

Financial Aid Information for Study Abroad Participants:

1. Start the application processes (for both financial aid and the actual study abroad program) as early as possible. The UWM Department of Financial Aid's website is <http://www4.uwm.edu/financialaid/>. The Overseas Programs and Partnerships office's (also known as the Study Abroad office) website is <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CIE/studyabroad/>.
2. Each year, the Study Abroad office hosts two Study Abroad Fairs – one in February and one in September. The Fair in February showcases the upcoming Summer and Fall study abroad programs. The Fair in September showcases the upcoming Winterim and Spring study abroad programs. Representatives from the Financial Aid Department are available at the fairs.
3. The Wisconsin Study Abroad Grant is available to Wisconsin Residents who participate in UWM-Sponsored programs. Students must apply and meet other eligibility requirements. Applications for the grants are available at the study abroad office in Pearse Hall (room 166), at the financial aid office in Mellencamp Hall (room 162), and on both the study abroad and financial aid websites.
4. The costs of studying abroad are considered when the financial aid office determines financial aid awards. However, the federal government limits the amount of Federal Student Loans a student can borrow. This usually means that a student may not be offered additional student loans although their study abroad costs may be higher than their regular costs. In these cases, a student or parent may borrow additional funds from the Parent Plus loan or Alternative loan programs (both programs are based on credit approval). Information about both of these programs is available on the UWM Financial aid website at <http://www4.uwm.edu/financialaid/>.
5. In order to be considered for federal financial aid and the Wisconsin Study Abroad Grant, students are required to complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This can be done online at (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>). Students applying for the Wisconsin Study Abroad Grant should be careful to meet all published FAFSA filing deadlines. The FAFSA filing deadline for completing a FAFSA is usually March 1st for Summer and Fall programs and October 1st for Winterim and Spring programs. Please note: these FAFSA filing deadlines only apply to students who are applying for the Wisconsin Study Abroad Grant. Other deadlines apply for FAFSA filers in general.
6. In order to be considered for the Gilman Scholarship, students must be eligible for the Federal Pell Grant. Students must complete a FAFSA and any other requested documentation in order for the Financial Aid department to determine Pell eligibility. Therefore, it is imperative that students complete the FAFSA as early as possible and submit any additional information to the financial aid office as early as possible.