



Using Financial Aid for GT Study Abroad Programs

If you wish to use financial aid to participate in a GT study abroad or exchange program, two things must happen:

- 1) **YOU:** must apply for **Financial Aid** (including HOPE) by visiting www.finaid.gatech.edu/apply
- 2) **OIE:** must submit a **Verification of Participation** form to OSFA on your behalf.

→ What is considered financial aid?

Any funds that you receive via the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid is considered financial aid. This includes, but is not limited to, the HOPE

Scholarship, Stafford loans, PLUS loans, the Governor's Scholarship, the Robert Byrd Scholarship, and the Pell Grant.

→ Can I use financial aid to study abroad as part of a GT program?

The short answer: Yes.

The better answer: If you receive aid for on-campus study and if you remain eligible for that aid while participating in a GT study abroad program, then you will be able to receive your financial aid. For example, if you currently receive the HOPE scholarship, you maintain the GPA requirement, and you meet the other eligibility requirements (e.g. have not exceeded the maximum number of hours that HOPE will fund, etc.), then you will be able to receive the HOPE scholarship to participate in a GT program. Please be aware that if you receive the Academic Common Market, you will not be eligible for the term you are studying abroad.

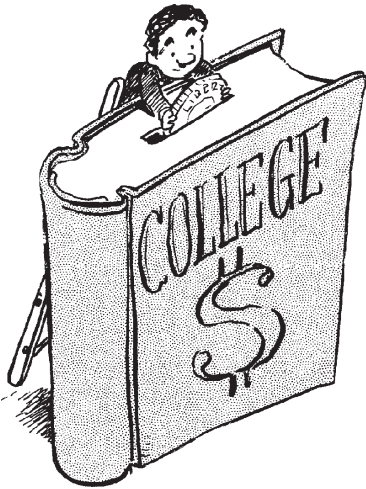
→ Will the number of credits I take affect my financial aid?

Some types of aid require that you remain enrolled full-time (at least 12 hours). These include awards such as National Merit, Georgia Tech Scholarships, and the Georgia Governor's Scholarship. Both Pell and HOPE are prorated based on the number of hours in which you are enrolled. Stafford Loans are available for students enrolled in at least 6 semester hours as long as the appropriate paperwork is received prior to your departure. Outside loans are also available no matter how many hours you are taking. Information on outside loans is available in the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

→ How do I apply for financial aid if I am going to study abroad?

If you are planning to study abroad, you must apply for financial aid just as you do for on-campus study. Please refer to www.finaid.gatech.edu for instructions on how to apply for financial aid and scholarships (including HOPE) or contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, located in the Bill Moore Student Success Center. Please note that a separate application is required in order to receive financial aid during the **Summer Semester**. Read your Georgia Tech e-mail account regularly to be sure you are up-to-date on important application deadlines. **The deadline for Summer Semester Financial Aid is February 15th.** The priority deadline is May 1st for the following academic year.

- Are there special procedures involved in using financial aid for study abroad?
Yes. In order to use your financial aid to study abroad, OIE must submit a Verification of Study Abroad Program Participation Form on your behalf. The Office of International Education will prepare this form based on the information that you submit in your Study Abroad Application and will automatically forward this form to OSFA upon your acceptance to a GT study abroad program.
- Please note that OIE starts completing forms for summer programs in January each year. The Verification of Study Abroad Program Participation Form is sent directly to the OSFA via campus mail.
- What kind of information is included in the Verification of Study Abroad Program Participation Form?



1. Projected budget for academic expenses associated with your participation in the program. An academic expense is anything that is required for you to complete your courses. For example, airfare is included in the budget because you have to get there to be able to complete your classes. Field trips that are not mandatory, personal travel, expenses generated by personal tastes and preferences are not included in the budget.
2. Date classes begin and date exams end
3. Number of credit hours you will be taking

→ I receive the HOPE scholarship. How will that work?

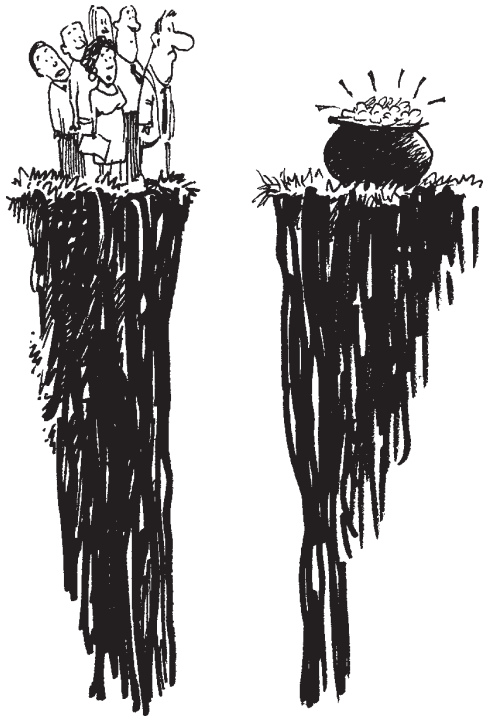
If you are still eligible to receive HOPE, then HOPE will continue to pay your tuition and book stipend. Because you will not incur the typical fees associated with your campus courseload (i.e. athletic fee, transportation fee, etc.), HOPE will be reduced to pay only your tuition and book stipend.

- How much of my costs will my other (i.e. aid other than the HOPE scholarship) financial aid cover?
The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid will determine your aid package. You should see your Financial Aid Counselor (after a Verification of Study Abroad Program Participation Form has been completed on your behalf) to ask about your aid package.

- Do the grades I earn affect my GPA? Do they affect my aid?
If you are on a program that offers GT classes (as is the case for all summer programs), then your grades will appear on your transcript as they do when you take classes on campus. If you are participating in a program that requires you to transfer your classes back to GT, then your grades earned abroad will not appear on your GT transcript, but are used to determine your eligibility to continue to receive financial aid, including HOPE. See the section on credit transfer for exchange programs at <http://www.oie.gatech.edu> for more information on the requirements for transferring classes back to GT.



PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE GT REGISTRAR WILL NEED TO POST YOUR FOREIGN CREDIT TO YOUR TRANSCRIPT BEFORE ANY FUTURE HOPE AWARDS ARE PAID TO YOUR ACCOUNT.



→ Can I use financial aid to study abroad as part of a program offered by another university or organization?

If you are participating in a non-GT program for which you will earn credit from a U.S. accredited college or university, then you may be able to receive your aid retroactively. You should see your Financial Aid Counselor for information. If you are participating in a non-GT program for which you will earn credit from a foreign university, then you will not receive financial aid from GT.

→ Are there any scholarships or other special funds for study abroad students?

Yes, there are some scholarships available for study abroad. The Office of International Education has a handout called "Scholarships" that provides information on scholarship possibilities for participants in study abroad programs.

→ Will my financial aid be applied toward my program fees?

Yes, your financial aid may be applied toward your program fees.

→ When will I receive my aid?

Because the Office of Student Financial Planning and Services must follow Federal Regulations, they cannot release your aid any earlier than the term for which it is awarded. Even then, they can only release your aid if all of your paperwork has been completed. You should make sure that ALL of your paperwork has been completed prior to leaving the country. It would be a good idea to view your requirement information on the web regularly to keep up with any new documents that the Office of Student Financial Planning and Services might need. It is possible that you may not receive your aid until after your departure for your study abroad destination, so you should be prepared to support yourself without aid for the first few weeks.

→ My payment deadlines are earlier than I will receive my aid. What can I do?

Questions about program fees payment deferments should be directed to the Program Director of your study abroad program (the OSFA does not handle deferments). If you are allowed a deferment, you will have to sign a Promissory Note, which will legally bind you to paying the fees. Please keep in mind that programs have to make payments for housing and other services ahead of time so your program may not be able to give you a deferment.

→ Who is responsible for taking care of my financial aid while I'm overseas?

You are responsible for taking care of your financial aid, even once you leave the country.



→ How will I receive financial aid funds if I leave campus before they are disbursed?
In order to receive aid while you are overseas, you may do one of the following:

1. The Georgia Tech Bursar's Office offers all Tech students the opportunity to have DIRECT DEPOSIT for student refunds. You can set direct deposit on Oscar at <https://oscar.gatech.edu>, and once your account information is verified, your disbursements/refunds will be processed directly into your checking or savings account. For more information, please refer to the Bursar's website at <http://www.bursar.gatech.edu>

2. You may also complete a Power of Attorney (available from the Office of International Education). By presenting a Power of Attorney, the person who is named on the form can deposit the funds into your account, so be sure to leave him/her deposit slips for your account. A Power of Attorney does not allow a person to sign promissory notes on your behalf. So, if you have a Stafford loan and have not yet signed a Promissory Note for this year, you must make sure a note is signed before you leave.



→ To summarize: 1) YOU: Apply for financial aid by visiting www.finaid.gatech.edu/apply
2) OIE: submits Verification of Participation form to OSFA on your behalf.

Check out these web sites for helpful financial aid information and forms:

The Georgia Tech Application for Scholarships and Financial Aid:
<http://www.finaid.gatech.edu/forms>

The FAFSA on-line:
<http://fafsa.ed.gov>

OSCAR:
<https://oscar.gatech.edu/>

General Financial Aid Information:
<http://www.finaid.gatech.edu/>



Pamphlet prepared by the Office of International Education (OIE)
and the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid
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