Funding Study Abroad

Scholarships & Financial Aid Office
Study Abroad Programs Office
TAMU Study Abroad at a Glance

• During the 2015-16 AY 4,900+ TAMU students studied abroad to 90+ countries on programs varying in length from one week to the full academic year.
• Most Aggies study abroad on TAMU sponsored programs
Debunking the Financial Myths of Study Abroad

• Too Expensive
  – Studying abroad can be affordable. Factors to consider: location, duration, program types & available scholarships

• Financial aid does not apply to study abroad
  – Most TAMU students who study abroad utilize some form of financial aid (scholarships, loans, grants)

• Studying abroad will delay my degree completion making college cost more money
  – Students can earn the same credits abroad that they would take on campus and students who study abroad during the summer can even get ahead in their degree.
Debunking the Financial Myths of Study Abroad

• Scholarships are guaranteed
  – Scholarships are not guaranteed. Be sure to have a back up plan if not awarded. Apply for as many scholarships as you can.

• Financing a program is quick and easy
  – It is never too soon to start planning for your study abroad. The sooner you start the easier it will be.

• I don’t think I’m eligible for any scholarships so I am not going to apply
  – All TAMU students can apply for the University Wide Study Abroad Scholarship. Meet with a financial aid advisor to determine if you meet the eligibility requirements.
Reciprocal Educational Exchange Programs (REEPs)

- **Program Structure**
  - Attend a partner university
  - Some programs have language requirements
  - 3.0+ GPA & junior or senior classification
  - University-wide & college/departmental exchanges
  - Courses come back as TAMU equivalents (A&M credit)
  - Primarily semester programs, with a few summer opportunities

- **Financial Considerations:**
  - Pay TAMU Tuition & Fees
  - Federal funding may only apply to courses that are within your degree plan
Transfer Credit Programs

• Program Structure:
  – Go through third-party providers, other US universities, or direct enrollment in a foreign university
  – Courses come back as transfer credit (Pass/Fail)
  – Summer, winter break and semester programs available

• Financial Considerations:
  – Additional scholarships potentially available through third-party provider
  – Do not pay TAMU Tuition & Fees
  – Please work with your Academic Advisor to pre-approve classes
  – Federal funding may only apply to courses that are within your degree plan
Research, Internship, & Volunteer

• Program Structure:
  – Go on experiences independently or through a provider
  – Some TAMU-arranged internships available
  – Can be credit-bearing or non-credit bearing

• Financial Considerations:
  – Paid or unpaid, but most are unpaid.
  – Must be credit-bearing and meet enrollment eligibility requirements to access scholarships and financial aid
Field Trips

• Program Structure:
  – Led by a TAMU faculty member, staff member, or a student organization
  – Can be credit-bearing or non-credit bearing
  – Usually 1-2 weeks long

• Financial Considerations
  – Must be credit-bearing and meet enrollment eligibility requirements to access scholarships and financial aid
  – Scholarship deadline corresponds to term in which the course takes place
  – Student organizations may be eligible for funding through Student Activities or their college
Faculty-led Programs

• Program Structure
  – Go as a group of Aggies
  – Led by TAMU faculty
  – Designed around specific TAMU courses (A&M credit)
  – Varying eligibility requirements
  – Summer, winter break and semester programs available

• Financial Considerations:
  – Pay TAMU Tuition & Fees
  – Federal funding may only apply to courses that are within your degree plan
Study Abroad Scholarships

• Texas A&M Sponsored Scholarships
  – University Wide Scholarship
    • Study Abroad Fellowship (SAF) – need-based
    • International Education Fee Scholarship (IEFS) – merit-based
  – Global Opportunity Fund
• College/Departmental Scholarships
• Academic Scholarship Study Abroad Stipend
• The award amount ranges from $500 - $2000
Study Abroad Scholarship Eligibility

- Texas A&M GPA
- Full-time/half-time enrolled
- Only students who have a “confirmed” status in an approved Texas A&M program and are selected according to the eligibility requirements by the Scholarship & Financial Aid Office will be awarded a scholarship
- Students who meet the eligibility requirements should apply for U-wide scholarships regardless of your Study Abroad program application status (in progress; accept; confirmed)

Ask a Scholarships & Financial aid advisor about eligibility requirements for any specific scholarship
University Wide Scholarship Application Process

- You create one application to apply for all 3 scholarships (SAF, IEFS and Global Opportunity Fund)
- Deadlines for 2016-2017 AY (exact dates subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Open Date</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall and Academic Year programs</td>
<td>March 1\textsuperscript{st}</td>
<td>Approximately April 1\textsuperscript{st}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter break &amp; Spring programs</td>
<td>September 12\textsuperscript{nd}</td>
<td>Approximately October 12\textsuperscript{th}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer programs</td>
<td>October 15\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Approximately February 1\textsuperscript{st}</td>
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*The Study Abroad Programs Office is not responsible for setting scholarship due dates and dates are subject to change. Please contact the department managing the scholarship for the exact dates.

- You will be notified of the decision and award amount 1-2 months after the deadline.
University Wide Scholarship Application Process

- Link to the application portal can be found on
  - Scholarships & Financial Aid website
  - Study Abroad Programs Office website
  - Study Abroad Program Brochure page
University Wide Scholarship Application Process

Log in with your UIN and password to start your application.
University Wide Scholarship Application Process

On the left hand side, you can see the application progress and status.

Note:
- There is no “submit” button at the end of your application.
- You will not receive notification through email that your application is completed.
Study Abroad Scholarships

Eligibility requirements and deadlines vary for national scholarships

Visit the Study Abroad Programs Office website for more information and a list of more opportunities

National Scholarships

• Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship (Pell Grant recipients), NSEP Boren Scholarship & Fellowship, Critical Language Scholarship
• Contact Jamaica Pouncy (jamaica.pouncy@tamu.edu) at the National Fellowships Office for details

Project GO (Corps members)

• Contact Conny Hauf (chauf@tamu.edu)

Fund for Education Abroad

• Visit Fund for Education Abroad for details
Additional Funding Sources

• **Veterans benefits**
  – Can be used towards study abroad
  – Different benefits (Hazlewood vs. Post 9/11 G.I. Bill) cover different amounts or types of fees
  – Veterans benefits may only fund study abroad if it is required for your degree
  – Consult study abroad website for details and next steps

• **Texas Guaranteed Tuition Plan (Texas Tomorrow Fund)**
  – Pre-paid tuition plan
  – Can be used towards any credit-bearing experience
  – Consult study abroad advisor for the next steps on how to access benefits for program
Federal & Alternative Loans

• **FAFSA** – you must have an application on file for the Academic Year that you plan to go abroad if you want to utilize federal financial aid
  – The FAFSA is also required for eligibility for some scholarships

• **Federal Student Loans**
  – Federal Perkins Loan
  – Federal Direct Loans, both subsidized and unsubsidized

• **Alternative Loans**
  – Private lending institutions
  – Based on credit and student may need credit worthy cosigner
  – Interest and principal balance may or may not be deferred, depends on lender
Short-term Loans

May help pay for early program expenses (international airfare, visas, program deposits)

- **Scholarships & Financial Aid Short-term Loans**
  - Available through the Scholarships and Financial Aid Office website
  - Loan amount depends on TAMU classification
  - Not interest-free

- **MSC LT Jordan Institute Overseas Loan Fund**
  - Available through the LT Jordan Institute – located on the 2nd floor of the MSC
  - Interest-free financial aid up to $1,000 for travel or study abroad
Receiving Your Aid

• Federal financial aid is disbursed 10 days before the start of the TAMU term (or program departure date)
  – No sooner & whichever comes later
• Payments for most programs will be due the terms before your program departure
  – Ex. Due in Spring 2016 for Summer 2016
• Discuss with Financial Aid how progress towards degree affects financial aid eligibility
• It’s your responsibility to take into consideration that aid disbursement occurs after program payment is due
Financial Aid Request Form

- A form that can be utilized to reassess the cost of your attendance through your FAFSA (e.g., federal and state financial aid)
- Ask your study abroad advisor for the form
- Visit the Scholarships & Financial Aid to go over your personal financial situation
Creative Funding Options

- **Crowdsourcing**
  - Online fundraising tools that can be shared on social media to raise money for your program (ex. GoFundMe.com, Aggiefunding.com)

- **Fundraising**
  - Hold a garage sale
  - Sell food such as homemade tamales or host a bake sale
  - Create & sell t-shirts

- **Request funding for gifts**
  - Birthdays, holidays, and other special occasions

- **Get a part-time job**
  - On-campus jobs: offer flexible student schedules
  - During the summer: when you have more time
  - An alternative job with less hours: officiating sports, babysitting
Your To-do List

• Plan ahead
  – We recommend planning at least a year in advance
• Talk to your family
  – Only you can share your financial information with your family
• Meet with Financial Aid & Study Abroad
  – Follow up when needed
• Determine the total cost of participation in your program
  – Create a funding plan
Questions

Study Abroad Programs Office
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Scholarships & Financial Aid
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