

Financial Aid Information For Study Abroad and International Study Programs

If you wish to receive financial aid to help pay for study abroad or international study tour experience (NEIU course with a trip), you **MUST FIRST** apply for financial aid in the same manner as students studying on campus: by completing the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** form and filing it with the processor.

The FAFSA is available from [the Office of Financial Aid](#) located in the “D” Building, Room D-200. Students who have filed a FAFSA the year before can use the renewal form to apply. **Students are encouraged to apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.**

Financial aid for study abroad and international study programs MAY NOT be available for FAFSA mailed after the deadlines!

In addition to completing the FAFSA, **study abroad students** must contact [the Office of International Programs](#) (OIP) to verify that their chosen study abroad program meets eligibility requirements for transfer of credit to Northeastern Illinois University. If the program is approved, the student must obtain cost information from the program sponsor, i.e.: tuition and fees, housing, meals, airfare, insurance, any included excursions/field trips, visa fee, ground transportation, etc. Provide this information to your OIP study abroad advisor who will prepare an **Estimated Study Abroad Budget** for you.

International Study Tour Budgets are prepared by the Office of International Programs and sent to the financial aid office along with a list of participants who have indicated on their applications that they receive financial aid.

You must turn in your financial need worksheet to [the Office of Financial Aid](#) by the following deadline dates:

SEMESTER	FOR SUBMISSION TO FINANCIAL AID OFFICE BY...	BUDGET BREAKDOWN MUST BE TURNED IN BY...
Fall Study Abroad/Int'l Exp. Program	Last week in May	First week in May
Spring Study Abroad/Int'l Exp. Program	First week in November	Second week in October
Summer Study Abroad/Int'l Exp. Programs	Second week in April	First week in April

After you have submitted the study abroad/international study programs financial aid worksheet, the financial aid advisor will review your file to determine whether he/she can make any adjustments in your aid package. Based on the outcome of the adjustment made to your aid package, **you are now at a critical crossroad: you must decide “to go” or “not to go” and inform your study abroad advisor of your decision immediately.**

Study Abroad Students: If you decide to go, confirm your acceptance with your program provider if you have not already done so. Payments due to the program provider are strictly

between you and the provider. You must provide a copy of your program acceptance letter to the Office of International Programs so that your study abroad advisor can complete the study abroad course approval and registration process in a timely manner. Once your courses have been “put up” in the system, you will be required to pay your study abroad fee to NEIU. This will validate, or confirm, your registration. If your financial aid has not yet been issued, you will have to pay the fee yourself in order to prevent your registration being canceled, OR, request a tuition waiver from the Financial Aid Office in the amount necessary to confirm your registration. The study abroad fee is 2x1 cr. hr. of tuition. This fee is assessed by the university, Not the OIP, and does not come to us.

Students Enrolled in a Faculty-Led International Study Program: If you decide to take the course and go on the required study trip submit your applications to the OIP. Before you receive your financial aid, if any, you will be asked to put down a deposit for your trip costs. It is your responsibility to meet this financial requirement. You register the course and validate your registration as you do normally for other on-campus courses. Tour payments are made at the cashier’s office.

Please note that financial aid cannot be released until the first day of classes on the NEIU campus of the term you will be abroad. In most cases, this may be later than the start of your program. It is your responsibility to take whatever steps necessary to ensure that you will meet your financial obligations to NEIU and your study abroad program provider until the time your aid is dispersed. For study abroad students, before you leave the country, YOU MUST make arrangements with the Office of Financial Aid regarding how your aid will be dispersed: this usually means filling out POWER of ATTORNEY forms.