

## FINANCES AND STUDY AWAY

Because the cost of study away will differ from the cost of a semester spent at Macalester and will involve different billing procedures, please consult the "Frequently Asked Questions" below to help you prepare for the financial aspects of your study away experience.

### 1. What items should I include when planning a study away budget?

A study away "*essentials*" budget will include the following items:

- Tuition
- Housing
- Meals
- Round-trip airfare
- Books
- Visa costs
- Essential living expenses such as local transportation

A study away budget with "*extras*" will also include:

- Museum or tourist attraction entry fees
- Funds for recreational travel on weekends or holiday breaks
- Visits to pubs, dance clubs or other forms of entertainment
- Supplemental clothing, gifts, and souvenirs

### 2. How will the Macalester International Center help me estimate the above costs?

Approximately three weeks after you are approved for study away by the Macalester Study Away Review Committee, a *Cost Estimate Sheet* will be sent to both you and your parents. The International Center creates a Cost Estimate Sheet for each student going abroad which contains costs or estimated allowances for all of the items in the "essentials" list above, but does not include the "extras."

- [Click here to see a sample Cost Estimate Sheet](#)

### 3. Why are the "extras" not included in the Cost Estimate Sheet?

In addition to you and your parents, the Cost Estimate Sheet is also forwarded to the Financial Aid Office, which uses it to calculate financial aid awards for those students eligible. Cost Estimate Sheets are designed to include items *essential to the educational experience*, as the College has over 200 students to support each year in their aspirations to study away for a semester or academic year. In so doing, the College aids the student in covering those items which would be included in the aid package for on-campus semesters: tuition, housing, meals, books, transportation, and essential incidental expenses.

#### 4. How are amounts on the Cost Estimate Sheet calculated?

##### ➤ *Tuition*

**\*\*Please note that information about tuition charges differs from the information above for students who matriculated at Macalester before fall semester 2003 or those under the Dependent Tuition Assistance Program (DTAP). If you fall into one of these categories, contact Paula Paul-Wagner in the International Center for more information: [paulwagner@macalester.edu](mailto:paulwagner@macalester.edu).**

Students who study away are charged the same tuition as a semester or year spent on-campus at Macalester, except for the rare cases in which the program chosen by the student has a higher tuition charge than Macalester. In this situation, the student will be charged the program tuition. (Note of caution: Many study abroad programs will advertise a “program price” which may appear higher than Macalester tuition, but likely includes more than just tuition -- “program price” often also includes housing, partial or full meals, and sometimes airfare.)

##### ➤ *Housing and meals*

The amount for housing and meals is calculated in different ways depending upon whether you are studying abroad with a program provider or direct-enrolling in an overseas university. If the program sponsor provides housing and food, you should plan to pay the rate charged by the program provider plus any meals not included. Housing and meal estimates for students direct-enrolling are based on local rates in-country supplied by our partner institutions abroad. Please note that amounts listed for room and board reflect either the charge assessed by the program provider or a reasonable allowance to cover these expenses when they are paid independently by the student.

##### ➤ *Airfare*

Airfare is estimated using average rates available to students and, out of administrative necessity (since Macalester students come from diverse places in the U.S. and world), is based on flights from Minneapolis/St. Paul to the study away destination and back. It is expected that you will begin your search early for low-cost student airfares; many program sponsors offer a group flight which is often less expensive than booking an individual flight.

##### ➤ *Books, local transportation and other necessary incidentals*

Cost Estimate Sheets also include an allowance toward what is labeled “related expenses” which is intended to be a reasonable allowance toward the cost of books, visas when necessary, local transportation and such items as basic toiletries and laundry. The allowance for “related expenses” for a semester abroad is equal to the allowance granted to students studying on campus for books and “personal” expenses. Since almost all study away programs have a much lower cost for books as compared to Macalester, the savings there can be used to cover expenses like visas and local transportation which are not needed for semesters on campus.

**\*\*Please note that students who choose not to use student travel agencies, to add extra stop-overs to their flight plan, to live in a single room while abroad, or to eat**

primarily in pubs or restaurants will incur additional expenses beyond the scope of Macalester Cost Estimate Sheets and financial aid packages, and may need to dip deeper into family savings or educational loans during their time off campus.

#### 5. What is the program deposit and how does it get paid?

If the review process is favorable, you will receive an acceptance letter from both Macalester and the program to which you have applied. Along with the acceptance letter, most program sponsors require a deposit (usually around \$400) be paid to hold your place in the program. You should pay this deposit directly to the program provider. It will be reflected as a credit towards the remaining study away costs. Please note that students direct-enrolling in a foreign university are not usually required to pay a deposit.

#### 6. How will billing work for study away?

You should receive an invoice from Macalester for your semester away at about the same time (July for fall study away and December for spring study away) and in the same format as you would a bill for study on campus. Program providers and foreign universities will bill Macalester, the College will pay the invoice on your behalf, and study away charges will be posted to your account at Macalester. Please refer to the Cost Estimate Sheet, which indicates which expenses will be paid by Macalester and charged to your account and which will need to be paid directly by you. Note that some programs do not provide meals or will provide only one meal a day; in the case of students direct-enrolling in a foreign university, housing and meals will not be billed through Macalester, so students will need to pay these costs directly (similar to the way students studying at Macalester who live off campus pay for their own groceries and rent).

[Click here to view a sample Macalester invoice for a study away semester](#)

#### 7. How does billing and financial aid work for optional field trips or early start programs?

Many study abroad programs offer an “early start” seminar or optional field trips at additional cost. While these can often be valuable experiences, the cost for these extra choices will not be paid through Macalester, but will be billed directly to the student and/or parents; Macalester financial aid cannot be used to cover such expenses unless they are a required part of the curriculum.

#### 8. Who can I contact for more help?

Questions about the Cost Estimate Sheet or general inquiries about the cost of study abroad:

Paula Paul-Wagner  
Assistant Director, International Center  
[paulwagner@macalester.edu](mailto:paulwagner@macalester.edu)  
(651) 696-6300

Questions about financial aid related to study abroad:

Financial Aid Office  
[finaid@macalester.edu](mailto:finaid@macalester.edu)  
(651) 696-6214

Questions about your bill from Macalester for the semester away from campus or how to access student account refunds:

Student Accounts Office  
[studentaccts@macalester.edu](mailto:studentaccts@macalester.edu)  
(651) 696-6161

Questions about how the Tuition Management System (payment of Macalester costs in installments) can work with study abroad:

Tuition Management Systems  
(800) 722-4867