



Study Abroad and Study Abroad Student Financial Awards FAQs

Q1. What is the difference between Study Abroad, Global Explorations for Students (GES), and Education Abroad?

Study Abroad, Global Explorations for Students (GES), and Education Abroad are terms that are used interchangeably and mean the same thing.

Q2. Will I be taking classes at a university in another country?

Lone Star College study abroad classes are taught by Lone Star faculty just like any class on campus. Depending on the program, your classroom may be located at a university or college abroad, but the course will be taught by a Lone Star professor and your classmates will be other Lone Star students.

Lone Star College Study Abroad programs which are offered through the Texas Gulf Coast International Education Consortium (TGCIE) may include students from local TGCIE-member colleges.

Q3. What is the Texas Gulf Coast International Education Consortium (TGCIE) and its purpose?

The Texas Gulf Coast International Education Consortium is made up of eight community college partner institutions that work together to offer Study Abroad opportunities to community college students across the Texas Gulf Coast. These programs are **academic credit** distance learning classes with a short-term study-abroad component. See: <http://www.lonestar.edu/tgcie/programs.htm>

Q4. How do I participate in one of the Texas Gulf Coast International Education Consortium (TGCIE) study abroad opportunities?

Study Abroad programs offered through the TGCIE are online academic-credit classes with a short-term study-abroad component. The courses are open to students from all TGCIE-member colleges who meet the course prerequisites and are accepted by the individual colleges. Contact the professor directly for additional information or to sign up. See <http://www.lonestar.edu/Study-Abroad-Programs.htm>. For programs offered through TGCIE member colleges refer to the TGCIE program website at: <http://www.lonestar.edu/tgcie/programs.htm>. If interested, fill out the inquiry form.



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Q5. How long will I be outside of the United States?

Time abroad varies by program but LSC and TGCIE study abroad programs are short-term. Time outside of the U.S. generally can last anywhere from one week to one month. Please contact the faculty trip leader of the particular study abroad program that interests you for specifics.

Q6. I am an international student. Can I participate on a study abroad program?

Yes, our programs are open to international students. We would need to work with you to make sure that you have the necessary paperwork to enter the study abroad country and to re-enter the United States. Please contact the Office of International Programs if you are an international student and wish to participate on one of the study abroad programs: 281-290-2879 or LSC-StudyAbroad@lonestar.edu

Q7. What are the costs of participating on a study abroad program?

Students are responsible for paying (1) the program fee which typically covers airfare, housing, some meals, in-country transportation for required activities, required activity fees, LSC travel insurance, 2) the LSC tuition and fees* associated with the study abroad course just like they would on campus, (3) passport application fee 4) required vaccines or any required visas, (5) any required books or supplies, 6) any meals that are not covered in the program fee, and 7) optional personal expenses such as souvenirs. Note: programs may have a non-refundable deposit/application fee to be admitted.

The faculty trip leader of the study abroad program that interests you can give you the specific costs of that particular program and the details of what is or is not included.

*If a student is on a TGCIE program through another college, they will be responsible for paying that school's tuition and fees, which may vary from those at LSC.



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Q8. Are there any financial awards or scholarships available to help pay for the study abroad program?

Lone Star offers a limited number of financial awards for LSC students that can be used toward the program fees:

1) Need-Based Financial Award: LSC students receiving the Federal Pell Grant are eligible for the Need-Based Financial Award.

2) Merit-Based Financial Award: The Merit-Based Financial Award is based on students' Lone Star College GPA.

Both Need-Based and Merit-Based Financial Awards can pay up to 75% of the study abroad cost (excluding tuition and fees), up to a maximum of \$2,000. There are two awards available for students from each campus.

3) Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship: LSC is also offering a \$1,000 award to a need-based student. Students receiving the Federal Pell Grant are eligible for the Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship

Additional eligibility requirements for each award apply. See the application for more details.

You should also consider applying for the national Gilman Scholarship if you are participating on a program that qualifies and if you meet the eligibility criteria. See <http://www.lonestar.edu/study-abroad-financial-aid.htm> for more information.

Q9. What is the difference between the Need-Based Financial Award, the Merit-Based Financial Award, and an Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship?

The Need-Based and Merit-Based Financial Awards award up to 75% of the program fee (excluding tuitions and fees), or \$2000, whichever is less. The Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship awards \$1000.

The Need-Based Financial Award and the Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship are for students receiving the Federal Pell Grant. Eligibility for the Merit-Based Financial Award is based on students' Lone Star College GPA.



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Q10. Will the financial awards pay for all the study abroad program costs?

No. This is due to several reasons:

The financial awards are limited to: 75% of the program fee or a maximum of \$2000, whichever is less, for the Need-Based and Merit-Based Financial Awards. The Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship awards \$1000.

Tuition and fees are not included in the study abroad program fees. Also, some travel-related expenses may not be included in the program fee. For example, some meals might not be included in the program fee. Personal expenses and passport fees are also not included in the program fee. Additionally, the cost for each study abroad program is unique, based on to the structure of the program, so it may cost more than the award maximum. Factors such as the number of days abroad, the destination, the type of lodging, required activities, etc. will affect the cost. To keep costs down, LSC programs are intentionally planned to be short-term, usually taking place either during Spring Break, the May mini-mester or the summer.

Award recipients will therefore be responsible for some costs.

Q11. Can students use the Lone Star College Study Abroad Student Financial Awards for a Texas Gulf Coast International Education Consortium (TGCIE) study abroad program?

Yes, but to be eligible to apply, they must be a current Lone Star student, accepted into the study abroad program and meet all the requirements detailed on the award application.

Q12. I want to be apply for the Need-Based and Merit-Based Financial Awards as well as the Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship. Do I have to submit three applications?

No. You only have to submit one application. However, to be considered, you must meet the requirements of the particular financial award. If selected to receive an award, you can only receive one of the three.



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Q13. What is the deadline to apply for the Study Abroad Student Financial Awards?

There are two financial award application deadlines (1) the second Friday of October, or (2) the first Friday of November of each year. The complete application with supporting documents must be received by your study abroad program faculty trip leader by 5 PM on one of these two deadlines. Due to the limited number of financial awards available, no awards will be made in November if the funds are exhausted after the October deadline.

Q14. Do I apply for admittance into the study abroad program before applying for the Study Abroad Student Financial Awards?

Yes. In order to apply for the Study Abroad Student Financial Awards, you must first be admitted into one of the study abroad programs listed on one of these websites: <http://www.lonestar.edu/Study-Abroad-Programs.htm> or <http://www.lonestar.edu/tgcie/programs.htm>. Some programs have very specific admission requirements so make sure you check with the study abroad program faculty trip leader for their specific process.

After you have gained admittance into a program, you must have your study abroad program faculty trip leader sign the financial award application to confirm your acceptance. Please allow enough time to complete the program application process and be admitted when planning your financial award application.

Q15. Do I need to be accepted into a Lone Star Study Abroad program to be eligible for a Study Abroad Student Financial Award?

You need to be accepted into one of our credit study abroad programs listed here <http://www.lonestar.edu/Study-Abroad-Programs.htm> or one of the TGCIE Study Abroad Programs listed here <http://www.lonestar.edu/tgcie/programs.htm> first before you can be considered for a financial award.

Q16. I am a new student at Lone Star College (LSC) and wish to study abroad. Can I apply for the Study Abroad Student Financial Awards?

To be eligible for one of the financial awards, applicants must first complete at least twelve (12) credit hours at one of the Lone Star College campus



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locations by the award application deadline. Throughout the completion of the twelve credit hours the direction of your education may change your study abroad interests. We welcome you to apply for an award after you have completed the credit hour requirement.

Dual credit courses taken from LSC while in high school count towards the 12 credit hours.

All award applicants must meet the additional requirements detailed on the Study Abroad Student Financial Awards Application located at <http://www.lonestar.edu/study-abroad-financial-aid.htm>

Q17. Can transfer credits be used to meet the minimum credit hour requirement for the Study Abroad Student Financial Awards?

No. Students must have completed twelve (12) or more credit hours at one of the Lone Star College campus locations by the award application deadline to be eligible. However, dual credit courses taken from LSC while in high school count towards the 12 credit hours.

Q18. I have already taken the course offered on the study abroad program. Do I qualify for a Study Abroad Student Financial Award?

In order to be eligible for an award, you will need to retake the course on a for-credit basis (for a grade). Please speak with an academic advisor and financial aid to see if and how this may impact your transfer plans and financial aid package.

Q19. Is there a minimum G.P.A. to be eligible for a Study Abroad Student Financial Award?

Yes. Eligible candidates for the Need-Based Financial Award and Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship must have a cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) of 2.5 or higher by the award application deadline. If you are selected to receive an award, you must maintain at least a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.5, up to the study abroad departure date. Eligible candidates for the Merit-Based Financial Award must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.25 or higher at the time of application,



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maintaining at least a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.25 up to the study abroad departure date.

All award applicants must meet the additional requirements detailed on the Study Abroad Student Financial Awards Application located at <http://www.lonestar.edu/study-abroad-financial-aid.htm>

Q20. I meet the G.P.A. and credit-hours requirements for the Study Abroad Student Financial Awards. Are these awards based on merit or financial need?

LSC is committed to ensuring everyone has an opportunity to study abroad regardless of family income levels. Applicants will be considered for either the Need-Based Financial Award (for students currently receiving the Federal Pell Grant), the Merit-Based Financial Award (based on the students' Lone Star College G.P.A.), or the Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship (also for students currently receiving the Federal Pell Grant). However, to be considered, applicants must meet the requirements of each particular financial award. If selected, the recipient can only receive one of the awards.

Applicants for the Need-Based Financial Award or Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship must demonstrate financial need in order to be eligible. If applicants are Pell-Grant recipients, they are eligible. U.S. students must complete a FAFSA application for the current school year to be considered. Non-U.S. students must contact International Programs at LSC-StudyAbroad@lonestar.edu for guidance on required documentation. FAFSA and all supporting documents must be received before the award application deadline.

All award applicants must meet the requirements detailed on the Study Abroad Student Financial Awards Application (one document) located at <http://www.lonestar.edu/study-abroad-financial-aid.htm>

Q21. Where do I need to send my completed award application?

First, please make a copy of your application for your records. Please give the original application to your study abroad program faculty trip leader. He/she will submit it to the Office of International Programs (IP).



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Q22. Can the Study Abroad Student Financial Award be used to pay for program deposits?

No. The award cannot be used toward program deposits. The award can only be used toward the final balance.

Q23. How will my award be paid?

Payment is made directly to the program, not to the award recipient after you have paid for your share of the program fees. Each study abroad program is unique, and has its own set of guidelines and deadlines. If you have been awarded a Study Abroad Student Financial Award, contact your study abroad program faculty trip leader and notify them. They will then contact the Office of International Programs (IP), who will check your G.P.A. and credit hours, and arrange for the award payment to be made. Award payments are made to a travel company or to an account set up for the study abroad program by the college.

Q24. Is my program deposit refundable if I have to withdraw?

Program cancellation/withdrawal policies vary by program. Usually, whether any deposits can be refunded and the amount depend on factors such as whether there is a non-refundable application fee and when you withdraw. If you're unsure of your study abroad program's cancellation policy, please check with your study abroad program faculty trip leader.

Q25. What happens to my Financial Award if I withdraw from my program?

If you withdraw from the program, regardless of reason, after any portion of your award funds have been disbursed to the travel provider, you will be responsible for repaying Lone Star College.

Q26. Are there instances where a study abroad program may be cancelled?

Yes. Study Abroad courses are for academic credit, adhering to requirements of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. To "make", each class must have a required number of committed students by an established deadline. This



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deadline varies by program. If enough students do not sign up, the program will be cancelled.

Another instance is if a safety situation develops in the destination country which causes the U.S. Department of States issues a Travel Warning or if a health issue prompts a U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Warning. In those cases, the trip would be cancelled by the college to protect student health and safety.

In either case, you will be notified by your study abroad program faculty trip leader as soon as the decision has been made.

Q27. When will I know if a program will be cancelled?

You will be notified as soon as possible after the decision has been made. LSC prohibits travel to countries currently under a Department of State Travel

Warning or a U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Warning. If a travel or CDC warning is issued to a study abroad destination, that program will be cancelled. Department of State Travel Warnings and CDC Warnings cannot be predicted so advance notice may not be possible.

Q28. My study abroad program was just cancelled. Can I transfer my financial award to another program?

After your trip has been officially cancelled, research other current LSC study abroad programs or those offered through the TGCIE being offered in the same academic year to see if they are compatible with your educational needs. Contact the professor in charge of the trip to see if you can still join. If you find a suitable replacement program with available space, contact IP immediately to discuss transferring your award at 281-290-2879 or LSC-StudyAbroad@lonestar.edu. You will be permitted to use your award toward another program taking place in the same academic year, if the program is compatible with your educational needs. IP will then facilitate the payment of your award. Please note that the need-based and merit-based financial awards are funded for up to 75% of the program cost (excluding tuition and fees) or for a maximum of \$2,000, whichever is less. The Endowed Study Abroad Scholarship offers \$1000.



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Q29. My study abroad program was just cancelled but I do not wish to transfer to another program. Can I defer my award until next year?

Unfortunately, awards cannot be deferred and must be used in the same academic year they were awarded. You are welcome to reapply next year if you do not use your award.

Q30. I was awarded a Need-Based Study Abroad Award and it was used for my trip last year. Can I be considered for a Merit-Based Study Abroad Financial Award this year?

No. Students may only receive a Study Abroad Student Financial Award once every three academic years, regardless of the type of award.

Q31. I am ready to go on my study abroad program, but I have never traveled to that part of the world before. What should I do to keep myself safe?

To prepare: We recommend going to <http://travel.state.gov/> and research any travel alerts associated with your destination. The website has information on how to travel safely under “Before You Go” and “While Abroad.” Please make two copies of the following: your itinerary, passport, credit cards that you plan to bring, Driver’s

License and airline tickets. Leave one copy with a friend or family member and take the other copy with you. This will be very important if any of those items or documents, are lost or stolen. Lone Star requires you to register your travel with the local U.S. Embassy <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. The Embassy will be better able to contact you in case of a family emergency, natural disaster or civil unrest.

Prior to travel, also research health issues related to your travel destination and any recommended or required vaccines by visiting the U.S. Centers for Disease Control website: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>. Also, consult your family physician.

Following your program’s rules, your faculty leader’s instructions, and using common sense while traveling are critical!



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Q32. Should I have special insurance for my trip?

Being properly insured is a necessity. Comprehensive travel insurance is important to protect you in case of unexpected injury or illness while abroad. Situations like having to be airlifted out of a rural area for immediate medical treatment can cost tens of thousands of dollars. For this reason, students on a Lone Star College study abroad program are required to purchase travel insurance through the college. Your study abroad program faculty trip leader will provide you with more information and details. We strongly encourage you to have comprehensive medical insurance to protect yourself in the event that an illness or injury abroad requires follow-up/continued treatment once you return to the U.S.

Q33. I still have more questions regarding studying abroad and applying for the Study Abroad Student Financial Awards...

If you have questions regarding your particular study abroad program, please contact the program faculty trip leader. If you have questions regarding the financial award application, please contact the Office of International Programs (IP) for more information: 281-290-2879 or LSC-StudyAbroad@lonestar.edu.