

Global Learning FAQs

General Questions BEFORE Applying

- ***Why should I study abroad?*** There are *SO* many reasons *TO* study abroad. The unique challenges you encounter while abroad will help you grow personally, provide you with problem-solving skills, as well as a sense of direction and purpose for your future career.
- ***Am I eligible to study abroad?*** The minimum eligibility requirements are:
 - Be in good standing with the University (academic, disciplinary, financial),
 - Sophomore status and successfully complete at least one semester at Walsh before participating in study abroad,
 - Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 before participating in study abroad,
 - Must be 18 years of age.
- ***Can I graduate on time if I study abroad?*** The Global Learning Office is committed to working with every student interested in studying abroad to stay on their graduation track. We work closely with your professional advisors and faculty.
- ***Do I need to speak the language?*** No, but it is generally recommended to educate yourself on common phrases used so you can immerse yourself in the cultural experience and show respect to the host country.
- ***How do I get started? How do I know which program is right for me?*** Start by scheduling a Global Learning advising appointment using Handshake (walsh.joinhandshake.com) with the Director of Global Learning, Mike Cinson - mcinson@walsh.edu, GLC 134, 330-244-4969. Mike can provide insight on all the programs Walsh has available.
- ***Can I talk to a student who has already participated on a program?*** Yes, we have student ambassadors willing to share their personal experience abroad. Contact an Experiential Learning staff member to connect with an ambassador.
- ***When should I start planning?*** As soon as possible! Freshman year is a great time to plan and incorporate a study abroad experience in your overall Walsh academic plan. Contact the Global Learning Office or Academic Advising.
- ***Can I only study abroad once?*** No, many students participate on multiple Global Learning programs during their time at Walsh.

General Questions about Applications, Fees, Payments, Financial Aid

- ***Where do I find program applications?*** Our program applications can be found at <https://walsh.abroadoffice.net>. Applications for Fall programs generally are open during the Spring and Summer semesters, and applications for Spring, Spring Break, and May programs generally are open during the Fall semester.
- ***Can I afford a Global Learning experience?*** Our team works very hard at making our programs affordable and financially manageable. After advisement, past students have discovered the flexibility of options, like a 0% interest structured payment plan.
- ***What is included in the program fee?*** Please refer to the program information page on our Abroad Office site which details what is included and what is not included in the program fee for that abroad experience.
- ***Is airfare included in the program fee?*** This depends on the program. Refer to the program information page on Abroad Office or contact the Global Learning Office.

- **Can I use my financial aid to help pay my program fee?** All students participating on a Global Learning program should schedule an appointment with a Financial Aid representative in the Student Service Center in Farrell Hall. Because everyone's financial situation and financial aid awards package are different, that office is better equipped to advise and answer questions about using financial aid for a Global Learning program.
- **How and where do I make the deposit payment? Program Fee Payment? Airfare Payment?**
 - It is important to note that *program fees* associated with a Global Learning program **WILL NOT** appear on your Walsh Student Account and are not payable using the payment portal for tuition, room and board, and academic fees.
 - All Global Learning programs have a credit-earning course associated with the program. *Tuition fees for the course WILL appear on your student account.*
 - Global Learning has a separate web-based payment site to make deposits, program fees, and airfare payments using a credit card or virtual check. Access to the payment site is available through Abroad Office: <https://walsh.abroadoffice.net/payments.html>. ***This is our preferred payment method.*** However, cash, check, or credit card payments for Global Learning programs are accepted at the Student Service Center in Farrell Hall.

General Questions AFTER Applying

- **When should I apply for my passport?** ASAP! It takes approximately 6-8 weeks to receive a passport. We often book airfare 4-6 months before a program is scheduled to begin and passport information is required at that time. Find passport information here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>. *****Due to the global pandemic, all applications are delayed. Passport applications can take up to 90 days to process. *****
- **Will I need to purchase insurance for my abroad experience?** As part of your program fee, all students are enrolled in primary international medical coverage for the official dates of the program. Walsh University uses LewerMark Student Insurance for Walsh sponsored programs. Additional information is available here: <https://www.lewemark.com/school-detail/?SID=walshstudyabroad>. Travel cancellation insurance, if desired, is your own responsibility.
- **What travel vaccinations if any are required to study abroad?** We follow the CDC guidelines for all immunizations. ***We advise all participants to speak with their healthcare provider about any travel plans.*** For travelers to some regions (e.g. African countries, Haiti), it is highly recommended that you carry a prescription for anti-malaria medication. Please speak with your healthcare provider about Traveler's Diarrhea. All travelers to Uganda are required to get the Yellow Fever vaccination to enter the country. Passport Health in Fairlawn, OH is the only local clinic providing that vaccination (as of Summer 2019).
- **Can I purchase my own airfare?** For logistical reasons, all participants are required to travel together on the group flights booked by the Global Learning Office (with the exception for some traveling to Rome and Austria). Circumstances requiring a traveler to deviate from the group itinerary **MUST BE** communicated via email to and approved by the Director of Global Learning, Mike Cinson.
- **Am I able to withdraw from a program once I apply and deposit?** Notification to withdraw from a program and the reason for withdrawing must be submitted in writing to the Director of Global Learning. If the student does not elect to participate in an alternate program and requests a refund, the Director of Global Learning will determine the refund amount based on non-recoverable program participation expenses incurred on the student's behalf as of the withdrawal notification date. **PLEASE NOTE:** Program participants are notified via email by the Global Learning office when the group final airfare payment is scheduled. *Once purchased, airfare is in the student's name and is nonrefundable and nontransferable.*

- **How and where do I submit completed enrollment forms?**
 - Scan and upload them to your account on Abroad Office,
 - Email scans in pdf format of your passport and/or forms to ngaffga@walsh.edu,
 - Drop them off in person to Mike Cinson's office - GLC 134.
- **I am making installment payments, where do I find my balance due?** Please contact Nancy Gaffga for your remaining balance: ngaffga@walsh.edu, 330-490-7579.
- **How can I better deal with culture shock before I travel?** Research and familiarize yourself with your destination's local customs and culture. Knowing the most basic phrases in the local language can make a big difference in the first few days of adjustment. Talk to a Global Learning Ambassador for tips and suggestions about your study abroad country.
- **What should I pack?** Please consult the program Student Manual that has specific information for your particular program.

- **General Questions DURING a study abroad program**

- **Whom do I contact if there is an emergency while abroad?** Your faculty and staff abroad should be your first contact. You can always contact The Global Learning Office (330-244-4969/ mcinson@walsh.edu). Students traveling abroad will also be given a pocket emergency card with emergency contact names and numbers to be carried at all times.
- **Do I need an international plan on my cell phone while abroad?** It is not necessary. International plans tend to be expensive. Most of our short-term programs will have occasional access to Wi-Fi to send text messages or use WhatsApp to communicate with family. Most enrolled in longer programs will have the opportunity to purchase a SIM card once abroad. Detailed information is provided in your program Student Manual or by contacting Mike Cinson for further information and planning. However, if you prefer to purchase an international plan, that is your decision.
- **How can I get money while abroad?** The program Student Manual contains information on how to access money while abroad and advice on how much money to take for personal spending.
- **How do I file a claim for medical expenses incurred during my study abroad program?** Insurance for Walsh sponsored programs is purchased through LewerMark Student Insurance. Contact their customer service at 888-660-6645 or <https://www.lewermark.com/>. Have your insurance card available to provide your premium number. For other program providers, consult your program Student Manual.