
Study Abroad Financial Aid Frequently Asked Questions

I'm interested in using aid, how does the process work?

Often you will need to apply or even accept a study abroad program prior to knowing for sure what your financial aid will be. Email aidtogo@iu.edu to estimate the amount of aid that you would be offered. We can give you an idea of what you might be eligible for.

I am using a Program, what kind of aid would I be able to use?

- Students who are accepted in to an **IUI Program** would be able to use state awards, (Frank O'Bannon, 21st Century, CVO) Federal Grant Programs, (Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant) and Loan Programs (Federal Direct Loans, PLUS Loans, Private Loans). You will not need to provide any additional paperwork to use these awards.
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- Students who are accepted in to a **Non-IU Program** would be able to use Federal Grant Programs, (Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant) and Loan Programs (Federal Direct Loans, PLUS Loans, Private Loans). You would not need any additional paperwork to use these awards. Non-IU Program participants are not able to use state aid programs since the tuition and fees are not charged at IU Institutions.

How many credits do I have to enroll in to use aid?

Typically if you are using federal aid (Pell & Direct Loans) or private loans you must be in at least six credits for the semester/summer session(s). When using grants and scholarships, your credit hour requirement varies on the semester that you are attending.

I heard that financial aid can only be used for my tuition if I study abroad, but I'll be paying for a lot more! Can I still use aid for housing, airfare, and other costs?

The Study Abroad Office lets Student Financial Services know what your expected costs might be, so that they are able to increase your cost of attendance. But, like when purchasing books, you will have to wait for your financial aid refund to pay for expenses like housing and airfare. If you need to pay these before your refund is sent to you, (i.e. before the semester starts) you will need to plan ahead for those expenses and reimburse yourself with the financial aid refund.

How does financial aid work if I study abroad in the summer?

Summer aid is determined by how much aid you have used in the fall and spring. You would need to work with the financial aid office to determine if you have used all of your available aid for the year. They would be able to check the amounts that you have used and let you know what would be left to help with your expenses.

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When will I have my financial aid refund?

All federal aid is released approximately ten days prior to the start of your first class. We will not be able to release it any earlier, so make sure to make arrangements if you have to pay for your program before that time.

What if the aid I am awarded is not enough?

If you see that the aid that you have been offered is not enough to cover your expenses, you still have some options to help with expenses. For dependent students, Parent PLUS loans may help fill gaps in funding. Private loans are also an option to help with expenses and can be used by both dependent and independent students. Contact aidtogo@iu.edu to find out more information on these programs.

I use the GI Bill, can I use it to study abroad?

It can depend. You will need to contact the office the Office of Veteran and Military Personnel for more information.

Can I use my IUI scholarship while traveling abroad?

In some cases yes, you can. You will need to check with the department/donor that awards the scholarship to ensure that it can be used for study abroad.