

Office of Veterans Services

Study Abroad: What You Need to Know

Guidance from VA's SCO Handbook v5 states:

Under Chapter-33 (aka post-9/11 GI Bill)

VA will pay:

- Home school's tuition and fees
- Books and supplies
- Monthly housing allowance based on the home school's address
- In order for VA to pay any additional fees specific to the Study Abroad program, the Study Abroad option must be required for graduation

VA will not pay:

- Costs related to travel (airfare, lodging & meals)
- Third party charges

Schools that charge a flat rate for all charges must be able to break down the amounts charged for tuition, lodging, meals, etc., so that the correct amount can be reported to VA. If the school is unable to provide a breakdown of the charges, no amount should be reported to VA.

Other Benefit Programs (i.e. Chapter-30, -31, -35, & -1606)

- Benefits are paid on a monthly basis directly to the veteran just like attendance at U.S. schools

Pitt's Study-Abroad Programs:

- 1. Panther Programs – aka "Pitt in [London, Sydney, etc.]".**
 - OVS can certify for tuition and administrative fees.
 - OVS **cannot** certify for program fees, which typically includes room, board, travel. This means that this portion of your bill must be paid on-time by another means of payment.
- 2. Exchange Programs (Fall & Spring terms only).**
 - Typically appears in PeopleSoft schedule as a block of credits on campus
 - OVS can certify for tuition & fees, but **not** program fees. The program fees portion of your bill must be paid on-time by another means of payment.
- 3. Pitt-Recognized Programs.**
 - These are typically third-party programs, outside of Pitt.
 - Tuition **will not** be listed in PeopleSoft (i.e. Student Center) and **cannot** be certified.
 - OVS will typically certify for admin fees only. All other expenses must be paid out-of-pocket.

NOTE: In call cases, the monthly stipend will remain at the Pittsburgh-rate, not at the overseas-rate.

Requirements per Pitt's Study-Abroad Office:

All study abroad programs require three forms of insurance coverage:

- Health & medical coverage
- Evacuation
- Repatriation of remains (i.e. cost for returning remains to the U.S.)