Using G.I. Bill Funding for Study Abroad: FAQs

Q: Can I use my G.I. Bill funding for participation on a Study Abroad Program?
A: Yes, as long as you participate on an approved CU-Boulder Study Abroad Program and earn classes that will count towards your various CU degree requirements.

Q: How much G.I. bill funding will I receive for study abroad?
A: Your G.I. Bill funding amount will be very similar to the amount you normally receive for a semester at CU (summer funding varies based on length/credits). Funding for any additional study abroad costs (i.e. airfare) is not covered by the VA. Note that some study abroad costs must be paid before your VA funding will be applied, such as the $550 deposit (due shortly after acceptance to the study abroad program) and fees for many programs in the Southern hemisphere.

Q: How can I determine the approximate amount of funding I will receive?
A: Add up the following:
- You will receive coverage for the in-state rate for tuition and mandatory fees at CU. Semester students funding initially defaults to 15 credits, HOWEVER you must update Veteran Services if you will earn fewer than 15 credits while abroad (or you will receive debt letters from the VA).
- You will receive your housing allowance at the CU-Boulder rate for the official dates/credits earned on your study abroad program.
- You may receive funding for books & supplies at $41.67 per credit hour.

Q: What if I still have remaining financial need?
A: Apply for Federal Financial Aid through the FAFSA. (Some federal aid may reduce your G.I. Bill award.) Consider the possibility of a student loan. You are welcome to meet with a counselor in the Office of Financial Aid.

Q: What other funding is available to help cover study abroad costs?
A: Apply for study abroad scholarships. However, scholarships that go directly toward tuition and fees may reduce your G.I. Bill award. So, instead seek scholarships that can be used for any educational expenses so that your G.I. Bill award is not at risk of being reduced.
- Consider a study abroad program that is close to the cost of attendance at CU-Boulder, if applicable.
- See: http://studyabroad.colorado.edu/?go=financialinfo

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A: Apply for Federal Financial Aid through the FAFSA. (Some federal aid may reduce your G.I. Bill award.) Consider the possibility of a student loan. You are welcome to meet with a counselor in the Office of Financial Aid.

Q: How can I obtain additional information and move forward?
A: For information about study abroad programs, first complete Study Abroad 101 (30 minutes, complete online or in person). Upcoming schedule: Study Abroad website > Getting Started. Then, you can meet 1-on-1 with Study Abroad Advisors to select a program and apply.

For additional information, contact the CU-Boulder Veteran Services office at veterans@colorado.edu or 303.492.7322. Eventually you will need to provide information about your study abroad program’s dates, length of program, courses and number of credits.