Southwestern University — Financial Aid Office

Information for Study Abroad Participants

1. Students attending a **non-SU** study abroad program must complete a **Consortium Agreement** to determine financial aid eligibility for the semester studying abroad, and to release eligible financial aid to the study abroad program. The Student and Host Institution Sections must be completed before submitting the Consortium Agreement to the Financial Aid Office.

2. Listed below are examples of types of aid that are allowed to cover study abroad expenses during SU Sponsored Programs and Non-SU Programs. *(The Non-SU Programs listed are not limited to the examples provided.)*

TYPE OF AID	SU London, Washington, D.C. ISEP Exchange	Non-SU Programs (ex. API, SIT, ISEP Direct)
SU Merit Scholarships	YES	NO
SU National Merit Scholarship	YES	NO
SU Need-Based Awards	YES	NO
Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG)	YES	NO
Federal Pell Grant	YES	YES
Supplemental Grant (SEOG)	YES	NO
Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans	YES	YES
Federal Perkins Loan	YES	YES
Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan	YES	YES
Private Educational Loans	YES	YES
Outside Scholarships	YES	*check with donor
Kahler Scholarship	NO	YES
Jake and Jane Schrum Paideia Scholarship	YES	YES
Gilman Scholarship	YES	YES

2. If you are borrowing loans to cover study abroad costs, then follow the directions that will be provided with your award letter to complete the individual loan processes. The Stafford, Perkins and PLUS loans can be completed online. Additional **Private educational loans** are also available. **Please complete all loan processes PRIOR to your departure**.

3. Financial aid funds, including loans, will be disbursed to your SU student account no earlier than 10 days before classes at SU begin. This is the earliest date that any financial aid funds will be available.

4. **Please be prepared to purchase your airplane tickets IN ADVANCE and to take some spending money with you.** Do not rely solely on financial aid funds to cover expenses you might encounter when you first arrive at your destination. The availability of funds depends on the timing of your completion of the application process, the date the funds are disbursed to SU and the written request of the release of funds provided to the Business Office.

5. **Prior to leaving the country**, please submit the Release of Funds form to the Business Office, along with a copy of the billing statement from your Study Abroad Program. Funds will be mailed directly to the Study Abroad Program. If you receive more in financial aid funds than your billed charges as noted on the billing statement, you may request a refund for the difference. **If you do not leave written instruction with the Business Office AND you have excess funds on your account, the funds will remain on your SU account.** For more details contact Judy Offield in the Business Office at (512) 863-1927, or via email at offieldj@southwestern.edu.

6. If your program needs notification of pending financial aid, it is your responsibility to contact the study abroad program and find out what they require. If they have a specific form that needs to be completed, submit the form to the Financial Aid Office. Please allow at least 72 hours for completion of the paperwork.

7. **The deadline to submit a FAFSA to apply for financial aid for the next academic school year is March 1st.** If you only receive a merit scholarship from SU, and you do not wish to be considered for need-based aid, a FAFSA is not required. If you wish to borrow federal student and/or parent loans, regardless of need, then you must file the FAFSA.