



Financial Aid & Scholarship FAQs

Q: If I turn my scholarship application early, will I have a chance to receive more money?

A: No. The early deadline is for students who are reliant upon scholarship money. If an application is submitted on or before the deadline prior, the student will know about scholarship awards before the study abroad application is due. This allows the student to back out of the trip without a penalty.

Q: I turned in my study abroad application, but I can no longer go on the trip. What do I do?

A: Once the student has committed to a study abroad program, as stated in the OSA application, they agree to a \$50 processing fee if the program is dropped. If a student has already submitted their application, they need to fill out a drop form so they do not get charged for the program. This needs to be done as soon as possible.

Q: The OSA Grant requires two (2) letters of recommendation. Will I have a better chance of receiving money if I have more letters or if the letters are from someone in a higher position?

A: No. When reviewing scholarships, the committee will only look at two letters of recommendation. Also, they do not look at who wrote the letter, so it does not matter if it is from a professor, counselor, department chair, etc. The content of the letter is what we look at when reviewing the application. The person writing the recommendation should have a history with you, in the classroom, in extracurricular activities, and be able to describe this in the letter.

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Q: What does a scholarship cover?

A: If a student is awarded a scholarship, they can receive up to \$2,000. It will not usually pay for the entire cost of the trip, but can be applied toward the trip in any way the student wishes.

Q: If I've been awarded the scholarship, how do I receive the money?

A: If a student is awarded a scholarship, the amount will be deposited directly into your student account by the Office of Study Abroad.

Q: I can't study abroad for an entire semester, but can I still apply for a scholarship?

A: Of course! Students who wish to study abroad for a short term (i.e. winter break, spring break, or summer) still have an opportunity to receive scholarships. Just print out an application from our website and turn it in to our office- 1207 Blair Hall.

Q: What is the difference between a tuition waiver, grant, and scholarship?

A: A tuition waiver will cover the EIU tuition, and does not include fees. You will need to purchase your own airfare and accommodations. The Office of Study Abroad offers \$100,000 in need-based grants each year to students studying abroad. EIU and national scholarships are also offered. These scholarships can provide students with awards ranging from \$500 to \$30,000! Check out our website for requirements.

www.eiu.edu/edabroad/scholarship.php

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Q: I understand that my Financial Aid may apply to my study abroad program. When is the financial aid money disbursed into my student account?

A: If a student currently receives financial aid, the money will be disbursed at the beginning of the semester (August, January). Please consult with Financial Aid to determine when your aid will be available.