Education Abroad FAQs

Can I receive financial aid for studying abroad?

Yes, you may receive Title IV financial aid if the enrollment in a program of study abroad is approved for credit by the institution. If you are an eligible student and enroll in a Bowling Green State University sponsored study abroad program, you are able to retain all Title IV federal financial aid (excluding Federal Work Study) and most state and institutional financial aid. Bowling Green State University offers several types of study abroad programs: 1. BGSU-sponsored Study Abroad and National Student Exchange Programs; 2. Ohio International Consortium (OIC); and 3. Third Party Affiliate Provider Programs.

Students going abroad in a non-BGSU sponsored program normally can receive federal financial aid. These programs are accredited by other institutions. Depending on which program the student is participating in will determine if a consortium or contractual agreement is needed. Students are not eligible to use BGSU scholarships for non-BGSU programs.

Is financial aid affected if studying abroad for one semester only?

Based on a new federal requirement, if students are participating in a one-semester study abroad program, their Federal Direct Loans (Subsidized, Unsubsidized and PLUS loans) must be split into two equal disbursements. The first disbursement will occur at the beginning of the semester and the second disbursement will occur at the mid-point of the semester.

How do I apply for financial aid and how am I notified about eligibility?

You must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for federal and state grants, and federal loan programs. This application is completed on-line annually at www.fafsa.gov. The federal government forwards an electronic summary of the FAFSA results to Bowling Green State University which Student Financial Aid (SFA) uses to determine financial aid eligibility. Entering freshmen and transfer students receive a paper award letter and continuing students are notified with an email notification directing them to view the award package on MyBGSU.

Can I use a BGSU scholarship when studying abroad?

Students can use BGSU scholarships if awarded by SFA or Office of Admissions for BGSU sponsored study abroad or Ohio International Consortium programs based on full-time enrollment. This does not include room, board, or book scholarships, which are specific to the Bowling Green campus. If a student is studying abroad through another Ohio college, U.S. school, Third Party Affiliate Provider program, or by direct enrollment at a foreign institution, you cannot use a BGSU scholarship at the visited institution.

If you were awarded a scholarship through a BGSU college office or academic department, contact their staff to determine if these funds can be used for studying abroad.
Can I receive financial aid if participating in a study abroad program offered by another college or university?

If you are participating in a program offered through another university (a non-BGSU program), you are considered a guest student and must complete a Consortium Agreement. All sections of the agreement must be returned to SFA. You can download the consortium agreement from the Financial Aid Forms link on the SFA website (www.bgsu.edu/offices/sfa).

Can I receive financial aid if I’m not a BGSU student, but am participating in a study abroad program offered by BGSU?

If you are not a BGSU student, but will be participating in one of our study abroad programs, you are considered a guest student at BGSU. Contact the financial aid office at your “home” institution and initiate a consortium agreement with them because they will process and determine your aid eligibility.

When should I contact the SFA Office to inquire about using financial aid while studying abroad?

Contact the SFA Office at least one full semester before your planned study abroad program begins.

Can I qualify for additional financial aid since my expenses will be different while studying abroad?

Students studying abroad are assigned a different budget for financial aid purposes to allow for additional expenses (airfare, passport, visa, etc.) related to the program. Please note that budget adjustments do not change the student’s eligibility for federal or state grants or federal student loans. Typically, a budget adjustment will only revise the amount a student can borrow from an alternative/private loan from a lending institution/credit union of your choice or a dependent student’s PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students) Loan.

Can the financial aid office provide documentation confirming financial aid awards if the study abroad program requests this information?

Most students can access their financial aid award amounts on-line at MyBGSU on the Student Service Center. Otherwise, contact the SFA Office and request a letter be sent to the program.

Can I receive my financial aid refund if I’m leaving the country before the BGSU semester begins?

Financial aid (grants, loans and scholarships) cannot be disbursed to the bursar bill prior to ten days before the semester begins at BGSU or ten days prior to the start of the study abroad program (provided the study abroad program begins after the BGSU semester begins). Therefore, a refund may not be available until after you leave the country. You are strongly encouraged to sign up for e-refund so the funds are directly deposited to your bank account.
Can I receive financial aid if studying abroad in the summer?

Yes, you complete a Summer Financial Aid Application online typically in early April for that academic year. The summer application is required so SFA can revise your financial aid eligibility based on your credit hours of enrollment, which country you’ll be studying abroad, etc. Please note that the summer term is at the beginning of the aid year. Example: complete a 2013-14 FAFSA and the 2013 Summer Financial Aid Application if requesting to use aid for studying abroad during Summer 2013.