

Supporting YOUR Student's Study Abroad

A Resource for Parents, Spouses, Partners, and Significant Supporters

What are the Benefits of Study Abroad?

- **Personal Growth:** Students gain self-reliance and problem-solving abilities as they travel and negotiate new cultures. According to IES Abroad (<http://www.iesabroad.org/study-abroad/news/benefits-study-abroad>), students who study abroad report higher levels of maturity, self-confidence, and tolerance to ambiguity, an enduring an impact on their world view, and making long-lasting friendships.
- **Intercultural Development:** Study abroad educates participants to understand their own cultural values and biases better, be more effective as future global leaders, and gain greater respect for other cultures and political and economic systems. They also seek greater diversity of friends and develop a more sophisticated way of looking at the world.
- **Enhanced Language Capacity:** Students who study in a country in which they use another language are more likely to continue using that language when they return.
- **Education and Career Attainment:** The skills acquired during study abroad influence students' academic and career paths. Students returning from study abroad often expand their academic majors to pursue graduate school and follow their career. Students who participate in internships while abroad gain the most career impact.
- **A lifetime of benefits:** Few experiences in life have proven to net such a positive and sustainable impact as study abroad. As Amelia (Japan, 2013) notes, "You may be an expert on your city, state, or country, but you can never understand another culture without experiencing it firsthand."



Studying Abroad Basics

- Students work closely with their advisors and the International and Intercultural Center (IIC) to assure that courses completed abroad will transfer to Alverno to meet graduation requirements.
- We have 18 partners with universities around the world where we send our students and they send us theirs in exchange.
- We also have contracts with many other agencies to allow students to study anywhere in the world.
- Students pay all their usual expenses (tuition, housing, food, transportation, personal, etc.) while studying abroad. However travel to and from the country and other expenses (sightseeing, souvenirs, travel to other countries) may be around \$1,000 - \$4,000 in personal expenses.



Important Information about Funding Study Abroad

- Most types of financial aid (Government loans, grants, scholarships, Alverno scholarships) will apply.
- Costs vary upon the program chosen, your student's financial aid package, and her personal spending patterns.
- Financial Aid, the Business Office, and the International & Intercultural Center (IIC) work together closely to help your student learn about and use all available financial resources.
- When a student has decided to study abroad, the IIC staff and she develop a cost comparison chart for the various universities she is considering.
- The IIC offers a full list of scholarships that are available for your student. Please support and encourage your student to apply to as many scholarships as possible.

What's next?

- Encourage your student to study abroad.
- Ask your student to see the resources she has received from the IIC.
- Recommend that your student begin planning for study abroad a semester or year early. Stop by the IIC to make an appointment, or contact elena.burke@alverno.edu to learn more.

YOU can afford to study abroad

What are costs of studying abroad?

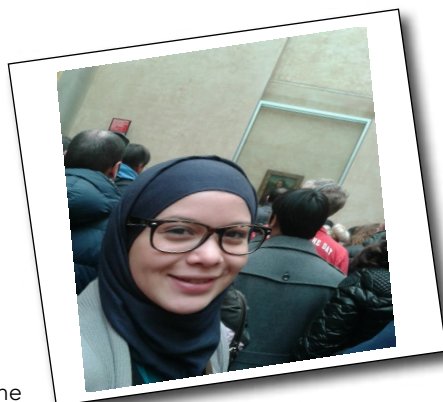
- **Alverno Tuition and Campus Fee:** Whether studying with an exchange partner or through an affiliated program, you pay the Alverno tuition and enrollment fee (<http://www.alverno.edu/tuition/>).
- **Room and Board:** You are responsible for your own room and board. Programs generally provide several options for housing and meals, e.g., dormitories, home stays, apartments.
- **Course Textbooks and Supplies:** This charge will depend on the courses you take.
- **Onsite Transportation:** Depending on your destination, there are many options for transportation. In addition to taking subways or buses, you can often walk to classes.
- **Travel:** You will pay round-trip airfare to your destination.
- **Excursions:** Many countries offer low cost travel options for students, so you may want to travel independently or with your new friends while abroad. Also, many universities and programs provide options for "excursions" to nearby cities or countries.
- **Spending Money:** The amount needed will depend on the choices you make.

Your costs will vary, depending upon the program you choose, your particular financial aid package, and your personal spending patterns. Students who have recently studied abroad say that the added cost of a semester abroad ranges from \$1,000-\$4,000 more than a semester at Alverno.

How can I fund my study abroad?

Financial aid may be used for study abroad – the Financial Aid staff is a great resource! Some sources of funding include:

- Government loans
- Grants
- Scholarships
- Alverno scholarships
- Externally funded scholarships and grants specific to language skills, career expectations, major, and country of study.
- Alverno College Travelship that is administered through the IIC.



Where do I begin to look for funding?

- **Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship:** <http://www.iie.org/programs/gilman-scholarship-program>: The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program offers grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies or credit-bearing, career-oriented internships abroad.
- **International Education Financial Aid:** <http://www.iefaf.org/scholarships>: At this site, you will find the most comprehensive college scholarship search and grant listings, plus international student loan programs and other information to promote study abroad.
- **Fund for Education Abroad:** <http://www.fundforeducationabroad.org/applicants/scholarships/>: Provides opportunities for dedicated American students to participate in high-quality, rigorous education abroad programs by reducing financial restrictions through the provision of grants and scholarships.
- **Go Overseas Study Abroad Scholarships:** <http://www.gooverseas.com/> Type in the word Scholarship in Search to find out about the many scholarships available at this site that also provides your with information about programs, guides to countries, and articles.
- **Nerd Wallet:** <http://www.nerdwallet.com/nerdscholarships/>: There are many options at this site – be creative about search words and be sure to include special interests, memberships, fields of study.
- **Go Fund Me:** <http://www.gofundme.com/>: Feeling entrepreneurial? Check out the possibilities of crowdsourcing at these sites.



What are important things to remember when applying for scholarships?

- You should never have to pay to apply for a scholarship..
- Never provide your Social Security number give out any personal information you are not comfortable sharing when applying.

What are my next steps?

- Share your interest in study abroad with your biggest supporters!
- Ask the IIC for their full list of scholarships.
- Stop by the IIC or contact Elena.Burke@alverno.edu to learn more and start planning for study abroad.