



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration

Post-9/11 GI Bill: Study Abroad Program

Information About the Study Abroad Program

- Students must be enrolled in courses that apply to their program.
- The program at the “host” school in the foreign country school must be approved.
- VA cannot pay study abroad fees unless it is required as part of the student’s program.

How Do Various Fee Scenarios Work?

Scenario #1: The home school charges tuition and fees, plus additional study abroad fees. The home school has an arrangement with the host school or pays the host school.

- VA could pay the home school’s tuition, up to the public in-state amount allowed. VA would pay no charges directly to the host school. Room and board charges cannot be included in tuition costs.
- VA could provide a monthly housing allowance to the student. This can only occur if the student is enrolled more than half-time.
- VA could provide a books and supplies stipend.
- VA could not pay for any fees specifically due to participation in the study abroad program, unless studying abroad is mandatory for a specific degree.
- Schools that charge a comprehensive fee including the home school’s tuition would have to break out the fee and report the charge tuition to VA.
- VA cannot pay airfare, amenities fees or host school fees.

Scenario #2: The home school charges a fee for participation in a study abroad program, or faculty-led fees. The student is required to pay the host school the tuition and course fees charged by host school.

- VA could pay the tuition and fees, up to the national maximum tuition and fee rate. Room and board charges cannot be included in the tuition costs. VA can pay fees the student would normally pay for attending the institution. This does not include fees specific to study abroad students.
- VA could provide a monthly housing allowance to the student. This can only occur if the student is enrolled more than half-time.
- VA could provide a books and supplies stipend.
- VA would pay tuition directly to host school.
- VA cannot pay airfare or any study abroad fees charged by the home school.

Scenario #3: The student enrolls directly in the host school.

- VA could pay the tuition and fees, up to the resident maximum tuition and fee charges. VA can pay fees the student would normally pay for attending the institution. This does not include fees specific to study abroad students.
- VA could pay the tuition and fees, up to the national maximum tuition and fee rate. Room and board charges cannot be included in the tuition costs. VA can pay fees the student would normally pay for attending the institution. This does not include fees specific to study abroad students.
- VA could provide a monthly housing allowance to the student. This can only occur if the student is enrolled more than half-time.
- VA could provide a books and supplies stipend.
- VA would pay tuition directly to host school.
- VA cannot pay airfare or any study abroad fees charged by the home school.

Scenario #4: A third party charges a fee to a student to participate in a study abroad program.

- VA cannot pay a third party.

Scenario #5: The student enrolls in a different U.S. home school to participate in the study abroad program.

- The school the student enrolls in would be treated as the home school.
- VA would pay as above, depending on how the student is paying tuition and fees for the study abroad courses.

Note: Any amounts payable is reduced if the student is not eligible at the 100 percent tier. For example, consider a student whose benefit payment tier is 40 percent. Then, VA would pay 40 percent of the housing allowance, charged tuition and books stipend.

Our Education Call Center is available at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. -6 p.m. CST) for any questions about GI Bill benefits.

Join the conversation on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gibillEducation and follow us on Twitter @VAVetBenefits.

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More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>