

Financial Aid and Study Abroad

Slippery Rock University Guidelines

As you prepare for study abroad, you and your parents may have questions about the cost of study abroad. Will it be more expensive than study at Slippery Rock University? Who do I pay? Will my financial aid apply towards the cost of study abroad? These will be just a few of your questions.

Slippery Rock University students may study abroad in countries worldwide for a semester or a summer.

Students may participate in study abroad through:

1. SRU Exchange programs (SRU's own international partners)
2. SRU programs (SRU partners but NOT "exchange" programs)
3. Non-affiliated Programs (Student selected Study Abroad Agencies such as CEA and API)
Please refer to the Study Abroad Program Cost Estimate Guide for estimated costs and program types.

In terms of financial planning, it is vital to keep in mind that living abroad can be expensive. In addition, you may have the opportunity for travel opportunities while you are visiting another country.

FAQ's

If I study abroad, can my financial aid be used to cover the costs?

In most cases, yes. Students participating in *SRU exchange programs* can use their grants, loans, tuition waivers and scholarships to help cover the costs of the study abroad program. For student participating in the *SRU programs (non-exchange)*, only certain grants and loans may apply. Tuition waivers and scholarships may not apply.

Students selecting a program directly through a Study Abroad agency can receive some grants and loans but tuition waivers and SRU scholarships may not be used to cover the program costs. Students participating in study abroad programs through a *non-affiliated agency*, such as CEA or API, are required to complete a *consortium agreement* with that agency. Consortium agreements are available in the SRU Financial Aid Office. All students considering study abroad and wanting financial aid are encouraged to make an appointment with the SRU Financial Aid Office to review program funding sources and options.

I have never applied for financial aid before. How do I apply for aid?

Students who plan to study abroad should apply for financial aid in the same manner as students who will study on campus. Slippery Rock University requests that student complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. It is important for students who plan to study abroad to file the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, but before the May 1, Pennsylvania State Grant deadline. You will be considered for all types of federal and state grants and loans. You may still apply for aid after the May 1 PA deadline, however, the types of aid you will be considered for will be limited.

How will the Financial Aid Office know how much my costs will be?

The International Services Office notifies the Financial Aid Office of all the costs associated with SRU study abroad programs. Students who wish to apply for increased funding to cover study abroad costs should contact the Financial Aid Office at least 60 - 90 days prior to departure to discuss financial aid options. Upon request, the Financial Aid Office will adjust your cost of attendance to reflect the estimated costs for your particular program. An award notice will then be sent to you with any financial aid adjustments, if applicable. In many cases, the cost of attendance adjustment allows for increased loan eligibility.

Will I be able to receive the same financial aid I would be eligible for if I studied on campus?

It depends on which program you will participate in. If you participate in a SRU exchange program, you can be eligible for the same types and amount of aid. If you participate in the non-affiliated programs, the types of aid you would be eligible for could be limited.

If I don't want to be considered for need-based aid, where can I go to get money to help pay my expenses?

There are options available for those who do not complete the FAFSA. Parents and students can apply for non-federal loans and you can also search for scholarships on the internet at www.fastweb.com or www.studyabroadfunding.org

Must I meet satisfactory academic progress requirements while studying abroad to maintain my financial aid eligibility?

Yes. Students are responsible for attendance at all classes and scheduled activities. SRU's Academic Regulations and Procedures will apply while enrolled in a study abroad program. *Any changes in enrollment status must be reported to the International Program Office immediately. Keep in mind that enrollment changes could impact your financial aid eligibility.* For students studying abroad and wishing to receive financial aid, you must be registered for minimum of 6 credits (part-time). If you study abroad for the full academic year or Spring semester, it is important to keep in mind that the release of financial aid for the following Summer or Fall academic term may be delayed while SRU awaits the receipt of your academic transcript from the international institution. Because SRU can not confirm your satisfactory academic progress without the transcript, your financial aid may be placed on hold until the transcript is received.

Who do I pay for my study abroad program?

That depends. Students participating in the SRU exchange programs will pay SRU directly for tuition and fees, while student participating in non-affiliated programs will usually pay fees directly to the specific program. For all programs, charges for air fare, passports, visas, medical insurance and other miscellaneous study abroad costs will be the student's responsibility. Any financial aid you have been awarded will be credited to your student account at Slippery Rock University on the regularly scheduled semester disbursement dates. In the event that funds are due to the Study Abroad Program prior to our regular disbursement dates, students should make payment or deferment arrangements with their program.