Study Abroad Billing & Financial Aid
Frequently Asked Questions

I’ve been accepted to my study abroad program and they require a deposit to confirm my place. Who pays the deposit?
If your program requires a deposit, you are responsible for paying it directly to your program sponsor (not to the Study Abroad Office); Northwestern cannot pay or send your deposit for you. When you go abroad, your deposit will be credited either to your Northwestern invoice or to your housing invoice from your program sponsor.

What else will I need to pay for now/before I leave?
Some pre-departure expenses related to study abroad – such as application fees, deposits, student visas, and airfare – may occur long before you leave for your program, so some financial planning may be necessary. If you receive financial aid, many of these expenses will be included in your aid award for next year, but some may need to be paid before your fall aid is available to you.

When/How will I get billed for everything else?
Your Northwestern invoice for the fall will still be issued on August 10th, just like any other year. For all affiliated programs, your NU invoice will include at least your study abroad program’s tuition. Some programs also have room, board, and other charges billed through NU, while other programs will bill you directly for these charges.

For most programs, you will also be charged the NU Study Abroad Administrative Fee (SAAF). Northwestern exchange programs and IPD programs are exempt from the SAAF. If you are attending an unaffiliated program, NU will only bill you for the SAAF; all other charges should be paid directly to your program.

How much does my program cost?
Each affiliated program page on the Study Abroad Office website has an estimate of total costs – you can find the most current cost information on your program sponsor’s website. Costs for IPD programs and exchange programs can be found on the IPD program pages.

When/How do I apply for financial aid? How does financial aid work?
The financial aid application is no different than that for regular campus study, but if you are attending a fall or full year program, your completed Northwestern financial aid application should be submitted by April 1st. Study abroad does not change your expected family contribution; your aid package will be adjusted based on the cost of your program.

What about other study abroad scholarships?
You are welcome to pursue outside scholarships for study abroad, either through your program sponsor or from an outside provider or organization. Many of these deadlines have already passed or are coming up soon, so be sure to apply as soon as possible!

I still have questions.
You can find lots of information in the Money Matters section of the online study abroad guide: http://www.northwestern.edu/studyabroad/resources/online-guide/money-matters/

Otherwise, feel free to contact Krista Buda Bethel, Assistant Director of Study Abroad Financial Services, at 847-491-7400 or krista@northwestern.edu.