

U.S. VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS FOR STUDY ABROAD

How may these benefits (funding) be used for the various types of programs:
01 Faculty-led | 02 Bilateral Exchange | 03 Direct Enrollment | 04 Third-Party Provider

01 FACULTY-LED PROGRAMS

What is it? Taught by a faculty member of the student's home institution and training or teaching occurs abroad.

HOME INSTITUTION

- VA money must be used toward the home institution's tuition and academic fees
- The School Certifying Official (SCO) at the home institution certifies the student for his/her VA benefits
- The SCO must use the home institution's zip code when certifying for the monthly stipend
- An eligible student may be certified as a 'transient' student at the institution running the faculty-led program if their degree is housed at another institution

VA MAY PAY THE FOLLOWING

- **Study Abroad Tuition:** In-state tuition for 6 credits paid directly to school \$2,748.00
- **Book Stipend:** \$250 (if the \$1,000 cap has not been exceeded for the academic year)
- **Monthly Housing Allowance:** 21 days of MHA paid to you \$1611.40 (based off of 2016 rates)
- **School Certifying Official:** Home Institution

EXAMPLE

Summer 2016 Program (July 3-23)

Budget Item	Undergraduate
Application Fee	\$150
Program Fee	\$3,002
Study Abroad Tuition (6 credits)	\$2,748
Billable subtotal (paid to Mason):	\$5,900
Personal Spending	\$500
Meals	\$250
Passport	\$200
Books and Supplies	\$100
Airfare	\$1,500
In-Country Ground Transportation	\$150
Non-billable subtotal (estimated costs not paid to Mason):	\$2,500
Total:	\$8,600

02 BILATERAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

What is it? Universities have exchange agreements with each other and exchange students directly from each university.

HOME INSTITUTION

- The School Certifying Official (SCO) at the home institution certifies the student for his/her VA benefits
- VA money must be used toward the home institution's tuition and academic fees
- The VA considers the home institution's zip code when certifying for the monthly stipend

VA MAY PAY THE FOLLOWING

- **Mason Tuition:** In-state tuition for credits paid directly to school \$5,376.00
- **Book Stipend:** \$500 (if the \$1,000 cap has not been exceeded for the academic year)
- **Monthly Housing Allowance:** \$2,302 per month (prorated per day for months less than 30 days)
- **School Certifying Official:** Home Institution

EXAMPLE

Semester Program (August 22-December 22)

Budget Item	In-State	Out-of-State
Application Fee	\$150	\$150
George Mason University Tuition (12-16 credits)	\$5,376	\$15,699
Administrative Fee	\$375	\$375
Billable subtotal (paid to Mason):	\$5,901	\$16,224
Housing (set by host institution)	\$3,000	\$3,000
Personal Spending	\$1,000	\$1,000
Passport	\$200	\$200
Meals	\$1,000	\$1,000
Books and Supplies	\$200	\$200
Airfare	\$1,400	\$1,400
In-Country Ground Transportation	\$250	\$250
Visa	\$150	\$150
Non-billable subtotal (estimated costs not paid to Mason)	\$7,200	\$7,200
Total:	\$13,101	\$23,424

03 DIRECT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS

What is it? Full degree-seeking student from one university applies directly to a university abroad but is a non-degree seeking student at a foreign institution.

HOME INSTITUTION

Not part of the certification process.

FOREIGN INSTITUTION

- Must be a VA approved program (otherwise, VA funds cannot be used)
- VA money must go toward the foreign institution's tuition and academic fees
- The School Certifying Official (SCO) at the foreign institution certifies the student for his/her VA benefits
- The SCO must submit as a 'guest student' with courses applied to the home institution
- The VA will use the foreign institution's location when certifying for the monthly stipend

VA MAY PAY THE FOLLOWING

- **Tuition:** Up to \$18,077.50 paid directly to school
- **Book Stipend:** \$500 (if the \$1,000 cap has not been exceeded for the academic year)
- **Monthly Housing Allowance:** \$1,368 (prorated per day for months less than 30 days)
- **School Certifying Official:** Foreign Institution School Certifying Official

APPROVED PROGRAMS

A list of currently approved degree programs can be found on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website at:

inquiry.vba.va.gov/weampub/buildSearchCountryCriteria.do

Example

Institution Name: NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND-GALWAY

Program Type: Institution of Higher Learning

Description
COMMERCE, BS
ECONOMICS, BA
ELECTRONIC AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING,
FILM STUDIES, BA
French, BA
Geography, BA
MEDICINE, BACHELOR OF
NURSING, BS
PEACE OPERATIONS, HUMANITARIAN LAW AND
PSYCHOLOGY, BA
Production & Direction, MA
Writing, MA

EXAMPLE

Semester Program (September 5-December 16)

Budget Item	Undergraduate
Application Fee	\$150
Program Fee	\$4,300
Study Abroad Tuition (12-16 credits)	\$7,500
Billable subtotal (paid to Mason):	\$11,950
Personal Spending	\$1,000
Meals	\$1,200
Passport	\$200
Books and Supplies	\$150
Airfare	\$1,200
In-Country Ground Transportation	\$150
Non-billable subtotal (estimated costs not paid to Mason):	\$3,900
Total:	\$15,850

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04 THIRD-PARTY PROVIDER PROGRAMS

What is it? Programs facilitated or administered by independent organizations not affiliated with Mason.

Funds from the G.I. Bill **may not be used** to pay third party providers or their costs, regardless of how these funds are routed.