

Education Abroad Financial Aid Guide for Students

Scholarships

- Education Abroad specific scholarships can be found at: <https://nau.edu/education-abroad/scholarships/>.
 - The website also has links to student search engines which pull scholarships from third party databases that are not otherwise included on the NAU website.
- Private donor scholarships can be found at: <https://nau.edu/office-of-scholarships-and-financial-aid/private-donor-scholarships/>.
 - Each of these scholarships are administered by third parties and are subject to different timelines and eligibility criteria.
 - Students need to review their award letter from the private donor to determine **if** a scholarship can be applied to a Education Abroad program.
 - If the Private Donor Award letter does not list any restrictions for the scholarship, the scholarship may be used for the Education Abroad program.
 - Private donor scholarships may not be awarded to the student's account until after disbursement as each private donor submits their award information to NAU on different timelines.
 - Private donor checks take up to five weeks of processing before they are applied to your account.
- NAU Tuition Scholarships can only be used during the fall and spring semesters for Education Abroad programs that **charge tuition directly through NAU**.
 - Tuition scholarships cannot be applied to faculty lead programs and provider programs.
 - Contact the Education Abroad Advisor for the specific program that the student is interested / enrolled in to obtain further information about how tuition is charged to determine if your NAU scholarships can be utilized.

Grants

Any grants offered on a student's LOUIE account are able to be applied to a Education Abroad program, as long as the aid offered is for the term in which the student will be studying abroad.

Federal Student Loans

The U.S. Department of Education's federal student loan program is the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program. Under this program, the U.S. Department of Education is your lender.

There are three types of Direct Loans available to students:

- **Direct Subsidized Loans** are loans made to eligible undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need to help cover the costs of higher education at a college or career school.
- **Direct Unsubsidized Loans** are loans made to eligible undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, but eligibility is not based on financial need.
- **Direct PLUS Loans** are loans made to **graduate or professional students** and **parents** of dependent undergraduate students to help pay for education expenses not covered by other financial aid. Eligibility is not based on financial need, but a credit check is required. Borrowers who have an adverse credit history must meet additional requirements to qualify.

Accepting Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans - Students

The subsidized and unsubsidized loans are offered to the student as part of their financial aid package. If student plan on utilizing the loans to help pay for their expenses, students must accept the loans before the loans will be disbursed to the student’s account.

1) To accept the loans, students will need to login to LOUIE and the go to: **Main Menu > Self Service > Campus Finances > View Financial Aid**. Students then need to select the aid year for which they are accepting the loans. Once the Aid Year is selected, a screen similar to this will appear and the student should select “Accept/Decline Awards” and accept the loans as needed.

See example below:

Award Description/Category	Award Decision	Reduce	Offered	Accepted
Federal DL Unsub Loan - AY Loan	Accept	<input type="checkbox"/>	20,500.00	20,500.00
PLUS Loan Offer - action reqd Loan	Select	<input type="checkbox"/>	12,650.00	0.00
Totals			33,150.00	20,500.00

Currency used is US Dollar
You may accept, reduce, or decline any Federal Work-Study or loans currently offered. Remember to "Submit" your changes if you make further adjustments. Otherwise, check back periodically for updates to your financial aid package.

2) **To receive student loans**, the student must login to the websites below and complete the following tasks before the loans will disburse to the student’s account. If students have not logged in to the website before, they will need to create a Username and Password that will be used to access the studentaid.gov website currently and in the future.

- Entrance Counseling

- <https://studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling/>
- Master Promissory Note
 - <https://studentaid.gov/mpn/>
- Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment
 - <https://studentaid.gov/asla/>

Applying for PLUS Loans – Parents and Graduate Students

Parent Plus and Graduate Direct PLUS Loans require that the student or parent apply for, and be approved, for the loans to be awarded to the student's account.

Parents will need to create an ID and password, or login to the following website to apply for a Parent Plus Loan: <https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/parent/landing>. Once the parent applies for the loan, the parent will need to complete the PLUS MPN (Master Promissory Note) for Parents located at: <https://studentaid.gov/mpn/parentplus/landing>.

Graduate or Professional students will need to create an ID and password, or login to the following website to apply for Grad PLUS loan: <https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/grad/landing>. Once the student applies for the loan and is approved, the Graduate / Professional student will need to complete the MPN (Master Promissory Note) for Graduate / Professional Students located at <https://studentaid.gov/mpn/grad/landing>.

Loan Limits

The amount of loans that can be borrowed depend on whether the borrower is an undergraduate student, graduate student, or parent.

- For undergraduate students, the maximum amount that can be borrowed each year in Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans ranges from \$5,500 to \$12,500 per year, depending on the student's academic level in school and the student's dependency status.
- For graduate or professional students, the maximum amount that can be borrowed each year is up to \$20,500 each year in Direct Unsubsidized Loans.
- Direct PLUS Loans can also be used for the remainder of graduate or professional student college costs, as determined by the school, not covered by other financial aid.
- For parents of a dependent undergraduate student, a parent can apply for and receive a Direct PLUS Loan for the remainder of their child's college costs, as determined by his or her school, not covered by other financial aid.

Private Alternative Loans

NAU does not have a preferred private lender list. Students may apply through any private lender that they choose.

Visa Letters for Education Abroad Programs

Students who need to request Visa Letters for their Education Abroad Program must have the following information available and completed, **at the time the Visa Letter is requested**:

- 1) Loans must be accepted by the student in LOUIE, if the student plans on utilizing loans to pay for their Education Abroad program.
- 2) A student's personal contributions will not be included in the Visa Letter. The Education Abroad office is responsible for assisting the student with personal contributions.
- 3) Visa Award letters will be completed with the financial aid that the student has awarded at the time **the Visa letter is requested**. Estimated financial aid amounts are not given.
- 4) Private donor scholarships awarded will not be included in Visa Award Letters, **unless** the student submits a copy of their private donor scholarship award letter, with their Visa letter request.
 - The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid does not have copies of a student's private donor award letter and therefore does not have information available as to whether the private scholarship donor will allow the scholarship to be utilized for Education Abroad programs.
 - The only exception is scholarships that are specific to Education Abroad, but the award must be listed on the student's awards at the time the Visa Letter is completed.

Once the Visa Award letter is completed, **it will not be modified** if students decide to accept their loans or receive other aid that was not awarded at the time the initial letter is completed.

Cost of Attendance (COA)

COA is the amount it will cost a student to go to school. COA is calculated to show the total cost for the school year (for instance, for the fall semester plus the spring semester).

If you're attending school at least half-time, the COA is the estimate of tuition and fees, cost of room and board (or living expenses), cost of books, supplies, transportation, loan fees, and miscellaneous expenses (including a reasonable amount for the documented cost of a personal computer), allowance for childcare or other dependent care, costs related to a disability, and reasonable costs for eligible study-abroad programs.

A student's COA for their Education Abroad program is listed on the Education Abroad Financial Aid Information Sheet which is completed by the Education Abroad Advisor.

If a student's Education Abroad COA is less than the COA calculated for the student to be enrolled in courses at NAU, the student's COA will be decreased, which can affect the student's overall financial aid awards by resulting in a reduction of aid or removal of aid since financial aid cannot exceed the student's COA.

If a student's Education Abroad COA is more than the COA calculated for the student to be enrolled in courses at NAU, the student will need to self-identify with their Education Abroad Advisor, who will in turn submit a detailed and specific program budget to the OSFA Financial Aid Advisor, who will adjust the student's COA accordingly. Cost of Attendance adjustments may or may not increase the student's financial aid awards.

Consent to Release Information

The NAU Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education's Privacy and Technical Assistance Center current guidance, may not release a student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) related data or financial aid/scholarship history to an outside entity without a student's consent.

This includes any data obtained from a student's FAFSA such as the Expected Family Contribution, number in household and college, and income tax data; and financial aid received based on that information. It also includes scholarship-related academic award information such as official transcripts, Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standing, enrollment hours, expected graduation date, etc.

Students can provide consent by logging into their LOUIE account and clicking on the Consent to Release Data link in their To Do List or by clicking this link:

https://www.peoplesoft.nau.edu/psc/ps92pr/EMPLOYEE/SA/c/N_SELFSERVICE_CAMPUSFINANCES.N_FAFSA_CONSENT.GBL

Students who are planning on studying abroad should complete the Consent to Release Information form as soon as possible as no financial aid information will be released to other agencies until the form is completed.

Disbursement

Financial aid is disbursed 10 days prior to the start of the semester or 10 days prior to the start of the first class, whichever is later.

Refunds and Payments

If a student's charges are less than their financial aid, when financial aid disburses, it will pay charges on their LOUIE account for the current term.

If the student is being charged for their Education Abroad program in-full or in-part by another institution, it will be the student's responsibility to make payments to that third party. NAU will not pay the third-party charges on behalf of the student.

Additional Questions

For additional questions related to financial and Education Abroad programs, please email: studyabroadaid@nau.edu.

Please include the following information:

- Student's name
- Student's ID
- Student's phone number
- Describe the question or issue in detail