

2021-22 STUDY ABROAD - FINANCIAL AID FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

❖ **Where do I find information about studying abroad and how do I apply?**

The [Office of International Programs \(OIP\) website](#) has general information about opportunities for studying abroad. To search for and apply for programs, please visit the [Global Programs System \(GPS\)](#).

❖ **Will I continue to receive financial aid?**

If you qualify for need-based financial aid, you should continue to be eligible for assistance; however, your semester aid award will be revised to reflect your specific cost of attendance.

❖ **What will my family be expected to pay?**

We assume that the semester portion of the family contribution listed on the “My Financial Aid” page will be available for your expenses while abroad. If you will be away for the full year, then the whole amount should be available.

If the family contribution includes a Student Contribution (typically \$3500), you should be aware that we will assume that you will be able to provide \$1750 per semester for your out-of-pocket expenses. You may want to plan to work and save during the summer or semester preceding your departure to be able to manage these expenses. If you are unable meet this goal, we can provide a subsidized student loan to cover all or a portion of this contribution.

❖ **How will my aid be adjusted to reflect the costs for my semester abroad?**

If your program expenses are less than a semester at Princeton, your University grant will be reduced. On the other hand, if your budget is more than staying on campus, your grant aid will be increased. In rare cases when the cost of attendance is substantially less than Princeton’s, students may no longer qualify for need-based assistance for your semester abroad.

❖ **What is included in the cost of attendance and how is the aid office notified?**

The budget used to determine your semester aid will include tuition, housing, travel, meals, and reasonable expenses related to your program abroad (e.g. coach airfare, required immunizations). The approved budget will not include discretionary spending such as entertainment or optional travel.

As part of the GPS application process, you must complete the Financial Aid Form listing your expenses. The Office of International Programs (OIP) will review and approve your budget figures, then forward the information to the financial aid office.

❖ **How will I know about my aid adjustment?**

Before you leave, the aid office will send you a letter, via email, with semester breakdowns of your expenses and financial aid. The letter will also include an explanation of how your aid will be applied toward your fees and expenses.

❖ **How will my aid be used?**

Your aid will be used in the following order:

- To cover any Princeton charges
- To cover any charges from the sponsoring program (if there is a US payment address)
- Any remaining aid will be released to either you or a parent

If you have a billing statement from a university or program outside of the US, your aid will be released to you, and you will be responsible for paying the program directly.

❖ **How do I pay for my airfare and other personal expenses?**

Although the cost of attendance will include your out-of-pocket expenses, in most cases a portion of the family contribution should be used for personal spending and travel costs.

❖ **When will my aid be released?**

The Student Accounts Office will not release any aid funds until you have submitted all required forms. Normally, semester aid funds are released in September and February.

❖ **How do I request a financial guarantee letter?**

In July (for fall semester programs) or in November (for spring semester programs), the aid office will provide a letter for your visa/program application. If you need to request a payment deferment form or have other related concerns, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

❖ **Can I request an early release?**

In certain cases, specifically for students with large aid awards, we can arrange to release part of your semester aid before you depart.

❖ **Whom should I contact if I have questions about my expenses, financial aid, or bills?**

If you have questions about your aid, do not hesitate to contact the financial aid office.

If you find out that your expenses are more than estimated, you should contact OIP to discuss your concerns. If they approve a change to your budget, your award will be adjusted to reflect the additional expenses.

Finally, any questions about Princeton charges, the balance due, or payment arrangements should be directed to the Student Accounts Office.

Office of International Programs

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Building, Room 55A Level A
609-258-5524
sap@princeton.edu

Undergraduate Financial Aid Office

The Helm Building
330 Alexander Road
609-258-3330
faoffice@princeton.edu

Student Accounts Office

701 Carnegie Suite 435
609-258-6378
studacct@Princeton.edu