

STUDYING ABROAD FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the potential financial costs for studying abroad?

Providence College has a Home School Tuition Policy. This means students are charged tuition here at the College **but** are charged room/board through their abroad program. All eligible financial aid is applied to your charges here at the College **first** which could include, but not limited to: tuition, tuition differential*, study abroad fee, health insurance, unfulfilled housing contracts, parking fines, dorm damage fines, and/or late fees. If your eligible financial aid is greater than your charges you can **then** use the remaining towards the room/board charges at your abroad program.

These policies are detailed in the “*Parent Financial Statement of Understanding and Home School Tuition Policy*” which all students/parents must sign and agree. This document is available to view at <http://global-education.providence.edu>. Select “Study Abroad” then “Document Center.”

Is there a calculator to help estimate abroad related costs?

Yes! If you need help estimating all costs associated with going abroad check out our [Study Abroad Costs Calculator](#).

What is a Refund Instruction Form and what do I do with it?

A Refund Instruction Form is filled out **only** if you are receiving financial aid (including loans) in excess of your billed charges at Providence College. By completing this form you are giving Providence College permission to send your eligible financial aid funding directly to the host program and/or directly to a parent/guardian.

What happens if my financial assistance changes after my paperwork is completed?

If your eligibility changes or you apply for loans or outside scholarships **after** your paperwork is completed by the Office of Financial Aid, you must notify us in writing where to send the financial aid by completing another Refund Instruction Form.

What financial aid is portable?

Institutional funding (excluding work-study and athletic grants) along with federal, state, and most private financial aid in the form of scholarships, grants and loans are portable. If you have an outside scholarship, you must check with the sponsoring agency providing those funds to ensure that you may receive this funding while studying abroad.

What if I am using a PLUS or alternative student loan to help pay for my study abroad program?

If you have a Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Student (PLUS loan), funds will be automatically credited to the student account. If you have an alternative loan, please be advised that if the lender sends Providence College a paper check, it will require the signature of the student/borrower. Most often loan checks will come in after the student has already left the country. We strongly recommend that a parent/guardian secure a Power of Attorney for the student’s financial affairs so the check can be endorsed in the student’s absence. This will help prevent any delays in payment. For the alternative loans and PLUS, all paperwork needs to be completed with Providence College and/or lender prior to departure. This includes the self-certification form and/or master promissory note, if applicable.

Can I contract with Nelnet Campus Commerce to pay my study abroad program?

Students may contract with Nelnet to cover charges that are billed directly from the College such a tuition and study abroad fee. Nelnet cannot be used to manage the other expenses that are billed by the abroad program. You should contact your abroad program to make payment arrangements.

How does my money get released from Providence College to my host program or institution?

Once all the expected financial assistance for a student is applied to the student account, the money is then forwarded per the student's instructions on the Refund Instruction Form. Funds may be sent to the abroad program and/or a parent/guardian. If funds are sent to a parent/guardian, the student is responsible for settling charges with the abroad program on their own. Since funding (i.e. loans, outside scholarships) may come in at different times it is possible for multiple checks to be issued.

How will my abroad program know I am using financial aid to pay my bill?

Most abroad programs will have a *financial aid deferral* form on their website. Usually, the student fills out a section and then it is sent to our office to confirm that a refund will be coming. Students must ensure they have a credit before filling out this form. Contact the abroad host program for more details.

What if I am going abroad in the summer?

You will be charged the abroad program's tuition and fees directly from the program. Unlike the fall/spring programs, you will not be charged Providence College's tuition and they will not in turn pay the tuition of the host program. Everything is billed directly to the student from the abroad program. Providence College may charge a nominal fee or no fee for PC faculty led programs).

Can I use my financial aid for summer programs?

Institutional funds and the NelNet Campus Commence payment plan are not available for any summer programs; however you may apply for an alternative loan, Federal Direct Loans, Federal Pell Grant, and Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan to cover expenses.

In order to receive any financial aid (for the Summer 2022 program) you will need to complete and submit the 2022-2023 FAFSA, the 2022-2023 Refund Instruction Form, and any requested verification documents at least two weeks in advance of your departure date to help offset expenses. You must be enrolled in at least 3 credits to use a Federal Pell Grant towards and at least 6 credits to use any Federal loans. Check with private/alternative lenders for their academic credit minimums. *If you elect to use Federal Direct Loans the portion used will reduced your total eligibility in the Fall & Spring semesters.* If you are receiving an outside resource including scholarships or grants from your host program/institution, you must notify us immediately as it may impact your offer of assistance.

**If the program's tuition is more than our tuition (i.e. a tuition differential) the difference will also be added to your bill here at the College.*