Financial Aid for Off-Campus Study

Policy/Procedure

Students wishing to apply for financial aid for international or domestic off-campus study must first have their application approved by the Office of Global Education. In addition, they must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Online Financial Aid Application, and a State Grant Application (if appropriate). Since financial aid is based in part on the cost of the program, eligibility for some financial aid resources may be different than for semesters spent on campus. Eligibility is also affected by the type of abroad program, as outlined below:

Dickinson and Dickinson Partner Programs: Beijing, Bologna, Bremen, Buenos Aires/IES, Hebrew University, Hyderabad/CIEE, ICCS/Rome, The Jewish Theological Seminary, Málaga, Moscow, Nagoya, Norwich (Humanities and Science), School for Field Studies Programs, University of Queensland, Querétaro, São Paulo/CIEE, Seoul, Toulouse, The American University in Cairo (AUC), The Washington Center (TWC), University of Durham Program in Classical Archaeology, and Yaoundé. Students studying in Dickinson programs can receive aid from the sources for which they demonstrate eligibility, including federal, state, and Dickinson grant, scholarship and loan programs. The Bologna, Málaga, and Toulouse programs also offer limited Federal Work-Study opportunities. The Central Pennsylvania Consortium (CPC) is also treated as a Dickinson program for financial aid purposes.

Dickinson Short-Term (Summer) and Globally-Integrated Programs (January): Students currently receiving need-based Dickinson grant assistance may receive aid for a single, one-credit, off-campus summer or January short-term program in addition to the traditional eight semesters required for graduation. (For example, students enrolling in the three-credit Washington Center summer program may be considered for grant aid covering one course credit only, approximately one-third of the program cost.)

A student may receive aid for only one such program during his or her academic career. Eligible students will first receive loan assistance; grant aid will be awarded to students with the highest financial need. Because a budgeted amount of grant aid is available for these short-term programs, students must apply early for assistance. Applicants will receive short-term program financial aid awards shortly after they have been accepted into their program and before they must make their enrollment decision.

Dickinson Academically-Approved Programs: (e.g., Arcadia University, Butler University, School for International Training, Studio Art Center International, Syracuse University, etc.) Students studying off-campus through an academically-approved program may receive state grants, Federal Pell Grants, Federal Stafford Loans, Federal PLUS Loans, and a variety of alternative loans and financing systems. Students are not eligible for Dickinson merit scholarships, need-based grants, or endowed scholarships, Federal Work-Study, or Federal Perkins Loans. Unused funds from these programs cannot be transferred to another semester.
IMPORTANT NOTE FOR STUDENTS IN DICKINSON APPROVED PROGRAMS: If you want the College to make payment on your behalf, send all host school bills to Dickinson’s Office of Global Education (attn: Laurie Mossler). You and your family will be responsible for paying Dickinson College any amount not covered by federal and/or state financial aid. There is a $65 administrative fee for this service.

If you prefer, you may pay your host institution directly, then reimburse yourself after your financial aid has been processed, credited to your Dickinson College student account, and refunded to you. Please note that you must request a credit refund from our student accounts office (717-245-1953, or stuaccts@dickinson.edu).

Whether you elect to have Dickinson make payment on your behalf or pay your host institution directly, you must complete an Off-Campus Financial Aid Information Form, which will allow the financial aid office to execute a consortium or contractual agreement with the host institution. This document specifies that Dickinson College will be solely responsible for processing your financial aid.

Please understand that if the above procedures are not followed, you will not be able to receive financial aid for your off-campus program of study. You are encouraged to make an appointment with your financial aid counselor (717-245-1308) to discuss your specific questions and situation.