

STUDY ABROAD FUNDING POLICIES AT AUSTIN COLLEGE

TIER	Funding level	Programs included
Tier 1	All Austin College institutional aid (scholarships and other aid) is allowed to count toward payment of study abroad costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All international partnership/direct exchange programs Programs would be funded at Tier 1 normally for a maximum of one semester, unless a petition is approved by department, the Global Learning Committee, and Academic Affairs Committee Approved language immersion programs in countries where the official language is one of the modern languages taught at AC* Approved English language programs through providers in fields where offerings abroad significantly enhance what is available at AC (<i>e.g.</i>, international relations, economics, business, public health, or art)* <p>*See list of approved programs.</p>
Tier 2	50% of Austin College institutional aid (scholarships and other aid) is allowed to count toward payment of study abroad costs. One exception: 100% of sponsored scholarships are allowed to count.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs not approved for Tier 1 funding Other programs that significantly enhance learning within the academic major or minor may be petitioned to be funded at Tier 1
Tier 3	No Austin College institutional aid (scholarships and other aid) is allowed to count toward payment of study abroad costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English language or other programs not approved for Tier 2. All programs taught in languages not taught at AC. All second semester study abroad will normally be Tier 3, unless a petition is approved All credit received in Tier 3 will not count toward the residency requirement, that is, it will be counted as transfer credit. No student will ever be permitted to study abroad for three semesters under any circumstances.
Programs not approved for Austin College students under any circumstances		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semester-at-Sea Any other program not aligned with the mission of Austin College, according to the judgment of the Global Learning Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee
Washington Semester; London School of Economics, Stranmillis College, Belfast, Ireland (Teacher Education)	A maximum of two students will be selected for this program each semester at Tier 1 funding, other students are funded at Tier 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p>The pertinent department or program committee will develop and administer the selection process and ranking of candidates</p> </div>
School for Field Studies	A maximum of four students will be selected for this program each semester, two at Tier 1 funding, two at Tier 2	

Petition Process

If a student wishes to petition any of the above policies regarding tier level or length of study, they will need to fill out a petition form, attaching a one-page justification for their petition. Students will need signed approval from their department/program chair. The form will require the department/program chair to include a paragraph explaining their support for the petition. The petition is then submitted to the Global Learning Committee. The Academic Affairs Committee will also review the petitions. Petition forms are [available online](#) and in the Center for Global Learning (WCC).

Evaluation Criteria

Some or all of the following criteria will be weighed when considering petitions for study abroad for funding.

- Does the program significantly enhance opportunities for the student within their academic major or minor?
- Has the student demonstrated serious academic dedication to the field of study described in the petition?
- Does the program provide extraordinary opportunities for students in order to help them in the future careers or post-graduate educational plans?
- Is the study abroad program under consideration one of unquestioned academic rigor and value?
- Does the student make a thoughtful argument about the justification for the petition? Does the department/program endorse the petition enthusiastically?

Other Policies

1. Minimum GPA for study abroad is 3.0. Some programs may require a higher GPA.
2. If a student is awarded a Boren Fellowship by the federal government, the student will be allowed to study abroad at the Tier 1 level for the entire year, that is, two long semesters.
3. Summer study abroad may be connected to spring or fall study abroad, but the only institutional financial aid available is loans.
4. Students not selected for funding at Tier 1 or 2 for the School for Field Studies, Washington Semester; London School of Economics, or Stranmillis College, Belfast, Ireland (Teacher Education), are eligible to study in these programs at Tier 3 funding with approval of the respective department and the Global Learning Committee.
5. Tier 1 funding will never exceed the total cost of tuition, room and board at Austin College. Students are responsible for any costs exceeding total cost of tuition, room and board at Austin College.