

Trinity College

Office of Financial Aid

Financial Aid: Frequently Asked Study Away Questions

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

Yes, provided that the study away program has been approved by the Office of Study Away and all of the appropriate paperwork is completed (Study Away Agreements are due to the Office of Financial Aid & Student Accounts by May 1st for the fall semester and by November 1st for the spring semester).

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

The study away budget includes the cost of tuition (HST instead of the study away program tuition for AEPs), fees, room, board (meals), books, transportation (airfare and local travel) and miscellaneous expenses (personal expenses, visa, residence permit, etc.).

3. **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 you.

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

- Study Away Agreement (all students must complete this document)
- PDF copy of your bill (for AEPs only), this must be an actual bill and not a screenshot

5. **How does the transfer of my financial aid work?**

If your financial aid exceeds your Trinity College bill (HST), we will transfer your financial aid funds to your approved external study away program (copy of the AEP 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 (see next question).

6. **What is a payment deferral form?**

Payment deferral forms (also called transfer of financial aid funds, etc.) are documents provided by the approved external 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 be sent to you, for you to send 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, we can instead provide you with an email containing all the relevant information that you can forward to the program.

7. 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 typically take about 2 weeks to process after program participation confirmation so please be sure to plan accordingly.***

8. How do I set up my account for a refund?

Student Accounts can process an electronic refund or direct deposit into a bank account that the student has set up on Nelnet Campus Commerce under “manage refunds.” Accounts used for payment are not visible to Student Accounts and cannot be used for refunds so banking information must also be set up under “manage refunds” to use the e-refund option. Students may set up either personal banking information or a parent’s banking information under “manage refunds.” When doing so, please remember to use the proper routing number for ACH/electronic transactions and the full account number. After entering the account number, Student Accounts will only see the last four digits. Once a refund is initiated, it takes 2-3 banking business days to see the funds in the account. If you do not choose an electronic refund, the second option is for a paper check. The following information must be provided to Student Accounts: the person to whom the check should be made payable and the complete address of where the check should be sent. The check will be generated by the Business Office and usually takes 7-10 days to prepare.

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

Yes, the Office of Financial Aid can provide a letter for the consulate 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 preparation of the letter.

10. Who do I pay?

If you are studying away on a Trinity Program, all billing is done through the Trinity College Student Accounts Office. If you are studying away through an approved external program, you will receive a bill from Trinity College for HST (this replaces the study away program tuition) as well as a bill from your study away program for housing and any other non-tuition billed costs. This means you will have two bills to pay 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.