Receiving Financial Aid While Studying Abroad

If you are interested in using Federal Financial Aid (Federal Grants, Direct Stafford Loans, Perkins Loans, and Direct Parent PLUS Loans) or Alternative Education Loans to help pay for your study abroad program during the 15/Spring Semester, you must submit items 1-6 to the Financial Aid Office by Friday, November 21, 2014:

1. Obtain the Westminster Study Abroad Application from the Study Abroad Office and acquire all approval signatures.

2. File financial aid applications. Decide which types of aid you are interested in applying for and fill out the appropriate applications. (FAFSA, and/or Parent PLUS Loan, and/or Alternative Loan application)

3. Bring in contact information (name and email address) for the person at your study abroad program who will be responsible for signing the Financial Aid Contractual/Consortium Agreement. Westminster will send a Financial Aid Agreement to your study abroad provider for signatures and request documentation of program costs.

4. Sign and return the Student Section of Westminster’s Financial Aid Contractual/Consortium Agreement.

5. Sign and return your Financial Aid Award notice to Westminster’s Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid Office will send you an award notice detailing the types of Financial Aid you will qualify to receive while studying abroad. It is important to note that Westminster can only certify financial aid funding up to a student’s cost of attendance during the academic year they are studying abroad.

6. Submit a written statement giving Westminster permission to release your funding to your study abroad provider.

Example: I Joe Student give Westminster permission to disburse my financial aid for 15/Spring semester to (your study abroad provider) for the purpose of studying abroad. (Signed and Dated. Include student ID or SSN)

A similar statement should be written by your parent if they have applied for a Direct Parent PLUS Loan for your tuition expenses. Example: I Jane Parent give Westminster permission to disburse my Direct Parent PLUS Loan for 15/Spring semester to (study abroad provider) for the purpose of Joe Student (student ID or SSN) studying abroad. (Signed and Dated)]

7. Return the verification of enrollment form. At the beginning of the semester, have your professors certify that you have started and attended at least one class session. Your financial aid will be scheduled to disburse to the study abroad program a week after you begin attending classes abroad, provided the Financial Aid Office receives your verification of enrollment form. Federal aid funding will not be disbursed until verification of enrollment is received.

8. Send the Financial Aid Office the certification of course completion form at the end of the semester. At the end of the semester, have your professors certify your final academic activity in the course. This form will be provided to you by the Financial Aid Office and must be received within 20 days of the end of our semester or financial aid funds will be returned.

9. After completion of your study abroad program, the Financial Aid Office will check your final transcripts for grade completion. Please make sure that your program sends transcripts in a timely manner. Students who do not register for full-time enrollment and receive passing grades while studying abroad may result in their financial aid being returned and the loss of aid for future semesters.