



BHUTAN

FINANCIAL PLANNER | 2023-2024

INCLUDED IN AN SFS PROGRAM

- Pre-program advising
- On-site orientation
- Tuition and research fees
- Airport transfers (arrival and departure)
- Housing (field stations and excursions)
- Meals and snacks (during program time)
- Field excursions & cultural activities
- Emergency evacuation & 24/7 support
- Official transcript processing

COST BREAKDOWN

BASIC COSTS (BILLED BY SFS)	SEMESTER	SUMMER I
Tuition	\$20,550	\$7,250
Room & Board	\$7,950	\$4,000
BASIC PROGRAM COST	\$28,500	\$11,250
ADDITIONAL COSTS (ESTIMATED) – For planning purposes only; actual expenses may vary.		
Airfare	\$3,000	\$3,000
Passport	\$200	\$200
Visa fees (if applicable)	N/A	N/A
Immunizations/Medications	\$2,000	\$2,000
Personal Expenses	\$1,000	\$500
Program Breaks	\$N/A	\$N/A
ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS	\$6,200	\$5,700
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS (ESTIMATED) - basic program cost + estimated additional costs		
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS	\$34,700	\$16,950

FINANCES IN THE FIELD

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.

LOCAL CURRENCY:

Bhutanese Ngultrum (Nu). The Indian Rupee (INR) is equivalent in value to the Nu and is also accepted.

Thai Bhat (THB) is used for a short period of time during students' layover before flying into Bhutan.

PREFERRED MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE:

Bhutan and Thailand are primarily cash-based economies. Debit/Credit cards are accepted at some souvenir shops.

UPON ARRIVAL:

It is recommended to bring the entire amount of what you plan to spend in USD with you. Please bring at least \$300 USD with you to start. Staff will assist students with exchanging USD to Nu within the first few days in Bhutan.

When bringing USD to exchange, travel with bills in excellent condition (clean, unwrinkled, unmarked, with no tears). Newer bills (series 2006 or newer) as well as \$100 and \$50 bills receive the best exchange rate. Bills older than 1996 are not accepted.

Students should exchange or withdraw a small amount of THB in the airport in Thailand to use for souvenirs or snacks during their layover in Bangkok.

ATM ACCESS:

ATMs are available in Paro and Thimphu however they are often unreliable. It is recommended to bring USD rather than rely on debit/credit cards.

ATMs are also available in Bangkok.

TALK TO YOUR BANK:

Be sure to notify your bank that you will be traveling internationally. It is also recommended to ask your bank about international fees when using your debit/credit card.

SAFE:

We have a small safe on-site in Bhutan accessible by SFS staff only where students can store valuables.

BILLING INFORMATION AND DEADLINES

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

Not all students pay SFS directly. Your home school may be responsible for paying your tuition. If this is the case, we will send your invoice directly to your home school.

Learn more about billing policies [here](#).

PROGRAM	DEADLINE
Summer I / Combined	April 1
Summer II	May 1
Fall Semester	June 1
Spring Semester	November 1

FINANCIAL AID AND EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

All students are welcome to apply for SFS financial aid. SFS awards more than \$650,000 in need-based financial aid each year in the form of scholarships, grants, and zero- and low-interest loans. Students who submit a SFS financial aid application by the payment deadline will be considered for our full range of aid options.

Financial aid applications are reviewed on a rolling basis starting in February for summer programs, April for fall programs, and September for spring programs. 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 and can be a good source of additional funds for your study abroad experience.

Learn more about SFS financial aid and external scholarship opportunities [here](#).