



# Financial Aid and AU Abroad



Many students have concerns about the costs of studying abroad. While numerous factors contribute to the overall cost of a term of study in a foreign country, AU is committed to making study abroad an option for all students. The obligatory costs of studying abroad are usually similar or sometimes even less than a term in Washington, DC! One of the ways that AU makes this possible is by allowing AU Abroad students to apply their financial aid to their term(s) studying abroad.

## Did you know?

- **Studying abroad doesn't necessarily cost more than a semester in DC. The cost of tuition remains the same, while costs associated with housing and meals is often equivalent to that in DC, and may even cost less!**
- **AU Students can utilize their scholarships, grants, and loans for their AU Abroad program**
- **AU Abroad offers scholarships of up to \$2500 for study during the semester and \$1500 for language study during the summer**

### **Financial Aid for Students Participating in AU Abroad Programs**

**\*\*All students who have completed and submitted their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the AU Financial Aid office by the appropriate deadlines will be considered for financial assistance each year.\*\*** Students may apply their scholarships and grants to pay for term(s) abroad provided that they are enrolled full-time (the equivalent of at least 12 AU credits per semester). Students **CANNOT** use federal work-study awards to pay for their study abroad experience.

In selected cases, a student's Cost of Attendance (COA) may be adjusted to reflect additional expenses that the student will incur while studying abroad. The increase to the COA allows students to apply for additional loan funds to cover their study abroad related expenses. Students should contact the Financial Aid office for more information on this process.

The financial aid office can only distribute your aid within 10 days from the beginning of the academic term at AU. You may be required to pay some costs (plane tickets, program/housing deposits or other costs) prior to the date that your financial aid will be posted to your account for your use. You should expect to pay for these costs out-of-pocket and will be reimbursed for these costs when your financial aid is disbursed. Some private loans may be able to be disbursed early, but this varies by student. If you are using financial aid to pay for non-AU costs, these funds will be distributed to your AU student account and you will need to request a refund for these funds to have them sent to you. Information about requesting refunds can be found on the AU Student Accounts website at [www.american.edu/finance/student\\_accounts/](http://www.american.edu/finance/student_accounts/).

### **Summer Financial Aid**

The information provided here only refers to students studying abroad for a semester or academic year. AU institutional aid is not available for the summer terms. Students may be eligible for federal aid if they plan to complete at least 6 credits during the summer term and have completed the FAFSA by the appropriate deadline.

### **Additional Sources of Aid**

Some students will seek additional sources of funding for their study abroad experience beyond their normal financial aid package. Students are encouraged to apply for **AU Abroad's Mobility Awards** that are both need and merit based. There are also a wide variety of scholarships, grants and loans available for study abroad students. The Office of Merit Awards has lists of awards available for which students may qualify. Students can also research options on two helpful websites, [www.studyabroadfunding.org](http://www.studyabroadfunding.org) and [www.iefaf.org](http://www.iefaf.org). Students hoping to apply for non- AU scholarships should begin planning early as many of these awards have application deadlines far in advance of the term of study abroad.

(See reverse)



## Keep in mind...

- **It is important to consider all costs including tuition, program fees, flights, visa costs, and other independent expenses when calculating study abroad costs**
- **In some cases, you may be required to pay some costs (plane tickets, program/housing deposits or other costs) prior to the date your financial aid will be posted and earlier than you normally pay AU**
- **AU financial aid is not available to students studying abroad during the summer. Students may be eligible for federal aid if they plan to complete at least 6 credits during the summer term and have completed and submitted the FAFSA by the appropriate deadline.**

### Costs and Paying Your Bill

All students pay the standard, full-time AU tuition rate when studying abroad on an AU program for a semester or year. The student will receive a bill for tuition from the AU Office of Student Accounts and will pay along the standard deadlines. AU will also bill the students for the mandatory technology fee and the program fee associated with the student's chosen program. Program fees vary greatly! Please visit the AU Abroad Web site – [www.auabroad.american.edu](http://www.auabroad.american.edu) – for more information about program fees and estimated costs.

Students will often pay living expenses, such as housing and meals, directly to the partner institution or a local representative, if they are not covered in the program fee. Costs generally not covered in the program fees include international airfare, transportation within the country, health insurance, and visa fees where applicable. Miscellaneous costs, including entertainment and extraneous travel, are the responsibility of each participant.

Students can continue to utilize the **American Installment Plan (AIP)** to pay for their study term abroad. Students should determine the estimated costs of their term abroad and include these when calculating their AIP payments the summer prior to the academic year the student plans to study abroad.

Students studying abroad are strongly encouraged to purchase the Tuition Refund Insurance for their term abroad. It will help minimize financial losses should students suffer serious illness or injury and have to leave their study abroad program before the semester is completed. For more information about the Tuition Refund Plan, contact the Student Health Center Business Manager in the Student Health Center, (202) 885-3298.

### Financial Aid for the Academic Year after You Study Abroad

Your financial aid package for the following year cannot be determined until all of your grades from the previous academic year have been posted to your AU academic record. Financial aid may be delayed for students studying abroad on partner or provider programs if their transcripts are received late or if students have not completed the necessary course approvals. It is important to remember that students who continue to meet the minimum eligibility requirements of their award will not lose their financial aid. Students should ensure that their transcript is received by AU Abroad and that their course approval form is completed in a timely manner.

### Financial Aid for Students Participating in non-AU Abroad Programs

AU institutional grant and scholarship funding are not available for students participating in Non-AU Abroad Programs on a Permit to Study Abroad status. Students participating in Non-AU Abroad programs should contact the AU Financial Aid Office to determine their eligibility for Federal aid.

### Non-AU Students

The information provided on this form applies only to students pursuing a degree at American University in Washington, DC. Students from other universities should consult their own financial aid office for information about applying for financial aid.

(See reverse)