

Financial Aid for Study Abroad

Frequently Asked Questions

Is financial aid available to help fund the cost of study abroad programs?

In general, the financial aid and scholarships for which you are eligible may be used for your study abroad program. You must fill out a FAFSA/WASFA, attend a study abroad/exchange program approved by EWU and have been a regular EWU student at least one quarter prior to your study abroad. NOTE: special rules apply to tuition waiver awards.

How much financial aid is available?

The amount of financial aid you may receive will depend on your eligibility for grants, scholarships and loans along your Study Abroad program costs. Do not assume your financial aid will cover all your study abroad costs. If your study abroad costs are higher than your regular EWU costs, you may need to seek student loans to assist with the additional expense. This may include a private and/or parent loan.

Are there any study abroad scholarships?

Study abroad scholarships are available through the EWU Scholarship Application (ewu.edu/scholarshipapp), from the Gillman Scholarship Program (gilmanapplication.iie.org) and from other outside sources you may find using internet searches. Be sure to inform the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office if you receive any outside scholarships.

What do I need to do to make sure I get financial aid for my study abroad program?

Follow the Checklist provided on the back of this information sheet.

How many credits do I need to take to receive financial aid?

For full time financial aid you must be enrolled for 12 or more credits. Part time aid may be available.

My program starts earlier than EWU and requires a large deposit payment. Can I get my financial aid early?

Due to federal/state regulations, financial aid cannot be released early. Check with your program: many study abroad programs will defer payment if you are relying on financial aid to pay for the program.

Will EWU pay my program bill directly?

No. It is your responsibility to pay your program or institution abroad. EWU releases funds to the student only.

I have GET credits. Can they be applied to my study abroad program?

In many cases GET credits can be applied to your study abroad program. Contact Student Financial Services, sfsofc@ewu.edu or 509.359.6372, for more information.

How do I get my financial aid so I can use it while I am abroad?

It is imperative you set up direct deposit with EWU to ensure your financial aid refund is disbursed directly to your bank account while you are abroad. See the Checklist for more information.

Can my parent(s) or someone else take care of my financial aid for me while I am abroad?

If you would like someone to help you with your financial aid, or any other EWU business needs, while you are abroad, you must complete and submit the Release of Information form to the EWU Records and Registration Office. See the Checklist for more information.

My transcripts won't be sent to EWU for a few months. Will this affect my future EWU financial aid?

After you return from your study abroad program, you have two terms in which obtain your foreign institution transcript, submit it to EWU and have your "Y" grades converted to regular letter grades. If this does not take place within the two term deadline, your future financial aid will be put on hold. Be sure to review the Aid Information & Policies, including the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy, at ewu.edu/financialaid.

Contact EWU Financial Aid, finaid@ewu.edu or 509.359.2314, for more information.

Financial Aid for Study Abroad Checklist

- o **Meet with the Study Abroad Office.** Explore options, opportunities and potential costs.
- o **Submit a FAFSA (studentaid.gov) or WASFA (wsac.wa.gov/wasfa).** *If you already have a FAFSA/WASFA on file, you do not need to complete a new one for study abroad purposes.*
- o **Develop a Financial Plan.** *How much will the program cost? Are living expenses, such as food, room, laundry, etc included? How much spending money is needed? Does the program have pre-paid field trips or are they an optional additional fee?*
- o **Plan for Costs Incurred before You Receive Financial Aid.** *How will you pay for costs associated with the program before your financial aid is released for the term, such as airline tickets, passport and visa services, program deposits, etc.? Due to federal/state regulations, financial aid cannot be disbursed before the start of a term.*
- o **Schedule an Appointment with a Financial Aid Advisor.** *Phone appointments are available, Monday – Friday, 9am to 4pm; call 509.359.2314 to schedule. Discuss what aid resources are available and additional funding options.*
- o **Fill out the Study Abroad Budget Worksheet.** *Available from the Study Abroad Office.*
- o **Respond to Requests from the Financial Aid Office and Finalize Your Aid Award.** *Carefully read all mail/email from EWU and respond to any requirements quickly. Ensure your aid is in place and available before you depart. The aid set up process can take up to three months. Do one last check in with the Financial Aid Office at least 30 days before you depart.*
- o **Sign up for Direct Deposit.** *Direct deposit allows your financial aid to be sent directly to your personal bank account after EWU term charges are paid. Contact Student Financial Services Office, sfsofc@ewu.edu or 509.359.6372, for more information.*
- o **Submit a Release of Information Form.** *A Release of Information Form allows EWU personnel to speak with your parent, and/or other designee, about your EWU account (billing, aid, grades, etc.). Contact Records and Registration, regonline@ewu.edu or 509.359.2321, for more information.*
- o **Convert Your Study Abroad “Y” Grades to Letter Grades within Two Terms of Program Completion.** *If your study abroad grades are not posted to EWU within two quarters after your program ends, your financial aid will be put on hold for future terms. If you withdraw or do not complete the program, inform Financial Aid immediately as you may be subject to repayment of your financial aid. Be sure to review the Aid Information & Policies, including the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy, at ewu.edu/financialaid.*

Contact EWU Financial Aid, finaid@ewu.edu or 509.359.2314, for more information.