History, grades for study abroad programs are slow in being reported to the UW-L Records and Registration Office. This can sometimes cause a problem with satisfying the Pace component (67% rule) of the UW-L Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy for Financial Aid.

Study abroad credits are considered as credits attempted but not earned until the UW-L Records and Registration Office posts the passing grades. Until your study abroad credits transfer back to UW-L, you may become in violation of the Pace component (67% rule) of the UW-L Satisfactory Academic Progress policy.

If you are not meeting the Pace component of SAP, you will be placed on financial aid ‘Warning’ for one semester. You will be eligible to receive financial aid during your ‘Warning’ semester. By the end of your ‘Warning’ semester, you must be meeting all aspects of the SAP policy in order to be in good standing for financial aid. If you are still not meeting all aspects of the SAP policy at the end of your ‘Warning’ semester, you will be placed on financial aid ‘Suspension’ and must complete the financial aid appeal process for financial aid reinstatement.

If you are on either financial aid ‘Warning’ or ‘Suspension’ when the study abroad grades are transferred and posted, you must notify the UW-L Financial Aid Office with another Appeal Form and a copy of the updated UW-L transcript. If the posted grades put you back in compliance with the UW-L SAP policy, you will be placed back in good standing for financial aid.

A copy of the UW-L Satisfactory Academic Progress policy for Financial Aid is available upon request from the UW-L Financial Aid Office, or on the UW-L Financial Aid website: www.uwlax.edu/finaid/understand-SAP.
Applying for financial aid through UW-La Crosse

- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov as early as possible. It is available in January for the following academic year. Complete summer school application, if needed.
- Complete all other documents requested by the UW-La Crosse Financial Aid Office (FAO).
- When completing the necessary paperwork for International Education & Engagement (IEE), indicate that you intend to receive financial aid. The IEE will send the cost to attend information to the FAO on your behalf. (FAO will not request this from IEE.)
- In most cases, you are eligible for the same types of aid that you would be eligible for if attending on campus (except work study).
- You must be a degree-seeking and at least half-time student (six credits per semester or for the summer session). Some less than half-time students may be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.
- Any amount of Federal Direct Loan borrowed in the summer will reduce the amount of Federal Direct Loan available for the following academic year.
- Visit uw lax-sa.terradotta.com or www.uwlax.edu/international-education (choose study abroad from the menu) for more information regarding financial aid as it relates to study abroad.

When will funds be disbursed?

UW-L cannot release any financial aid earlier than the start of the UW-L term that your financial aid is processed for.

If you are leaving prior to the disbursement of your financial aid, you will need to arrange for alternative funding, if necessary, until the financial aid can be disbursed. It is your responsibility to ensure that your financial obligations are taken care of while you are abroad.

We recommend that you grant Power of Attorney to a contact person (parent). Completing the appropriate legal Power of Attorney documentation allows the contact person to take care of any unanticipated financial affairs while you are out of the country, including issues related to your financial aid. A copy of Power of Attorney should be sent to the Financial Aid Office.

Activate your UW-L TowerOne Card at www.UWLTowerOne.com. Be sure that you have selected a financial aid refund preference.

Funds are applied directly to your university bill. If your financial aid exceeds your balance due, a refund will be issued to you by whatever refund preference you selected when you activated your TowerOne Card.

Study Abroad Program for non-UW-L students:

If you want to participate in a UW-L study abroad program, but are seeking a degree from another institution, you MUST talk to the Financial Aid Office (FAO) at your home campus about doing a consortium agreement (an agreement between the FAO at UW-L and the FAO at your home institution).

The consortium agreement will enable you to receive financial aid processed by the FAO at your home campus for enrolling in a study abroad program at UW-L.

In addition, if you are participating in a consortium agreement, you should contact the guarantor/service provider of your previous student loans and request paperwork to defer those loans. Your home school will not report you as enrolled and you may enter a “repayment status” on previous loans if you do not complete the required loan deferment paperwork.

QUESTIONS?

Questions that you have concerning the financial aid process for study abroad can be directed to Vernell Glenn in the UW-La Crosse Financial Aid Office, 215 Graff Main Hall. If you are off campus, please email vglenn@uwlax.edu. Be sure to include your student ID number in your email.