



**■ HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE**

This document is meant to help you plan financially for studying abroad. Study abroad is an investment in yourself - you'll return home with new experiences, skills, knowledge, and friendships that will stay with you for the rest of your life. As with any investment, there are costs involved, which are best managed through proper planning and awareness. We hope this financial planner will help you prepare for your study abroad experience and get as much out of it as possible.

Start with the list below - this is an overview of what's included in the standard program cost. Next, refer to the chart further down this page for a breakdown of basic expenses like tuition, room and board, as well as some additional estimated expenses that are either required or likely to be incurred. Head to the second page of the guide for more detailed tips and information on managing your finances while in the field. Finally, the third page includes information on financial aid, scholarships, and our billing policy.

**■ WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE COST OF AN SFS PROGRAM?**

- Pre-program advising
- On-site orientation
- Tuition and research fees
- Daily meals and snacks
- Housing (field station and on excursions)
- Airport transfers (for arrival/departure)
- Field excursions & cultural activities
- Emergency evacuation & 24/7 support
- Official transcript processing

**■ COST BREAKDOWN**

BASIC COSTS (BILLED BY SFS)	SEMESTER	SUMMER I	SUMMER II	SUMMER COMBINED
Tuition	\$17,775	N/A	N/A	N/A
Room & Board	\$5,075	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>BASIC PROGRAM COST</b>	<b>\$22,850</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL COSTS (ESTIMATED) - <i>The following should be used for planning purposes only; actual expenses may vary.</i></b>				
Airfare	\$1,300	N/A	N/A	N/A
Passport	\$200	N/A	N/A	N/A
Visa & Permit Fees (where applicable)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Immunizations/Medications	\$2,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Personal Expenses	\$1,100	N/A	N/A	N/A
Program Breaks	\$800	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$5,400</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS (ESTIMATED) - <i>basic program cost + estimated additional costs</i></b>				
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS</b>	<b>\$28,250</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Learn more about program costs at: <https://fieldstudies.org/admissions/costs>

## ■ FINANCES IN THE FIELD

**LOCAL CURRENCY:** Peruvian Sol (PEN)

**PREFERRED MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE:** Cash is the most commonly accepted method of exchange. For your regular spending money, you should expect to use cash that is in good condition. However, almost all the restaurants and grocery stores in Cusco and Iquitos accept credit or debit cards, and you will be able to use a card during break times in these more touristy areas.

**UPON ARRIVAL:** You should bring at least \$300 USD worth of cash or available funds with you to start. You can exchange cash at the airport in Lima during your layover, access ATMs in the airport to withdraw cash, or order Peruvian money from your bank prior to travelling. You should not exclusively rely on ATM access for your start-up money, in the event that your card or the ATMs are not working. Exchange rates are extremely poor outside of major centers, so try to plan to do most of your cash exchanges before leaving the airport in Lima.

When ordering and exchanging cash, ask for smaller bills (S/.10, 20, 50) in soles, if possible, as it can be difficult to pay with large bills (S/.100 and up) at small, local shops and markets.

**ATM ACCESS:** You will have access to ATMs periodically during the semester during travels to more urban locations such as Iquitos and Cusco.

**PROGRAM-SPECIFIC TIPS/REMINDERS:** Cost of goods and services in Peru is generally less expensive than in most U.S. cities. Meals outside of the SFS Center range from \$5-\$15 per meal. A taxi to Iquitos costs around \$20-30 per person. Housing during brektime ranges from \$10-20 per person per night. If you plan to visit Machu Picchu during mid-semester break, consider that the cost to visit is typically around \$200 between the train and entrance fee.

**CREDIT CARD REQUIRED:** All students are required to bring a credit card with a limit of at least \$3,000 in case of emergencies. MasterCard and Visa are the most commonly accepted cards internationally.

### **TALK TO YOUR BANK:**

- Be sure to notify your bank(s) and credit card companies that you will be travelling internationally. Be specific and include all locations where you will travel, including layovers!
- Ask your bank about whether or not they will charge you international fees when using your debit/credit card. If they do, you might consider using a bank that does not, if you plan to use your card often throughout the program.

**SAFE:** We have a small safe on-site, only accessible by SFS staff, where student valuables (passports, cash) can be secured.

### **TRAVEL SPENDING TIPS:**

- Given the unreliability of ATMs, it is recommended to use a credit or debit card for higher-priced items (such as souvenirs) whenever possible so that your cash lasts longer.
- Plan to carry a mix of denominations, smaller denominations are often most widely accepted.
- Travel with cash in excellent condition, meaning clean, unwrinkled, unmarked, and with no tears.
- Personal checks are not accepted internationally.
- Since you will not have consistent access to an ATM, it is recommended to withdraw larger sums at a time so that you can have a supply on hand for a few weeks at a time.

## ■ BILLING INFORMATION AND DEADLINES

See the table on the right for tuition and room & board payment deadlines. Please note that these are not application deadlines and we will work with students on an individual basis if they apply to a session after these dates have passed.

Not all students pay SFS directly. Your home school may be responsible for making the payments; if this is the case we will send the invoice directly to your home school.

Learn more about our policies at:

<https://fieldstudies.org/admissions/costs>

PROGRAM	DEADLINE
Summer I / Combined	April 1
Summer II	April 30
Fall Semester	June 1
Spring Semester	October 30

## ■ FINANCIAL AID AND EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

SFS awards a generous amount of need-based financial aid each year, in the form of scholarships, grants, and zero- and low-interest loans. All students are welcome to apply for SFS financial aid, and students who submit an SFS Financial Aid Application will be considered for our full range of aid options.

Financial aid applications are reviewed on a rolling basis after a student has been accepted to an SFS program. Early submissions are encouraged.

External scholarships, such as the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and the Fund for Education Abroad, are awarded independently of SFS aid packages and can be a good way to help fund your study abroad experience.

Learn more about SFS financial aid and external scholarship opportunities at: <https://fieldstudies.org/admissions/aid>