and read about the experiences of the past winners and the program on the travel blog as well as our OWHC website:

www.ovpm.org/program/owhc-young-travelling-scholarship/

www.owhc-youngtravelling.com/

Concept

The idea behind the scholarship is to entice young people to travel World Heritage Cities and actively think about the concept of cultural heritage sites. That is why we ask you to visit at least three different cities listed as World Heritage in at least two different countries. You can find the complete list of the OWHC member cities here: www.ovpm.org/members/cities/
We would like you to think of a good travel plan and develop your individual route on the track of World Heritage, following a specific motto or historical aspect and giving a special focus on habitability. We encourage personal encounter with experts in our World Heritage Cities and are here to support you with that.

Financial organisation

We grant max. 1.500 € per winner or winning team as a scholarship (this budget does not increase when travelling as a team of two). You by yourself are responsible for all travel organisation and bookings of transport or accommodation. You can claim partial reimbursement of the budget at the beginning or during the trip, but we need your proof of payment for all claims. At the end of your travels, you will be reimbursed the complete sum after finishing all blogposts.

Output on Social Media

- While travelling share your experiences on Instagram and all your other social media accounts and tag the OWHC
- write on our travel blog website under www.owhc-youngtravelling.com/ to gather all our travellers' experiences
- share the posts of the other winners and young travellers and be part of the community

What is World Heritage?

- It is defined as a not renewable resource which has to be safeguarded to guarantee its authenticity and preservations for future generations.
- In 1972 the World Heritage Convention was established; in 1978 the first World Heritage sites were listed.
- For more information have a look at the UNESCO website <http://whc.unesco.org/>

What possibilities of transportation do I have?

There are several sustainable means of transport we strongly recommend: Global Interrail, railway, Flix Bus, bike, etc. It is up to you how to travel from A to B within your budget. It is also up to you to cover the rest by yourself if the costs exceed our granted scholarship budget.

Insurance

Unfortunately, there is no insurance through our organization. We would recommend getting a personal travel insurance in the country of your residency.

The OWHC Regional Secretariat cannot be held liable for any accidents, losses or robbery etc.

Contact Person

Monika Göttler

City of Regensburg – World Heritage Coordination

Rathausplatz 4

93047 Regensburg

Germany

goettler.monika@regensburg.de or owhc@regensburg.de

phone +49-941-507 4452