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**Financial Planning for Study Abroad**

**STEP ONE: Create a budget.** Use this chart to estimate the total cost of your program or compare the cost of a few programs you are considering. Many programs have estimated budget sheets available online in the SAGL program catalog (click on the appropriate term next to “Program Cost” near the top of the program brochure page).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget Worksheet** | **Program 1:** | **Program 2:** | **Program 3:** |
| **Program Fees**  |  |  |  |
| Provider Application Fee | $ | $ | $ |
| Program Fee | $ | $ | $ |
| **WKU Fees** |  |  |  |
| Study Abroad Application Fee | $150 | $150 | $150 |
| Tuition (exchange programs only) | $ | $ | $ |
| Medical Insurance (if not included in prog. fee) | $ | $ | $ |
| **Additional Expenses** (if not included) |  |  |  |
| Roundtrip airfare  | $ | $ | $ |
| Tuition\*  | $ | $ | $ |
| Housing\*  | $ | $ | $ |
| Meals  | $ | $ | $ |
| Passport fees | $ | $ | $ |
| Visa (if applicable) | $ | $ | $ |
| Textbooks and class supplies | $ | $ | $ |
| Transportation to/from airport  | $ | $ | $ |
| Local transportation (taxi, bus, subway, train) | $ | $ | $ |
| Immunizations | $ | $ | $ |
| Personal expenses (toiletries, laundry, communication expenses, sightseeing, etc.) | $ | $ | $ |
| Independent travel (optional) | $ | $ | $ |
| Gifts/souvenirs (optional) | $ | $ | $ |
| **Total Expected Cost** | $ | $ | $ |

*\*Tuition and housing are included in most provider program fees.*

**STEP TWO**: **Draw from a variety of funding sources to pay for the cost of your program.**

**Current Scholarships** (for semester programs only)

* WKU scholarships: Most can be used toward study abroad costs. Email scholarships@wku.edu to request that your scholarships be applied toward study abroad fees.
	+ Items to include in your email:
		- 800#
		- Request to have scholarship funds applied toward Study Abroad Program Fees
	+ Send request by the following dates:
		- November 1 for Spring Programs
		- August 1 for Fall Programs
* Private scholarships: Contact donor to find out if scholarship can be used towards study abroad.

**Study Abroad Scholarships**

Review the study abroad scholarship list to determine which scholarships you are eligible to apply for. We also recommend that you search for external scholarships through Google and scholarship search engines.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Scholarship** | **Application Deadline** | **Possible Award Range** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
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**Financial Aid**

* File your FAFSA.
* Contact Tiffany Denton (tiffany.denton@wku.edu) in the Office of Student Financial Assistance if you plan on utilizing federal and/or state financial aid and/or loans.
* Items to include in email:
	+ 800#
	+ Program name
	+ Study abroad term
	+ Number of credit hours you will earn

**STEP THREE:**  **Determine the difference and create a plan for filling the gap.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total Expected Program Cost | $ |
| Current Scholarships for study abroad term | - $ |
| Study Abroad Scholarships (estimate) | - $ |
| Financial Aid (grants and/or loans) | - $ |
| Personal funding sources | - $ |
| Difference | $ |

**My plan**:

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**Other Funding Ideas**

SAGL does not endorse any particular creative funding idea but provides these as examples of what other study abroad students have done to raise money for their programs. Visit our office (HCIC 1014) to review our fundraising guide for creative funding ideas.

* Reduce expenses to save money for study abroad.
	+ Cut back on non-essential expenses (i.e. coffee, sweets, dining out, entertainment, etc.)
	+ Carpool, bike, or take the shuttle instead of driving to save on gas.
	+ Downgrade your cell phone plan and get rid of cable and streaming services.
* Work extra hours or during breaks to increase savings.
* Set up a crowdfunding account such as GoFundMe to have friends and family contribute toward your study abroad fund.
* Solicit donations from civic groups, heritage groups, professional clubs, and organizations to which you belong. Offer to give something back in return for their support.
* Sell baked goods or crafts to raise funds.
* Organize a fundraising event for friends & family.