

STUDY AWAY PROGRAMS APPROVED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Federal Eligibility Requirements: The U.S. Department of Education encourages students to consider study abroad or in other areas of the United States. Institutions are encouraged to provide these opportunities to students. The College of Charleston Office of Financial Assistance provides the following information in hopes the financial aid processes can serve your needs as expeditiously and efficiently as possible.

1. College of Charleston Study Abroad Courses. These courses are treated in the same manner as all other College of Charleston courses. Documentation of the costs for your individual choice of College of Charleston Study Abroad Courses must be submitted to our office before final determination of your eligibility for aid can be made.
2. Bilateral Student Exchange Program (BSEP). Requires permission of the College of Charleston BSEP Coordinator. The student must register as a full-time student in the appropriate BSEP course. If the student will not be paying tuition and fees at the College of Charleston, documentation of all costs must be submitted to the contact person in the Office of Financial Assistance by the deadline.
3. Affiliate Study Abroad Program (ASAP). Students, who wish to study abroad through a program not listed above, must obtain certification from the Center for International Education that College of Charleston has a written agreement (available for inspection on demand by federal officials) with that institution which states that the credits received at that institution meet all accreditation standards and institutional standards for transfer back to College of Charleston for academic credit toward the student's degree. **If no such written agreement exists with the host institution, the student is not eligible for financial assistance in this program.** The student must register as a full-time student in an appropriate ASAP course in the Registrar's Office and submit documentation of all costs to the contact person in the Office of Financial Assistance by the deadline.

State of South Carolina Requirements: Students must be enrolled full-time in order to be eligible for state funds.

Veteran Benefits: Veteran Educational benefits may be used to study abroad. The VA certifying official at the office of Financial Assistance and Veterans Affairs will determine if the courses are required based on a degree audit. A student may only enroll in courses that are required for graduation, whether core or elective. If the courses are required, a request will be submitted to the State Approving Agency (SAA) on the student's behalf for initial approval. The SAA's decision must then be ratified by the Federal Education Liaison Representative (ELR). Students will not be certified without the final approval of the ELR.

College of Charleston Scholarship Requirements: Due to the funding course, certain scholarships are available only if you are paying tuition and fees at the College of Charleston. These scholarships include but are not limited to: College of Charleston Merit Scholarship, College of Charleston Academic Scholarship, Institutional Scholarships, Dependents of Deceased & Disabled Veterans, SC Emp. of People with Disabilities, Law Enforcement Dependents Waiver, and/or Graduate Abatement Scholarship. There may be others not listed here.

Scholarships from the College of Charleston Foundation, such as named scholarships are available for study away regardless if tuition is paid at the College.

Please note that the scholarship renewal criteria for the College of Charleston Merit Scholarship is not affected by study away, so a student may need to make up hours if taking a lighter course load while away, or if classes do not transfer back to College of Charleston.

Early deposits: Any early deposits required by any of the above programs are solely the responsibility of the student. No form of aid may be disbursed early for any reason.

Disbursement of "Excess Financial Aid": The disbursement date for excess financial aid is the same as for all other students. **You are advised that there can be no early disbursement of funds for any reason.** Therefore, if program fees must be paid in advance it will be the student's responsibility to arrange to pay these fees and then get reimbursed with their financial aid.

Alternative Loans may be used to finance Study Away Programs – www.cofc.edu/finaid/loans.php.

The student is encouraged to set up an automatic deposit of excess aid via MyCharleston, EBill suite. Otherwise, excess aid will be sent to student's permanent address on file with the Registrar's Office.

Deadlines:

Fall Semester

July 1

Spring Semester

November 1

Maymester, Summer*

April 1

VA Students Only

May 1

September 1

February 1

ALL STUDY AWAY PROGRAM STUDENTS SEEKING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MUST SUBMIT THE ATTACHED STUDY AWAY PROGRAM CERTIFICATION FORM BY THE ABOVE DEADLINES.

*Requires a CofC Summer Application for Financial Assistance form, deadline: April 1.

College of Charleston

Office of Financial Assistance & Veterans Affairs

Study Away Aid Approved Per Program

	Washington Study Away	CofC Study Abroad	BSEP	ASAP
Pell Grant and SEOG	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SC Need Based Grant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Student Loans	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parent Loans	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State Scholarships (LIFE, Palmetto Fellows, and Enhancements)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SC Teaching Fellows	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Institutional Grant/Waiver*	Yes	Yes	Only if tuition paid to CofC	No
Institutional Need Based Grant	Yes	Yes	Only if tuition paid to CofC	No
College of Charleston Merit Scholarship	Yes	Yes	Only if tuition paid to CofC	No
Institutional Scholarship	Yes	Yes	Only if tuition paid to CofC	No
Foundation Funded Scholarship	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Teacher Loans/Career Changers	Yes	Yes	Only if tuition paid to CofC	No
Federal Teach Grant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Veterans Benefits**	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

For all Affiliate Study Abroad Program, students must provide the office of Financial Assistance documentation of expenses in addition to completing the Study Away Certification form.

Students must be enrolled full-time (at least 12 hours) for all programs during the academic year. Students must be enrolled at least part-time during summer.

Students must be enrolled full-time for all scholarship programs.

*Institutional Grant/Waiver applies to all 4% funding sources and all other types of tuition waivers. This includes: Dependents of Deceased and Disabled Veterans, SC Employment of People with Disabilities, Law Enforcement Dependents Waiver, and Graduate Assistance Abatement. There may be others not listed here.

**Students must be pre-approved in order to receive Veterans Benefits to study abroad.

STUDY AWAY PROGRAM CERTIFICATION FORM

Print Student's Last Name, First, MI

Student ID Number

1. For which of the Study Away Programs listed below have you registered? Do not submit this form until you have registered in the appropriate courses in the Office of the Registrar.

_____ CofC Study Abroad Courses

_____ Bilateral Student Exchange Program (BSEP)

_____ Affiliate Study Abroad Program (ASAP)**

(Special signature required, attach copy of program cost for ASAP)

Term(s) planned to Study Away: Fall _____ Spring _____ Maymester/Summer _____

Institution and Location of Study: _____

2. Have you verified that your permanent, local, and billing addresses are accurate in the Registrar's Office? If you have not, it is your responsibility to do so.
3. You are expected to enroll for a minimum of 12 hours each semester. Failure to register for 12 hours will result in immediate repayment of your financial aid prorated based on actual hours and program requirements. You are expected to enroll for at least part-time during summer.

Your signature below indicates that you have read, understand, and agree to all of the attached information and instructions and that you will comply with the instructions of all other appropriate offices including but not limited to the Center for International Education, Treasurer, Registrar, and Controller.

Student's Signature

Date

**As a representative of the Center for International Education, I hereby certify that the above referenced ASAP student is participating in a Study Abroad Program at an institution with whom the College of Charleston has a written agreement to accept credits under the transfer credit rules of the College of Charleston. This written agreement is available for inspection in the Center for International Education. Absent such an agreement the student is not eligible for financial assistance.

Signature Required: Representative of Center for International Education

Date