

Q and A for ACM Study Away Programs

Share this information with your parents!

How will I be charged by Luther College for my ACM program away or abroad?

The only actual Luther charge for ACM study away participants is an itinerant fee of \$440. However, ACM will send an actual billing to Luther for your ACM Charges, so those charges will also appear on your Luther College semester billing. (You will have paid an enrollment deposit to ACM prior to the semester, and that deposit should also show as a credit on the ACM charges on your Luther student accounts receivable.)

What forms of financial aid are available toward my ACM charges?

Luther scholarships and grants are not available for your study away program. However, in the case of ACM programs, if you qualify for Iowa Tuition Grant based on FAFSA results, you can use that toward ACM costs. Otherwise, if you're eligible for Federal Pell Grant, that grant can be used, as can outside scholarships, church portions of EPIC Grant, Federal Stafford Loans, private-lender student loans and Federal Parent Loans (PLUS Loans).

Can I still pay for the study abroad program through a monthly payment arrangement with Luther College?

Probably not. Those programs normally expect payment from Luther prior to the beginning of Luther's term.

You and your family may need to consider using Federal Parent PLUS Loan or one of several private-lender loan options to assist with any remaining program charges, to obtain spending money for the period abroad, or to provide for reimbursement of airfare costs. Please contact the Financial Aid Office to obtain information on those options.

What forms might I need to complete for the Financial Aid Office?

Other than normal financial aid forms (FAFSA, requested tax documents, other documents to complete a financial aid award, etc.), the only form you'll need to route to us is the Itinerant Form, which will be requested during the semester prior to your study away. When all signatures are obtained, other than the Registrar's, submit the form to the Center for Global Learning. Once all CGL processes are complete, that office will send the form to the Registrar for them to register you.

What if I need more assistance to cover the program costs or to help with incidental expenses, non-covered food, airfare reimbursement, etc.?

The Federal Parent PLUS Loan would be an option for a parent. In addition, there are a number of sources of private educational loans available. Links to some of those options can be found on our website <http://finaid.luther.edu> under "Current Students" then Loans." Most of those private loans will require a co-signer. Borrowing without a co-signer, even if one is not required, usually means the student will be charged higher interest. Apply early, allowing at least six weeks for full approval of such a loan.

If you're applying for a private-lender student loan, please notify the Financial Aid Office which loan was applied for, how much was requested, and what period of attendance was used on the loan application. (We can then watch for the certification request and check on the status of the loan if necessary.)

If I've borrowed extra to help with living/traveling expenses while away, how and when will I receive those excess funds?

A refund cannot be made to you unless funding has actually been received at Luther and applied to your Luther account. If all aid is finalized and applied, a refund can usually be made the first week of Luther's semester. You would need to be able to handle expenses for the period of your program before funds are available to you. **If you complete bank account information on my.luther.edu under "Direct Deposit of Non-Payroll Checks," your refund will be deposited directly in the bank account you've designated.**

How will I know whether everything is in order for payment of program costs and for refunds to be available?

Several weeks prior to leaving for your program, you should confirm that all aid is final and that PLUS Loans or private-lender loans are fully approved.

If I apply for outside scholarships and am offered a scholarship, what should I do?

You are required to report scholarships to the Financial Aid Office. They must, by law, be incorporated into your financial aid. We'll need to know whether funds will come to Luther or will be sent to you.

What should my timeline be for completion of a FAFSA for the year I'm studying abroad? What other processes do I need to be aware of?

If the FAFSA is for aid for the year during which you'll be studying abroad, you should target a filing date before March.

If you're abroad, your FAFSA for the following year may need to be filed during the semester you're abroad. Again, you should attempt to file before March.