



Financing Study Abroad

We encourage students to financially plan ahead and look for financial support from many resources. Below are a few of the ways BSU students help to defray the cost of study abroad:

Federal Grants & Loans (Stafford Loans, Pell Grants, etc.)

Many Ball State students utilize federal financial aid to pay for their programs. Because the cost of BSU approved study abroad is invoiced through the Bursar, federal aid can apply for students who have registered for at least the minimum number of credits. Federal financial aid does not apply to non-BSU programs. The Ball State Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid is the ultimate authority regarding questions on financial aid. Students who wish to learn how their aid package would apply to their study abroad should follow these steps:

1. Select a specific study abroad program
2. Download a copy of your “Estimated Cost of Attendance Worksheet” from the Study Abroad application portal
3. Call 765-285-5600 to set up an appointment the Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid (Lucina Hall, Room 245)
4. Take the “Estimated Cost of Attendance Worksheet” to the meeting.

TIP: Don't forget to complete the FAFSA by the deadline to start the process of applying for need-based aid (e.g. loans and grants).

BSU Institutional Aid (Merit Scholarships)

If you are the recipient of a BSU scholarship such as the Presidential, Whiting, etc. the aid can usually apply to your Ball State approved program. Always check with the Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid to confirm. The value of your award may be affected by the program you select and the number of credit hours you take. For example, if you have a “full ride” at BSU it is very unlikely that all of your study abroad costs are covered. BSU institutional aid does not apply to non-BSU programs.

Rinker Center Scholarships

Did you know the Rinker Center has scholarship funds for BSU approved study abroad? Applications can be obtained from the Ball State Study Abroad Office website.

Program-Specific Scholarships

GEO Study Abroad Scholarships

Students who participate in Ball State's GEO study abroad programs are eligible to apply for GEO scholarship support for many of the programs. Awards range from \$500 - \$1,500. Both need-based and merit-based scholarships are available. To learn more about the scholarships and deadlines visit the websites below:

[GEO Ambassador Scholarship: http://geo.uoregon.edu/scholarships/geo](http://geo.uoregon.edu/scholarships/geo)

[GEO “Map Your Future” Scholarships: http://geo.uoregon.edu/content/map-your-future](http://geo.uoregon.edu/content/map-your-future)

KIIS Study Abroad Scholarships

For students who select a KIIS summer or semester program, several program-specific scholarships are available. Each summer and semester program has one scholarship award. Funding ranges from \$500-\$750 and depends on the program duration. To learn more visit: <http://www.kiis.org/go/Scholarships.php>

ISEP Study Abroad Scholarships

ISEP has a very limited number of scholarships available for semester and yearlong study. To learn more, visit: http://www.isep.org/students/Programs/financial_aid_scholarships.asp

AIFS Scholarships

AIFS provides scholarships for both summer and semester programs. To learn more, visit: <http://www.aifsabroad.com/scholarships.asp>

International Competitive Scholarships

Ball State students are eligible to apply for any number international competitive scholarships and fellowships. To learn more about some of the major scholarships and fellowships that are available and when to begin the application process for them. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/3gbit3c> or contact Dr. Barb Stedman bstedman@bsu.edu for additional details.

Other Financial Planning Considerations

Students should be aware that the application and pre-departure process will require a certain amount of money in advance. This is especially important because some expenses must be covered before loans, scholarships and grants arrive. Common examples would be the passport, plane tickets, immigration fees, deposits and program application fees. If your program requires a student visa, the consulate might require you to show proof of adequate bank funds to support your stay abroad. Keep this in mind when planning for your study abroad experience.

FINANCIAL FAQ

How much does it cost to study abroad?

You pay the actual cost of your study abroad program, which can vary greatly from program to program. The short answer is that study abroad program costs vary widely: some programs will be less expensive than what you pay at BSU, some may be about the same cost, and some may be more expensive. This can be true for both resident students and non-resident students.

There are 3 basic arrangements:

1. **BSU Tuition Exchange (Exchanges)**
Tuition & fees are paid to BSU at the normal rate. Housing and meal costs are paid abroad by the student. Flight and insurance fees are not included.
2. **Program Fee + BSU Technology Fee and Study Abroad Fee (Consortia and Provider Programs)**
The Program Fee is paid to BSU along with the BSU technology fee and \$350 study abroad fee. Program fees include instructional expenses, excursions, health/evacuation insurance and accommodation; oftentimes meals are included (check with your program).
3. **Program Fee + BSU Tuition & Fees (Faculty Led, Internships)**
Program Fee is paid to BSU along with BSU tuition and fees. Program fees include instructional expenses, flights, health/evacuation insurance, excursions and accommodation. Oftentimes meals are included as well. Check with your program director for specifics.

What am I paying for when I study abroad?

When you study abroad, you will mostly pay for the same types of costs that you encounter during a term at BSU (instructional costs, "tuition" for your program), housing costs, food costs, health insurance, transportation, etc.). However, there are a few additional costs that you may have when studying abroad. The following are examples of some of these costs:

- Airfare to and from your host country
- Passport application fees
- Visa application fees (not required for every country)
- Immunizations (only needed for certain locations)
- Personal spending money for extra travel - varies greatly from student to student

Why do program costs vary so much?

Program costs vary greatly from program to program, largely because of two factors: location and program infrastructure. Programs located in countries with a comparably low cost of living are generally more affordable. Programs located in countries with a high cost of living or expensive airfare (such as Australia, New Zealand, or countries in Western/Central Europe), are generally more expensive. These costs are also affected by exchange rates. Programs with a very sophisticated infrastructure and numerous built-in services and excursions contribute to a higher program cost. There is not a direct correlation between program cost and level of quality.