

Penn Abroad Cost Estimates

The *estimated* study abroad costs for each Penn-approved program can be found on the online program brochure in [PASSPORT](#) under “Budget Sheets” by semester. These are intended only as a guideline for the student, the student’s parents/guardian, and, with regard to eligible students, the undergraduate financial aid counseling staff of the [Office of Student Registration and Financial Services](#). *Financially aided students must not assume that their revised off-campus budgets will necessarily correspond exactly to the estimates provided on this sheet and should consult their assigned financial aid counselor to discuss their need and the expense categories covered by aid.*

It must be understood that the cost of spending a semester or full year of study abroad is primarily affected by the individual student’s budgetary habits and the fluctuations of currency exchange rates against the dollar. Students have different lifestyles as well as different personal resources and must adapt their standards of living abroad accordingly. Therefore, the bottom line of each student’s actual expenditures abroad may be different, but all students should approach the prospect of living abroad with maturity and a sense of financial responsibility.

This estimate has been established on the basis of the most recent information available to the staff of Penn Abroad concerning the current cost of living in the program site. The foreign exchange rate used to estimate local costs is also listed on the online brochure page under “Budget Sheets.” Students and parents must bear in mind that the instability of international exchange rates may at any time have an impact on the financial needs of a participant. In the event of unexpected hardship due to dramatic fluctuation in exchange rates, the [Office of Student Registration and Financial Services](#) may be able to offer additional loan assistance to financially aided students upon direct written request. Such a request must include fairly accurate evidence of increased monthly expenses and a letter of support from the resident program director or officer of the host university attesting to the revised circumstances.

The estimates for listed expense categories should be considered as adequate to cover normal predictable expenses and not as bare minimums. The airfare price quoted in the budget sheet is based on the average cost of a roundtrip ticket from Philadelphia to your program site. Students may depart from the city of their choice with the understanding that flight costs may vary. Often, students can reduce costs by as much as 10-15% in some categories as they learn where to find local student-priced bargains. Pre-departure expenses¹ for clothing, gear, insurance, etc. and expenses related to personal weekend or vacation travel are the responsibility of the student. As a reminder, all Penn students and employees traveling on [Penn-affiliated trips](#) are members of [International SOS](#) (ISOS). ISOS membership through the University of Pennsylvania includes 24/7 medical and security consultation, hospital referrals, travel medical insurance, and emergency evacuation assistance.

¹ Budgeting for study abroad should include projected expenses for items not normally covered by your financial aid budget. Among the most common expenses are: guidebook(s), passport, youth hostel membership, rail pass, backpack, money belt/neck wallet, U.S. bank fees for transferring money (e.g., for room deposits if necessary), home country health insurance, and insurance against loss or theft of belongings. Depending upon location, you may need to budget also for gear and or clothing suited to the conditions or climate of your study site.