

**FINANCIAL AID OFFICE**

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Frequently Asked Questions about Financial Aid and Study Away

When will I know what financial aid is available for my program?

The International Center will automatically provide comprehensive study away cost information to the Financial Aid Office for all approved students each term. **You do not need to take action to initiate this process.**

For fall programs, the initial financial aid award letter mailed to your permanent residence in early to mid-summer will likely include the study-away adjustments. For spring programs, any revisions to your original aid award will be prepared and sent to you through campus mail starting mid-November.

Sometimes cost sheets are delayed for unavoidable reasons. Incomplete aid applications will also delay our process of getting accurate information to you. Be proactive by completing your returning financial aid application early if you are studying away in a fall term!

How do you determine need-based financial aid eligibility for study away?

For calculating your financial aid during the semester you study away, we rely on the experience and expertise of the International Center for comprehensive, but conservative, cost estimates. Those include Macalester's tuition, your program's room and board expenses, whether charged to your student account or to you directly, estimated round-trip airfare costs from St. Paul to your country of study, and related fees and expenses. The following additional considerations apply:

Programs that cost more than Macalester

If your study away program cost is higher than the cost of a Macalester semester in Saint Paul, you will be charged the higher program tuition. Financial aid will not take the additional costs into consideration for grant purposes, but you may be able to take additional loans to help cover the higher costs.

Your program's room and board charges or direct costs

If your program's room and board charges or direct room and board estimates are the same as or higher than those at Macalester, your need-based grant will remain unchanged. If program room and board charges or direct room and board estimates are less than those at Macalester, your need-based grant will be reduced by the difference.

Study Away Travel Grants

If the estimated airfare to and from your program is greater than the estimated cost of travel to Saint Paul, students receiving Macalester need-based grants will qualify for a Study Away Travel Grant equal to the difference. If the estimated travel cost is equal to or less than the estimated cost of travel to Saint Paul, you will not receive a travel grant. Study Away Travel Grants are credited to your Macalester account.

Student Employment

In most cases, you will not be able to work while you are away. We do not replace lost student employment opportunities with gift aid. If necessary, it may be possible to access additional student loans to replace your work.

Which costs will be charged to my Macalester account and which will I pay directly?

Program tuition will be charged to your student account. The charge will equal Macalester's full-time semester tuition, and will be higher if your selected program costs more than Macalester.

Whether a particular program provides room and board, just room, or some partial room and/or board varies greatly. Applicable **program-provided** services will be charged to your Macalester account. You should expect to directly pay all other **non-program-provided** services (e.g., meals that are not provided by your program). Review your International Center cost sheet carefully for the most useful program-specific information.

Plan to make the program deposit directly and to buy your own airline ticket, as those items will not be charged to your Macalester student account. However, all these costs—whether charged to your Macalester account or paid by you directly—are considered when we calculate your financial aid. It may be possible to utilize a portion of your student loan eligibility to help cover some or all of these expenses. Inquire with the Financial Aid Office if you need more information about your loan options.

How do I access any financial aid that exceeds my Macalester billed charges?

If your financial aid (including loans) will be greater than the total charges to your Macalester account, you may request a refund of the surplus from the Student Accounts Office. If you have signed up for direct deposit, you will receive your requested refund directly into your U. S. bank account. Otherwise, in addition to requesting the refund, you need to contact Student Accounts with all the details about the person you authorize to receive a refund check on your behalf.

Since you may already be out of the country when the credit balance is created, make all arrangements about how that money is to be treated **before** you depart. If the direct deposit option appeals to you but you have not yet signed up, complete the form at the site listed here:

<http://www.macalester.edu/payroll/forms/DirectDepositForm.pdf>

What happens to my merit-based scholarship?

If you have a merit-based scholarship from Macalester, it will be available for study away. **If you have a National Merit Scholarship**, you must contact National Merit Scholarship Corporation (847-866-5100) and request that it be made available for your semester or year away.

Will you help complete outside scholarship applications for study away terms?

We will be happy to complete the Financial Aid Office section of any outside scholarship application. Please deliver the scholarship application to the Financial Aid Office and give us detailed information about what we are to do with it. Should we SPO the completed form to you? Should we mail the original to the potential donor? Are there other directions? If possible, please give us at least 48 hours to complete your forms.

How do outside awards impact my financial aid?

If you win scholarships from outside sources or from your study away program, *your financial aid package will be adjusted according to the Macalester outside scholarship policy.* You can help to ensure that your financial aid package is as accurate as possible by informing our office of all scholarships from outside sources. Macalester's policy on the treatment of outside scholarships is available at www.macalester.edu/financialaid/policies.html#Outside.

How can I get more details about financial aid and study away?

You can email your questions to finaid@macalester.edu, visit the Financial Aid Office, or call 651-696-6214.

Next Year's Financial Aid Application

If you study away during a spring term and will be returning to Macalester for the following year, don't forget to complete your financial aid application. Instructions will be available on our website. If possible, please complete your federal tax return and your portions of the aid applications before leaving the country. If you have not already done so, visit www.pin.ed.gov and obtain a PIN that can be used to electronically sign your FAFSA while you are away.

Other Links

Contact the International Center at www.macalester.edu/internationalcenter/studyabroad.

Contact Student Accounts at www.macalester.edu/studentaccounts.