

Financial aid considerations:

- ✓ Fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at fafsa.ed.gov for the school year that you intend on studying abroad by the January 31st priority deadline. FAFSA opens each year on October 1st for the following academic year.
- ✓ Work with your Study Abroad Advisor during an advising appointment to complete a financial budget for your program.
- ✓ Be aware of restrictions on specific aid types: Loans and grants are financial aid that can travel with you. You are ineligible to use Tuition Waivers, Western Grants, or Work Study while on study abroad. You have the option of frontloading your loans during your education abroad quarter.
- ✓ Check with the Scholarship Center (Old Main 285, phone 360.650.3471) regarding scholarship opportunities or awarded scholarships and whether they are eligible to be applied to your program costs.
- ✓ Your program may require deposits or payments before your financial aid disburses. Check with your program for deferment options. Contact the Financial Aid Services Center if you need paperwork completed on your behalf regarding your financial aid.
 - **Important note:** Financial aid disburses funds to your Student Account the Friday before the first day of the quarter **OR** the first day of your program, **whichever is later**.

Before you leave:

- ✓ Verify with the Financial Aid office that you have completed all requirements including required documentation, accepting your award, and completing loan entrance counseling and loan agreements (MPN).
- ✓ Make arrangements with your program regarding your payment schedule. Financial aid will be disbursed to you—WWU will not pay program costs directly.
- ✓ Consider having a Power of Attorney to take care of any financial matters that may arise while you are away. A Power of Attorney gives someone the authority to sign documents in your absence. This form is available from EdAbroad or the Financial Aid office.
- ✓ Set up Direct Deposit via your refund preferences by visiting [WWUChoiceCard.com](https://www.wvu.edu/choicecard). If you have additional questions about your refund preferences, please contact the Student Business Office via email sbo@wwu.edu or phone 360.650.2865.
- ✓ Ensure your personal information is up to date on your Web4U.
- ✓ Monitor your WWU email account for important communication while abroad.
- ✓ Contact Financial Aid to discuss any questions.

Financial Aid Contact Information:**Western Washington University Financial Aid Department**Finaid.wwu.edu | financialaid@wwu.edu | p. 360.650.3470 | f. 360.650.7291516

Mailing: Old Main 265, MS 9006, 516 High St | Bellingham, WA | 98225