

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 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.

The deadlines for filing the FAFSA for study abroad and international study programs are:

SEMESTER	FAFSA APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED AND FILED BY ...
Fall Study Abroad/Int'l Study Programs	Last week in January
Spring Study Abroad/Int'l Study Programs	First week in October
Summer Study Abroad/Int'l Study Programs	First week in March

Financial aid for study abroad and international study programs will NOT be available for FAFSAs mailed after the above 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 a **Study Abroad Financial Need Worksheet** for you.

International Study Program Financial Need Worksheets are pre-prepared by the Office of International Programs. **Students applying for enrollment in a faculty-led international study program**, if accepted, must request this worksheet from the Office of International Programs.

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

SEMESTER	FINANCIAL NEED WORKSHEET MUST BE TURNED IN BY ...
Fall Study Abroad/Int'l Exp. Program	Last week in May
Spring Study Abroad/Int'l Exp. Program	First week in November
Summer Study Abroad/Int'l Exp. Programs	Second week in April

Financial aid for study abroad and international study programs will NOT be processed in a timely manner if you fail to submit the financial need worksheet by the above deadlines!

After you have submitted the study abroad/int'l 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 is usually enough to 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.

Students Enrolled in a Faculty-Led International Study Program: If you decide to take the course and go on the required study trip, confirm your participation with your study abroad advisor. 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.

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.