Guide to Using Financial Aid and Scholarships for Study Abroad

Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships
Chubb Hall 020
Athens, OH 45701-2979
T: 740.593.4141
F: 740.593.4140
financial.aid@ohio.edu
www.ohio.edu/financialaid

Office of Global Opportunities
Center for International Studies
Walter International Education Center
15 Park Place
Athens, OH 45701-2979
T: 740.593.4583
F: 740.593.9758
global.opportunities@ohio.edu
www.ohio.edu/oglobal

1. Can I use my financial aid for my global program?
In most cases, all or part of your financial aid can be used when participating in a global experience. The types and amounts you can receive depend on the type of study abroad program in which you plan to participate. Ohio University offers several types of global experience programs. Visit the Office of Global Opportunities (OGO) for more information:

- Ohio University-sponsored Global Programs
- Ohio International Consortium (OIC) and affiliated programs
- Other Non-OHIO programs

Ohio University-Sponsored Global Programs: All financial aid is applicable to these programs. You must meet with a financial aid advisor if you are applying to an Exchange program. These programs require a financial aid advisor’s signature on the Foreign Study Checklist.

Ohio International Consortium Programs (OIC) and Affiliated Programs: All financial aid and Ohio University scholarships should apply to OIC and other affiliated study abroad programs. You must complete a Foreign Study Checklist and meet with a financial aid advisor. Please include a program expense estimate when you meet with your financial aid advisor.

Other Non-OHIO programs: There are certain requirements that must be met in order for you to be eligible to use financial aid for other NON-OHIO programs run through other US or foreign institutions or non-affiliated third party providers. Federal financial aid can be applied to these programs if the Admissions office confirms that you will receive credit. Ohio University scholarships cannot be applied. You must complete a Foreign Study Checklist and meet with your financial aid advisor. Please include a program expense estimate when you meet with your financial aid advisor.

*If you received a scholarship to attend Ohio University from an outside agency or organization, it will be up to that agency to determine whether you can use the scholarship for study abroad.

2. What steps do I take for a global program offered through a Non-OHIO Provider?

- Complete a Foreign Study Checklist (FSC). The FSC is available at the Office of Global Opportunities in the Walter International Education Center.
- Use the FSC to obtain written permission from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, your academic advisor, and the college in which you are enrolled to ensure the courses taken while on the third party program will transfer back to Ohio University and apply toward your Ohio University degree.
- If you are receiving financial aid, you must meet with your financial aid advisor to go over requirements for using financial aid. Provide an expense estimate for the Non-OHIO provider program. This can be obtained from the program provider and must be approved by the Office of Global Opportunities prior to your meeting with your financial aid advisor. Your financial aid advisor will determine who will take responsibility of awarding financial aid. Usually, Ohio University will process your aid.
- Once abroad, you must submit a signed Verification of Overseas Enrollment (VOE) form to the Office of Global Opportunities. This ensures you are attending classes on your study abroad. This form is required each term you are abroad. Your financial aid will not be released until OGO receives this form. The VOE is included in the Foreign Study Checklist.

3. My program costs more than my regular semester charges. Can I get additional financial aid?
You must provide documentation of tuition, housing, food, books, supplies, transportation, air fare, passport fees, program fees, and miscellaneous expenses. The program coordinator or faculty director at Ohio University or the non-OHIO program provider can provide this information.
Your financial aid advisor can increase your cost of attendance to accommodate the increased cost of your program. However, your federal financial aid, including student loans, is limited by your year in school. Parents can apply for a Federal PLUS Loan to cover these expenses. Additionally, you can apply for a private alternative loan. You can find additional information about loans at: http://www.ohio.edu/financialaid/loans/loans_alt.cfm

4. Are there special scholarships and grants for study abroad?
The Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships does not have additional funds available for students studying abroad. There are some scholarships for study abroad awarded bi-annually on a competitive basis. Information about these scholarships can be obtained from OGO website: http://www.ohio.edu/goglobal/Students/scholarship.html

5. I've never applied for financial aid before. How do apply?
Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov for the appropriate year. At Ohio University, the financial aid year starts with summer and end with spring semester. Complete the FAFSA in January or February to be considered for the maximum amount of financial aid for the next academic year. However, you can complete the FAFSA at any time to be considered for federal loans and some federal grants.

You will need tax information for both you and your parent(s) to complete the FAFSA. Both you and your parent(s) will need to sign the FAFSA electronically. Allow 4 weeks for the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships to receive the results of your FAFSA. Additional information and documents may be requested to complete the processing of your FAFSA. Make sure to check your Ohio University email account for such requests. You must also complete the Ohio University online scholarship application by March 1.

Some OGO study abroad scholarship and grant applications require that you complete a FAFSA. If you complete a FAFSA but do not wish to receive financial aid, you can decline your aid online. The Office of Global Opportunities’ need-based Travel Grant requires that you complete a FAFSA to apply for the grant.

6. If I'm abroad, how will I receive my financial aid?
Your financial aid will be disbursed to you after your departure. It is critical that all requirements are met before you leave. If you owe any charges to Ohio University, your aid should be applied to your student account first. If your aid exceeds your charges, your refund will be issued to you in the form of a check or if you have signed up for direct deposit it will be deposited in your DIRECT DEPOSIT account. You can sign-up for direct deposit on through the my OHIO portal the Office of the Bursar’s website: http://www.finance.ohiou.edu/disbursement/directdeposit.html

7. What are some other things I should know?
You can access your financial aid information online through your student portal at http://my.ohio.edu to complete aid requirements. Select the accounts tab on your student portal and select “My OHIO Student Center”.

Most students who study abroad register as full-time students. We will assume you plan to attend full-time unless you tell us otherwise. We do require confirmation of your enrollment before we disburse financial aid. Students on Ohio University-Exchange programs, OIC and third party provider programs must submit the Verification of Overseas Enrollment Form (VOE) before your aid will be released.

8. What aid is available if I enroll directly in a foreign institution?
In general, if the foreign institution is an institution accredited by the US, your federal financial aid will apply. You must obtain the Foreign Study Checklist from OGO to have your financial aid disbursed.

9. What if I have other questions?
You should schedule an appointment with your financial aid advisor once you know in which program you plan to participate. Prior to your appointment you should gather the following information:
- Estimated program cost information
- Contact information for the foreign school you plan to attend
- Complete the Foreign Study Checklist if you are participating in an exchange or other NON-OU program
- Completed FAFSA and financial aid awards

Call the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships at (740) 593-4141 to set up an appointment. You CANNOT see the financial aid advisor assigned to assist students studying abroad on a walk-in basis. Appointments are necessary.