



## Study Abroad and Financial Award FAQ's

### **Q. 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.

### **Q. 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.

### **Q. 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 classes with a short-term study-abroad component, for academic credit. The courses are open to students from all member colleges. Contact the professor directly for additional information or to sign up. See <http://www.lonestar.edu/20344.htm>.

### **Q. How long will I be outside of the United States?**

Time abroad varies by program but Lone Star programs are short-term. Time outside of the U.S. generally can last anywhere from one week to one month. Please contact the faculty member in charge of the trip that interests you for the specifics of that program.

### **Q. 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 [IP@LoneStar.edu](mailto:IP@LoneStar.edu).



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### **Q. What are the costs of participating on a study abroad program?**

Students are responsible for paying (1) the LSC tuition and fees\* associated with the study abroad class (es) just like they would on campus, (2) the program fee which typically covers airfare, housing, some meals, in-country transportation for required excursions, required excursion fees, LSC travel insurance, (3) optional personal expenses such as souvenirs and any meals or excursions that are not covered in the program fee, (4) required vaccines, any required visas, and passport application fee.

The faculty member in charge of the program that interests you can give you the specific costs of that particular program.

\*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.

### **Q. Are there any financial awards available to help pay for the study abroad program?**

Lone Star offers a limited number of Need-Based and Merit-Based Financial Awards that can be used toward the program fees. Students selected for one of these financial awards can receive up to 75% of the program fee or \$2000, whichever is less.

### **Q. What is the deadline for the study abroad financial award?**

There are two financial award application deadlines: (1) fourth Monday of September, or (2) first Monday of November of each year. The complete application with supporting documents must be received by your program faculty member by the close of business on one of these two deadlines. Due to the limited number of financial awards available, no financial awards will be awarded in November if the funds are exhausted after the September deadline.

### **Q. I noticed a program application and a financial award application on the International Programs (IP) website. What needs to be completed first?**

In order to apply for a study abroad financial award, you must complete the "Study Abroad Program Application" or one provided by your program faculty to



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be admitted into the study abroad program of your choice. Some programs have very specific application requirements so make sure you have been accepted by the program faculty before beginning the award application process. Once you have gained admittance into a program, you must have your program faculty sign the award application to confirm your acceptance.

**Q. Do I need to be accepted into a Lone Star Study Abroad program to be eligible for the financial award?**

Yes, you need to be accepted into one of our study abroad programs first before you can be considered for the award.

**Q. I am a new student at Lone Star College (LSC) and wish to study abroad at the end of this semester. Can I apply for a financial award?**

To be eligible for the Need-Based Financial Award, applicants must first complete at least twelve (12) credit hours with LSC prior to 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 requirement.

To be eligible for the Merit-Based Financial Award, applicants must have nine (9) or more college credit hours from Lone Star College already completed at the time the application is received. (Dual credit courses taken from LSC while in high school count towards these 9 credit hours.)

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

**Q. Can students use the Lone Star College Financial Award 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 financial award requirements detailed on the application.



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**Q. Can transfer credits be used to meet the minimum credit hour requirement for the award?**

Students must have completed twelve (12) or more college credit hours with Lone Star College to be eligible for the Need-Based award, or nine (9) or more college credit hours with Lone Star by the time the application is received to be eligible for the Merit-Based award.

**Q. I have already taken the course offered on the study abroad program. Can I still get the award to go on the program?**

In order to be eligible for the 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.

**Q. I applied for the study abroad award in the fall, but my G.P.A. dropped after the end of the fall semester. Am I still eligible for an award?**

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

Eligible candidates for the Merit-Based Financial Award must have a cumulative 3.25 GPA at the time of application, maintaining at least a cumulative 3.25 GPA up to the study abroad departure date.

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

**Q. I meet the G.P.A and credit hours requirements. Are the financial awards based on merit or financial need?**

LSC is committed to ensuring everyone has an opportunity to study abroad regardless of family income levels. Students may choose to apply for either the “need-based” financial award, for students currently receiving financial aid, or for



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the “merit-based” financial award, based on the students’ Lone Star College GPA.

Applicants for the Need-Based Financial Award must demonstrate financial need in order to be eligible for a Study Abroad Student Need-Based Financial Award. Financial need is documented by completing a FAFSA application <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

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

### **Q. 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 program faculty. He/she will submit it to the Office of International Programs (IP).

### **Q. How will my award be paid?**

Payment is made directly to the program, not to the award recipient. Each study abroad program is unique, and has its own set of guidelines and deadlines. If you have been awarded a study abroad award, contact the faculty member organizing the study abroad program and inform them of your award. They will then contact the Office of International Programs (IP), who will check your GPA 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. Awards cannot be used toward deposits. The award can only be used toward the final balance. If the program is cancelled or if you withdraw from the program your award must be refunded to IP.

### **Q. My study abroad program was just cancelled. Can I transfer my award to another program?**

After your trip has been officially cancelled, research other current LSC study abroad programs to see if they are compatible with your educational needs. If you find a suitable replacement program with available space, contact IP immediately to discuss transferring your award at 281-290-2879 or [IP@LoneStar.edu](mailto:IP@LoneStar.edu). You will be permitted to use your award and register for the



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program if the program is compatible with your educational needs. You will then contact the faculty member and follow the directions in the preceding question to facilitate the payment of your award. Please note that financial award are funded for up to 75% of the program cost (excluding tuition and fees) for a maximum of \$2,000.

**Q. 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 applied the same year they were awarded. You are welcome to reapply next year if you do not use your award.

**Q. I was awarded a study abroad award and it was applied toward my trip last year. Can I apply for a study abroad award again this year?**

Unfortunately, students may only receive an award once every three years.

**Q. 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?**

We recommend going to <http://travel.state.gov/> and research any travel warnings 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.

**Q. Should I have special insurance for my trip?**

Being properly insured is a necessity. Comprehensive travel insurance is important, especially if you would ever need to be airlifted out of a rural area for immediate medical treatment (which can cost tens of thousands of dollars). Students on a Lone Star College study abroad program are required to purchase



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travel insurance through the college. Your study abroad faculty member will provide you with more information and details.

**Q. I still have more questions regarding studying abroad and applying for the study abroad award...**

If you have questions regarding your particular study abroad program, please contact the faculty member organizing the study abroad program. If you have questions regarding the award application, please contact the Office of International Programs (IP) for more information: 281-290-2879 or [IP@LoneStar.edu](mailto:IP@LoneStar.edu).