



PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE

Office of Financial Aid

Study Abroad Frequently Asked Questions!

What forms do I need to complete?

If you are studying abroad for one or more semesters you are required to complete a Consortium Agreement and a Refund Instruction Form if you have any eligible financial assistance you would like to use during your semester(s) abroad. Both forms are available on our website. From the home page (www.providence.edu) click on Admission, Undergraduate Financial Aid then Forms!

When do these forms need to be completed by?

All forms need to be completed prior to your departure date.

What is a 'Consortium Agreement' and what do I do with it?

Regardless of what program you choose, it is your responsibility to complete a Consortium Agreement with the host program you are attending. A Consortium Agreement is a formal contract between two schools, in your name, that dictates which institution is responsible for determining eligibility and distributing your federal and state funding (including parent PLUS or alternative student loans). Complete Section 2 of the form and send it to your host program who will then return it to the Office of Financial Aid.

A Consortium Agreement must be completed prior to releasing any payment or estimated payment information to the host program you are planning on attending. If this form is not completed your aid will be cancelled for the semester(s) you are abroad and you will be fully responsible for all charges incurred at Providence College and your host program.

What is a 'Refund Instruction Form' and what do I do with it?

A Refund Instruction Form gives the student an opportunity to tell us exactly where they would like us to send their eligible financial assistance during their semester(s) abroad. By completing this form you are giving Providence College permission to send your eligible federal and state funding directly to the host program you are attending or directly to a parent/guardian.

You must complete page one of the Refund Instruction Form and return it to the Office of Financial Aid. After your Consortium Agreement is received back from your host program our office will then complete page two and send copies of all completed forms to your home mailing address. Please note, information about your pending financial assistance contained on the Refund Instruction Form is not automatically sent to your host program, but is kept as an internal College document. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that their host program receives information about any pending financial assistance coming from the home institution. If you have completed your Consortium Agreement but not the Refund Instruction Form, your aid will remain on your account at Providence College.

What if my program has a special form that needs to be completed by the Office of Financial Aid?

Some study abroad programs have a separate financial aid form they would like the Office of Financial Aid to complete. We are more than happy to complete the form for you, provided you have obtained a completed Consortium Agreement from the host program you are participating in first.

What types of financial assistance can I use towards my study abroad program?

You are able to use any federal and state financial aid you are eligible to receive. However, it is very important to note that Providence College does not permit the use or transfer of any institutional funding in the semester(s) a student is abroad. Institutional aid will be cancelled for the semester(s) you plan to study abroad. Funds lost during the semester(s) abroad cannot be added to the grant total for a semester you will be on campus if you are planning to study abroad for only one semester. When you return to campus, your aid will be fully renewed as long as your eligibility for financial aid remains the same in subsequent years. In addition, parent PLUS loans and alternative students loans are also transferable, provided all appropriate paperwork is completed with the lender you have chosen prior to departure. Lastly, if you have any outside scholarships you anticipate using towards your abroad expenses, you must check with the sponsoring agency giving you those funds to ensure that you can continue to receive them when abroad.

Am I responsible for any charges assessed by my host program if I have applied for or received enough financial aid to cover my balance in full?

Maybe! Some study abroad programs require that certain fees be paid up front and out of pocket regardless of the types and amounts of financial assistance a student is receiving and/or applied for. Examples of such fees could be an enrollment deposit, damage deposit, insurance fee, round trip airfare, taxes and fuel charges. Please contact your host program for information about their payment policies.

What if I am using a parent PLUS or alternative student loan to help pay for my study abroad program?

These funds are able to be transferred in the same manner as your other federal and state funding. When releasing information about these loans to your host program, you must provide us with a copy of the credit approval from the authorizing loan agency.

If you are taking a parent PLUS loan, please be advised that if the lender sends Providence College a paper check, it will require the signature of the parent/borrower. Once the check arrives at Providence College it will be mailed to the parent whose name is on the loan for endorsement before we can forward it per the refund instructions.

If you are taking an alternative student loan, please be advised that if the lender sends Providence College a paper check, it will require the signature of the student/borrower. Most often loan checks will come in after the student has already left the country. We strongly recommend that a parent/guardian secure a Power of Attorney for the student's financial affairs so the check can be endorsed in the student's absence. This will help prevent any delays in payment.

Does Providence College charge me anything if I am studying abroad?

Providence College charges a one-time \$1000 study abroad fee (rate for 0809). Any federal or state funding you receive in the semester you are going abroad will first be applied to the study abroad fee and any other outstanding charges you may have at Providence College (e.g., unfulfilled housing contracts, parking fines, dorm damage fines, late fees, etc.). Therefore, you may see on your Refund Instruction Form that your eligible aid has already been reduced by the study abroad fee and/or other charges you're anticipated to incur for the semester(s) you are abroad.

How does my money get released from Providence College to my host school?

Once all the expected financial assistance for a student is received, the money is then forwarded per the student's instructions on the Refund Instruction Form. Please keep in mind funds, especially from third party lenders, may not arrive at the same time. Since funding may come in at different times it is possible that multiple checks will be issued.

Can I contract with Tuition Management Systems (TMS) to pay my study abroad program?

For the semester(s) you are abroad you cannot pay for the study abroad program through TMS. You can only contract with TMS for the semester you are on Providence College's campus. If you are still interested in a payment plan, contact the program you are participating with to see if they offer a similar plan.

What if my host program is not based in the United States?

At this time, if your host program requires payment in a form other than American currency, we will be unable to send or wire money directly to the program. Rather, all money will be required to be sent home to a parent/guardian and it is your responsibility to convert and transfer those funds in the manner required by the host program.

What happens if my financial assistance changes after my paperwork is completed?

If your eligibility changes or you apply for loans or outside scholarships after your paperwork is completed by the Office of Financial Aid you must notify us in writing what you would like us to do with those funds. Your original instructions are fund specific. It is not a blanket agreement and separate instructions will be required.

What do I need to do if I decide to change programs or stay an extra semester after I have already left the country?

If you are already abroad and get approval from the College to change programs or stay an extra semester, you will need to complete another Consortium and Refund Instruction Form. Your original agreements are specific to the program and semester you are scheduled to be away. These forms need to be completed prior to the start date of your new program abroad.

What if I am going abroad in the summer?

Most often study abroad programs are not long enough in length to qualify for federal or state assistance and you would be required to pay your host school in full.