



Study Abroad Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When should I start planning my finances for study abroad?

A: ASAP. It's never too early to start planning!

Q: Can I use my financial aid for study abroad?

A: Federal aid can be used for study abroad. However, state aid, and scholarships, can be tricky. To find out for sure if your aid package will transfer, contact the Office of Financial Aid.

Q: Who should I talk to in the Office of Financial Aid?

A: Ms. Mandi Starwalt handles all study abroad-related questions in the Office of Financial Aid. Her extension is 581-7509, and her email is ajstarwalt@eiu.edu.

Q: I was told I need to show a full-time course load for the semester. How do I do that?

A: Make sure that your course approval form is filled out and approved by the appropriate department chairs and your advisor. This form can be found on the study abroad website (www.eiu.edu/~edabroad) under Paperwork. If you can't find it, just stop in the office and we'll be happy to provide you with a copy.

Q: When will my financial aid be released to me?

A: Your financial aid is routed through EIU on the first day of classes. After covering any outstanding balances, you will receive a refund in the form of a direct deposit or a check. Because the check will be mailed to your home address, it's a good idea to set up direct deposit before you leave.

Q: Are there any scholarships available for study abroad?

A: Yes, yes, yes! Visit the scholarship page on EIU's website in order to see a list of scholarships. Please note, though, that although most scholarships will provide about \$1,000-\$2,000, they will not usually pay for the entire cost of your program.

Q: How much spending money do I need? Will financial aid cover it?

A: See the budget for your individual program on the study abroad website (www.eiu.edu/~edabroad) to see how much money we recommend that you bring. The amount listed on the budget can be covered by your federal aid. Note that these budgets account for modest weekly spending, not lavish extra travels all over Europe. It's a good idea to honestly analyze your own spending habits while budgeting for your program.