

Study Abroad and Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Office has been notified by the Office of Education Abroad that you plan to study abroad. As a study abroad participant, you may or may not be a financial aid recipient.

- If you do not receive financial aid funds, including loans, for the semester(s) you study abroad OR if you do not plan to apply for financial aid for future semesters, please disregard this information.
- Otherwise, please read carefully.

Why should I continue reading?

The goal of the Financial Aid Office is to ensure students are given the most accurate information about their financial aid funds while studying abroad and after returning from their programs. Not all students will be eligible to receive financial aid for both semesters of a two-semester program. Also, all students may not qualify for aid the semester after returning from their programs. Included in this email are the Study Abroad Statement of Understanding and the Financial Aid Status Sheet for Study Abroad Participants. By reading these documents, you will be “in the know”.

Questions?

Contact Judith Fogus at 615-898-2247 or at judith.fogus@mtsu.edu

Don't stop now....keep on reading!

Middle Tennessee State University

Financial Aid Office

MTSU Study Abroad Financial Aid Statement of Understanding

Typically, the financial aid process is the same for study abroad participants as for students who remain on campus.

1. The Office of Education Abroad must approve students as participants in Study Abroad Programs.
2. If students have a financial aid status of Suspension, they cannot receive financial aid funds whether abroad or at MTSU.
3. It is the students' responsibility to ensure the study abroad transcript is sent from the host institution to the Office of Education Abroad. The official study abroad credit hours will be posted to the MTSU transcript by the Admissions Office.
4. The credit hours earned in a Study Abroad Program **MUST** transfer to MTSU and count as academic credit toward the student's degree and **MUST** be posted to the MTSU transcript before a student can receive his/her diploma or transcript.
5. If students are enrolled in Study Abroad courses during the term in which they plan to graduate from MTSU, they will not be eligible to receive federal financial aid unless the courses are required for graduation.
6. The number of study abroad attempted credit hours (for which students were paid financial aid) must transfer from the host institution to MTSU. For example, if students *attempt* full-time hours, they must transfer full-time *attempted* hours. If they transfer less than full-time *attempted* hours, the financial aid for their study abroad program and future terms may be impacted and they may be required to repay the difference.
7. If a study abroad program begins in one award year and ends in another award year, students will be required to complete a FAFSA for both award years (Award Year=Fall & Spring & Summer terms). If students are selected for verification and cannot complete the process while out of the country, the Financial Aid Office will not award aid until the verification process is complete.
8. Fall/Spring Electronic Award Notices will be sent to students' MTSU email addresses when official Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) results and documents requested by the Financial Aid Office are complete. Typically, the Financial Aid Office begins sending Notices to currently enrolled students in mid-May after Spring grades are posted.

9. While students are studying abroad, they may be contacted at their MTSU email address to complete financial aid requirements for the next term of enrollment. They may need to access PipelineMT to accept/decline awards.
10. **Work Study** Students cannot receive Federal Work Study funds during a study abroad program.
11. Students should refer to www.mtsu.edu/bursar for confirmation and fee payment instructions/deadlines.
12. If students' Study Abroad Program begins before the MTSU semester starts, they cannot receive financial aid funds in advance. MTSU funds are disbursed at the beginning of the semester in which the credit hours will apply. Financial aid refunds are disbursed the first week of MTSU classes if all requirements are met.
13. Students are responsible for paying their Study Abroad charges (including early deposits, registration fees, etc.) to the appropriate institution. MTSU does not send financial aid funds to another institution.
14. Direct deposit is recommended so that financial aid refunds may be directly deposited into students' designated bank accounts. Direct deposit may be set up through PipelineMT. For details, visit www.mtsu.edu/bursar.
15. If students withdraw prior to completing 60% of the term, the MTSU Financial Aid Office must complete a federal return calculation. As a result of this calculation, students may owe a balance to MTSU. For Summer terms, dropping or withdrawing from any course (whether abroad or at MTSU) may result in financial aid being reduced or canceled and as a result students may owe a balance to MTSU. Refer to www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid.
16. If students do not attend the classes for which they receive financial aid, their aid may be adjusted/canceled. MTSU will be required to repay Federal/State programs, as applicable, which in turn may lead to students owing a balance to MTSU.
17. **Lottery Scholarships** In some situations, Lottery funds may be awarded the semester after students return from study abroad even though their official study abroad transcript is not posted at MTSU. However, after the study abroad transcript is posted, if it is determined that students were not eligible (e.g., change in enrollment status, failure to meet GPA requirements, etc.), MTSU must return the funds to the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation and students will owe the related amount to MTSU.

If it is determined that students become ineligible for any financial aid awarded, they must repay the MTSU Business Office the balance owed plus any collection costs.

Middle Tennessee State University Financial Aid Office

Financial Aid Status Sheet for Study Abroad Participants

Financial Aid Eligibility for Study Abroad Participants Based on Financial Aid Status

Federal regulations require the Financial Aid Office to monitor Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. One aspect of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is that students must be passing 67% of “overall combined” attempted hours to be in Financial Aid Good Standing. Students may receive aid if their Financial Aid Status is **Good Standing** or **Probation/Warning**. Other issues related to SAP may prevent students from being eligible for aid; however, for the purpose of this document, the SAP focus is on the 67% passing rate. To review the complete Policy, refer to <http://www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid/policies.php>. It is strongly recommended that study abroad participants know their financial aid status before leaving for study abroad.

To View Financial Aid Status:

- Log into PipelineMT
- Click on Financial Aid
- Click on Status
- Select Aid Year and Submit

To View “overall combined” attempted/earned hours:

(Passing Rate = Earned hours ÷ Attempted hours × 100)

- Log into PipelineMT
- Select Registration & Student Records
- Click on Transcript

Financial Aid Status: **GOOD STANDING** during the 1st semester of study abroad

For students who begin study abroad with a financial aid status of **good standing** and their official study abroad academic transcripts have not been posted prior to the 2nd and subsequent semesters:

1 st Semester (Study Abroad)	2 nd semester (Study Abroad or MTSU)	3 rd Semester	4 th Semester
Eligible students can receive aid.	*Eligible students can receive aid.	Eligible students may receive a deferment for charges on their MTSU account.	Students cannot receive aid or a deferment.

*Provisional Lottery students & students with more than 95 attempted hours before 1st semester abroad cannot receive Lottery

Financial Aid Status: **PROBATION/WARNING** during the 1st semester of study abroad

For students who begin study abroad with a financial aid status of **probation/warning** and their official study abroad academic transcripts have not been posted prior to the 2nd and subsequent semesters:

1 st Semester (Study Abroad)	2 nd Semester (Study Abroad or MTSU)	3 rd Semester
Eligible students can receive aid.	Eligible students may receive a deferment for charges on their MTSU account.	Students cannot receive aid or a deferment.

NOTE: Students who begin study abroad with a status of probation/warning and are participating in a two-semester study abroad program will be ineligible for aid the 2nd semester abroad and should be prepared to cover their own tuition/fees, etc.