Financial Aid: Frequently Asked Study Away Questions

1. Will my financial aid transfer for my study away program?

Yes, provided that the foreign program has been approved by the Office of Study Away and all of the appropriate paperwork is completed. Domestic study is limited to the list of approved programs found in your student handbook.

2. What are the deadlines for completing my financial aid paperwork?

Study away fall semester: May 1, spring semester: November 1. If your program has not notified you of your acceptance by these dates, please submit your documentation as soon as possible after you receive notice of your acceptance.

3. What specific items are included in the study away budget?

Your study away budget includes the cost of tuition (HST for external programs), fees, room, board (meals), books, transportation (including airfare) and miscellaneous expenses.

4. How do I pay for my deposit and airfare?

Because these items must be paid before your study away semester starts, you will need to pay for your airfare and deposit. If your financial aid award covers these costs, you will be reimbursed once the semester starts, all paperwork is complete, and your program bill has been paid. Then any remaining credit will be refunded to whomever you designate on your Study Away Agreement.

5. What forms are required in order to transfer my financial aid?

- Study Away Agreement (all students must complete this document)
- Copy of your bill from the host institution (Not required for Trinity Programs)

6. How does the transfer of my financial aid work?

Trinity College will transfer your financial aid funds to your approved external study away program (this is why a copy of the bill is required). Funds will not be transferred until after we have confirmed your arrival and participation in the program. If your bill due date is prior to the program start date, you must pay your portion owed to the bill (the amount owed after financial aid has been applied). The Office of Financial Aid can complete any required payment deferral forms for the program which will then be given back to you to be returned to the program (see next question).
7. **What is a payment deferral form?**

Payment deferral forms (also called transfer of financial aid funds, etc.) are documents provided by the study away program that can be completed by the Office of Financial Aid to show how much financial aid will be sent to the program. These forms will then be sent to you, to be sent on to the program. The OFA cannot send the forms directly to the program due to privacy (FERPA) regulations. If the program does not have a payment deferral form but needs information about your financial aid award, then please contact the OFA (financialaidoffice@trincoll.edu) for assistance.

8. **How are refunds determined and when will I get the money?**

You are eligible for a refund if your total financial aid exceeds the billed charges on your Trinity student account and the billed cost of your study away program. Financial aid funds will first be used to pay any outstanding amount owed to Trinity College (HST or past due balances), and then they will be used to pay the billed charges of the study away program. If any funds remain after all bills are paid, a refund will be issued. **Refunds are not issued until after your arrival and participation in the program is confirmed.** Refunds are sent to whomever you have listed in the Transfer of Financial Aid Funds section of the Study Away Agreement.

9. **Will you provide a letter for the consulate (visa)?**

Yes, the Office of Financial Aid can provide a letter for the consulate in order to help you get your visa. Most often the letter would be needed as documentation of financial support while abroad and would only be necessary if you don’t have sufficient funds in a personal or parent bank account and if you will have a refund of aid to use for your living expenses while away. Please notify the OFA of your need for the letter at least two weeks in advance of your consulate appointment to allow adequate time for the preparation of the letter.

10. **Who do I pay?**

If you are studying away on a Trinity Program or at the Trinity College LaMaMa Program, all billing is done through the Trinity College Student Accounts Office. If you are studying away through any approved external program, you will receive a bill from Trinity College and your host institution and you will pay each institution directly. You are responsible for paying any portion of your billed expenses not covered by your financial aid.

11. **Can my family continue to use the payment plan to pay my bill?**

Students attending Trinity Programs that are billed through the Student Accounts Office can continue to use the payment plan. Students attending approved external programs should contact the host institution regarding payment plan options.