

timeline for financing study abroad

within one week of enrolling in the program

- ✓ Contact AIU's Financial Office via phone or email
- ✓ Become comfortable with cost of program & develop a plan for financing your trip. Be sure to calculate spending money into your plan.
- ✓ Receive and read FA Consortium Agreement and all other preliminary financing information provided by AIU. Info will arrive via mail or email.
- ✓ Return enclosed information stating how you plan to pay for the program
- ✓ Call AIU with *any* questions or problems!

within one month of enrolling in the program:

- ✓ If you hope to receive financial aid from your home institution, take AIU's Consortium Agreement to the financial aid office and have it completed by an advisor there. Make sure that it is completed in full, and that they fax it back to AIU in a timely manner (fax: 847-845-8422).
- ✓ Go to the financial aid and study abroad offices at your home institution and ask about scholarships that may be available to study abroad students. If you don't ask, they will not volunteer the money!!
- ✓ Find out if your FA office requires any paperwork from AIU, if they do, make sure you fax it to us as soon as possible (847-885-8422)
- ✓ Ask your financial aid office about alternative loan options to accommodate fees that your financial aid does not cover.
- If you cannot get an alternative loan from your financial aid office, contact AIU to discuss additional loan options.
- ✓ If you plan on receiving additional funding from family members or other outside sources, be sure that the terms of your agreement are clear, and that they feel comfortable with the cost of the program.
- ✓ Don't underestimate the cost of flying! Start to track airfare at <http://www.studentuniverse.com> and <http://www.aesu.com> as well as any other airfare provider you choose.

within 6 weeks after enrolling in the program:

- ✓ Continue to seek out and apply for scholarships.
- ✓ Call AIU to ensure that your consortium was completed correctly.
- ✓ If you decide to change your term, or the number of classes that you will take abroad, notify the AIU finance department immediately.
- ✓ Be sure that you are budgeting for any major trips you want to take on the weekends or prior/post program.

within two months after enrolling in the program:

- ✓ If you or your family wants to set up a payment plan, be sure you have contacted AIU to solidify the plan. (AIU FINANCE DEPT 800.255.6839)

10 weeks prior to your departure:

- ✓ Bills are sent. If you do not receive a bill, contact AIU's finance department immediately to have one sent.

AIU Study Abroad Programs * 3150 West Higgins Road * Suite 105 * Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

Toll Free: 800-255-6839 Fax: 847-885-8422

Email: studyabroad@aiuniv.edu Website: www.studyabroad.aiuniv.edu

5 weeks prior to your departure:

✓ Unless you have a payment plan or valid consortium completed, bills are due by this date. Call AIU to ensure that your payment was received and that you do not have outstanding balances or problems with your account.

one month prior to your departure:

✓ Do a quick check:

- Do you have approximately \$250/wk to spend?
- Do you have a bank account that will let you withdraw cash from the UK? Call to be certain.
- Do you have British £ (maybe 150-200£) to spend on a taxi (40£ or more), your key deposit (50£) and food for your first weekend in London? You may not be able to change money right away.
- Are your credit cards clear? Be sure that you don't have a credit card that cuts you off midway through your term because you have not paid your bill!
- Also contact your credit card company to let them know you will be making international charges.
- If you are planning to use credit from a loan for your spending money while in London, make sure you have enough money to tide you over until your financing is scheduled to be disbursed. AIU cannot lend large sums of money to students who have not yet had their loans disbursed.
- Do you have access to larger sums of money in case of an emergency?
- Do you have appropriate numbers to call in the event that your traveler's checks/credit cards are lost or stolen?

3 weeks prior to departure:

✓ **Relax!** You should be all set! Call the appropriate people at AIU if any questions come up!

**If you enroll in the program more than 3 months prior to the start of your term, you have work to do! Do all of these things as soon as possible, and be sure to respond promptly when AIU attempts to contact you.