

FINANCIAL AID STUDY ABROAD



INFORMATION SHEET



Students who are considering a study abroad program should review the information below. Students who will need financial assistance to enroll in a study abroad program must complete and submit all documents as outlined below.

There are three types of Study Abroad programs in which a student may participate. Students may receive financial assistance for the third type of study abroad program **only by exception**.

1. The first type is a Study Abroad program that is offered by Radford University. Students are enrolled for credit hours at Radford University and are considered Radford students. All applications and forms must be completed to participate in this program through the student's department and the International Education Center. For additional information, review the Radford University Undergraduate Catalog and contact the International Programs Office.
2. The second type of Study Abroad is one that is offered at an international university and the program is approved through RU. The student will be enrolled at RU. The student obtains an individualized consortium agreement approved by the Registrar, the Director of International Education, and the Director of Financial Aid (at RU and the study abroad institution). Contact International Programs at 831-6200.
3. The third type of Study Abroad is one that is offered at another university. Students are typically not eligible for financial aid for these programs. However, students who are required to participate in one of these programs to complete their degree, may submit a letter to the Director of Financial Aid explaining the circumstances and request that an exception be granted. Students in this type of program will not be enrolled at RU during this type of study abroad experience, but will be enrolled at the eligible institution. The student will obtain transfer credit approval through Radford University. This type of program is actually treated as a request for a Consortium agreement with another school. Students participating in these programs are not considered a Radford University student. If the program occurs during the Fall or Spring semester, the student must reapply for admission to Radford University upon their return. Students interested in this type of program may want to review the EMAX loan through Suntrust Bank. This loan does not have to be approved or certified through Radford University.

Additional information about application requirements may be obtained from the International Education Center in 302 Cook Hall. Information may also be obtained from the Radford University Undergraduate Catalog and from the International Education website at <http://www.radford.edu/~intlprog>.

Students can apply for the following assistance for study abroad programs:

- **Federal Stafford Loans** – Students must meet eligibility requirements. **You will only be able to receive Federal Stafford loan funds if you have not used all of your yearly eligibility during the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 semesters.** These loans can not be disbursed until the beginning of the semester for which the student is enrolled at Radford University. Students using this program should have other means to cover expenses until the disbursement arrives. The Federal Stafford Loan funds may not be disbursed early to pay deposits that may be due weeks before the student abroad program begins. Students **must be** enrolled for at least six hours at Radford University. Specific information about Federal Stafford Loans can be obtained from the RU Financial Aid website at: <http://www.radford.edu/~finaid/staf.htm> .
- **Federal Parent Loan** – Parents may borrow funds on behalf of the student. This loan may not be disbursed until the beginning of the semester for which the student is enrolled at Radford University. Detailed information regarding this program may be found at www.radford.edu/~finaid/plus.htm .
- **Alternative Loan Programs** – Many lenders offer their own student loan program. Interest rates, repayment, etc. will vary between lenders. However, some lenders will allow students to be enrolled for fewer than six semester hours. Disbursement procedures are more flexible with these programs. Three of the more popular programs are Citiassist, Key Alternative, and EMax (this is a Suntrust loan that does not have to be certified through the school). Many programs will allow a disbursement for the deposit and remaining loan funds to be disbursed in time for the student's departure date. Information about these programs may be found at www.radford.edu/~finaid/alttab.html .

To apply for financial assistance for a study abroad program, the following documents must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office.

- Completed Study Abroad Financial Aid Application.
The deadline for receipt of Study Abroad applications is:
 - January 15 for Summer Study Abroad Programs.
 - March 1 for Fall Study Abroad Programs.
 - October 1 for Spring Study Abroad Programs.
- Study Abroad Program Cost Sheet.
Must be submitted with the Study Abroad Financial Aid Application. (May be obtained from the Study Abroad faculty or Program Director)
- Copy of the completed Student Participation Agreement (Required for students in RU Study Abroad programs.) May be obtained from the RU International Education Center.
The deadline for receipt in the Financial Aid Office is:
 - January 15 for Summer programs.
 - March 1 for Fall programs.
 - October 15th for Spring programs.
- Completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) –
 - Verification must be completed by the deadline dates.
- Enroll for the Study Abroad credit hours. Enrollment for classes must be done six weeks prior to the departure date.

If you are planning to study abroad and are interested in using financial aid for your trip, please contact **Misti Acosta** (mbrackne@radford.edu) in the Financial Aid Office (831-5408) for further details or visit any day between 1-5 p.m.

