

## **Financial Aid for Opportunities Abroad Programs (OAP)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: What type of financial aid is available for OAP students?**

**A:** Financial aid availability includes federal grants/loans, scholarships, state grants, and private loans. A consortium agreement will need to be completed by the student and host institution for UCSD to confirm the eligibility to disburse financial aid funds. In addition, students will complete an academic planning form in order to confirm students will have full time units transfer back to UCSD. Students should start these items as soon as possible.

**Q: How much will I receive in grants?**

**A:** Once all required paperwork is completed, Pell recipients are eligible for one disbursement of Pell Grant per term abroad. Cal Grant recipients for fall terms abroad will receive one disbursement and spring semester terms, or programs that overlap two UCSD quarters, will receive up to two disbursements of Cal Grant. Cal Grant will not exceed tuition and fees outlined by the program provider indicated on the consortium agreement.

**Q: What do I need to do to ensure I receive my loans?**

**A:** Federal Direct Loans require students to be enrolled in a minimum of 6 transferrable quarter units. First time borrowers are required to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Loan Counseling on TritonLink before funds can be disbursed. Any remaining credit balance will be disbursed with all other aid according to the financial aid disbursement schedule.

**Q: What do I need to do to ensure the receipt of my Federal Direct Parent PLUS loan?**

**A:** At least 6 units of quarter enrollment are needed to receive your Direct Parent PLUS Loan. Submit a completed Parent PLUS Loan Request Form to the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office. First time Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan borrowers are required to complete a Parent PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN) before funds can be disbursed.

**Q: How does summer financial aid work for OAP?**

**A:** Financial aid for summer OAP programs is limited to summer Pell Grant, Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans from the academic year, or additional Direct Parent PLUS Loan/private loans. Student must take a total of 6 transferrable credits and complete required OAP paperwork to be eligible for aid.

**Q: How do I pay my OAP Program Fees?**

**A:** UCSD will not send any funds to OAP program providers or institutions; students are responsible to pay their provider or host institution directly.\* Financial aid funds will be refunded directly to the student according to UCSD's normal disbursement schedule.

*\*Please note - OAP programs request payment earlier than UCSD's disbursement dates. Both the academic planning form and consortium agreement must be completed before we can inform providers of any expected aid. Please complete these items as soon as possible and contact Tina Brill in the Study Abroad Office the Financial Aid office if your provider is requesting a confirmation of aid. \**

**Q: When will I receive my financial aid?**

**A:** Funds are released at UCSD's regularly scheduled disbursement dates. No exceptions.

- Fall semester = late September
- Spring Semester = half of aid late December, and the other half mid-March

**Q: How will I receive my financial aid?**

**A:** Direct deposit: (*strongly recommended*) Funds will be disbursed into your personal bank account.

Mail: Funds will be sent to your local address listed on TritonLink.

**Q: What happens if there's a change to my financial aid package?**

**A:** Financial aid awards to OAP students are based on financial aid eligibility as determined by the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office and are subject to change. Any change will affect your OAP account balance. You are responsible for payment of any program fees and financial aid funds already received that are not covered by a reduced financial aid package.

**Q: If I withdraw from OAP, what financial implications will I face?**

**A:** If you withdraw from OAP, your program fees may be prorated or fully charged. Your financial aid will be repackaged accordingly, and you need to pay any outstanding balance immediately.

**Q: What happens if I decide to extend my OAP Program?**

**A:** You must get approval by the Study Abroad Office to extend your program and your aid will be revised accordingly. In general, if your OAP budget is higher than the UCSD budget, you will be offered additional loans to cover the increase. If your OAP budget is lower, you will receive less financial aid.

**Q: Who should I contact for finance-related issues?**

**A:** Initial questions about financial aid for programs can be directed to Tina Brill, the Study Abroad Financial Aid Counselor in the Study Abroad Office. Come to walk-in hours or schedule an appointment with her for general questions regarding OAP.