

FINANCIAL MATTERS

WHAT YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR SEMESTER ABROAD

BILLING

Pitzer College students are billed Pitzer College tuition, a study abroad program fee, and a \$600 travel contribution. The semester study abroad program fee is equivalent to the cost of a double room, a 16-meal board plan and the activity fee.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Charges for your semester abroad will be available via CASHNet. **Students who will be abroad are strongly encouraged to provide authorization to parents or other parties to view and/or make payments on their account.** For further assistance or to report problems with the CASHNet site, please contact the Office of Student Accounts at 909.621.8191.

FINANCIAL AID

Pitzer financial aid can be applied toward the fees of any approved program. Please consult the financial aid office for specific details on how your financial aid, including the travel contribution and work-study funds are handled.

WITHDRAWAL FEE

There is a fee for withdrawing from a program once you have committed. In addition, to the Pitzer withdrawal fee, the program sponsor may charge other withdrawal fees and these fees are the responsibility of the student.

Transcripts for all students will be withheld until Pitzer College is paid in full. This includes the comprehensive program fee and any outstanding balances due to charges incurred on behalf of the program such as: library fines, charges for damages to homestay or school property, non-reimbursed medical expenses, etc.

VISITING STUDENTS ON PITZER PROGRAMS

The handling of financial matters will vary depending on your home college or university. Some schools require that you pay fees directly to Pitzer College. Other schools have made special arrangements with Pitzer and require that students pay the home institution, and the home institution then pays Pitzer on your behalf. Pitzer College does not offer financial aid for visiting students. Please contact our Office of Study Abroad and International Programs and/or your home institution's study abroad office for details

BUDGET FOR ABROAD

Personal spending is an individual matter and can vary widely between students based on their spending habits and financial resources. Most students do not have to spend a great deal of money while on their program. Keep in mind your program tuition, housing, meals, visas, travel insurance and airfare will be taken care of before you go on the program. However, there may be other costs associated with your program. For example, if your location is in a cold region, be sure to budget for a winter coat and other necessary clothing. **If you are concerned about financial matters while abroad, please contact the studyabroad@pitzer.edu. There are support funds available for students on financial aid that can help cover some abroad-related expenses.** Also, students should remember that if on financial aid, their aid will continue to cover them on an approved semester abroad.

EXCHANGE RATES

Exchange rates can change daily, and it is important to note that changes may either make the US dollar stronger or weaker. Keep the exchange rate in mind when budgeting. The exchange rates can vary between now and your program departure. A handy website for tracking these rates is <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>. Students should consider the following when creating a budget for their time abroad:

- A good meal in a nice restaurant
- Movies
- Bicycle (renting or buying)
- Taxis
- Train and airfares to tourist areas
- Clothes: If you come from a temperate climate like Southern California, you may not own a coat and other items that will be necessary. Check with the program sponsor to see if these items may be relatively cheap or prohibitively expensive abroad. You may want to check out thrift stores before you leave for an inexpensive jacket or coat or other items that you do not already own.
- The cost of a phone call to the US: This is an area that can use up your funds faster than you would expect. Limit your calls by considering them an expensive treat and do treat yourself when a familiar voice from home is what you need. All other times, write a letter, email or Skype.
- Refundable Deposits

ATMS

Never carry large amounts of cash while traveling. The program sponsor can provide recommendations on the best manner for dealing with money. ATM/debit cards are accepted almost everywhere. Please be aware of any fees your bank may charge for withdrawing cash. It is recommended that students have about USD \$50-\$100 in cash for expenses during travel.

CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards are also widely accepted abroad and can be very handy in case of emergency. MasterCard and Visa are best. In Europe and other parts of the world, credit cards are usually chip and pin, which is different from the chip and signature cards in the US. There are locations and businesses that may only accept chip and pin cards. If you bring a credit card, be sure to leave your card number and the 'Lost or Stolen' phone number at home. In the unlikely event that your credit card is lost or stolen while abroad, this information will help when you communicate with your bank. You should also notify your credit card company that you will be traveling and using your card outside the US. Otherwise, when the first few foreign charges show up, your credit card company may put a freeze on your card.

HOW TO RECEIVE FUNDS FROM HOME

The best ways to transfer additional funds from home to you is to use an ATM card or draw a cash advance on your credit card. Western Union and American Express also provide wire transfer services, but these tend to be more expensive than standard ATM and cash advance fees. If you do not have an ATM card or credit card, and you need to have money wired to you, you will need to obtain the latest details from the banks in your host location and forward that information to your parents (or other benefactor).

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

The items below are **NOT COVERED** in the semester comprehensive fees, plus travel contribution, or the summer study abroad fee and should be considered in your budget planning. If concerned about costs while abroad, please connect with the Office of Study Abroad as there are scholarships to assist students with some of these costs.

- Passport (If you are on financial aid and need assistance with passport fees, contact studyabroad@pitzer.edu.)
- Departure taxes
- Photos required for applications and visas
- Cost of required immunizations
- Cost of the medical exam required prior to participation
- Comprehensive medical insurance coverage is required. (Fees for additional insurance, if required by the program or the host country, may be covered by Pitzer College. Ask the Office of Study Abroad and International Programs.)
- Additional costs incurred for airfare that costs more than the standard round-trip ticket (see Airfare Policy) or if arriving before or extending after the program dates, changing a ticket, or if participating on a domestic program
- Cost of housing and meals before or after the program or during school breaks (e.g. breaks between terms or semesters, spring break)
- Refundable deposits
- Expenses for items or services that are not typically provided on the program but to which students may be accustomed (e.g., email or internet access, access to computer labs, athletic facilities, etc.)
- Expenses for items or services that are not provided for in fees paid to Pitzer (e.g., personal entertainment, toiletries, independent travel during school breaks, field trips that are not a required part of a course, mobile phone charges, laundry charges, etc.)
- Clothing (e.g., winter jackets, boots, rain gear, formal attire, etc.) needed for climate conditions, cultural reasons or activities at the program site
- Course fees, lab fees and supplies
- Textbooks
- Emergency reserves
- Personal travel and souvenirs
- Expenses resulting from a difference in the cost of living. Expenses in your study abroad location may be the same, higher, or lower than in Claremont.

WHAT YOUR PAYMENT FOR STUDY ABROAD WILL COVER

Payment of the full semester fees to Pitzer College, plus the \$600 travel contribution, will cover: your program tuition, housing, meals, visas, travel insurance and airfare for the length of the international program as well as the overall cost of providing and supporting study abroad at Pitzer College. Pitzer students on financial aid can apply their financial aid towards approved study abroad programs. If you have concerns about costs associated with studying internationally, please contact the Office of Study Abroad & International Programs and Financial Aid.

TRAVEL CONTRIBUTION

All Pitzer students pay the same \$600 travel contribution. This charge will be placed on the student's account for the semester the student is abroad. Financial Aid will increase a student's package by \$600 to cover the travel contribution fee.

Visiting students from other colleges and universities pay the airfare as directed by their home school. Some students may be required to pay our designated travel agent directly for their airfare. If you are a visiting student, please check with your study abroad adviser at your home school or email studyabroad@pitzer.edu for specific information.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FEES I PAY FOR THE PITZER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM?

Students are charged full fees for participation in any of Pitzer's study abroad programs. This does not mean that your Pitzer payment is sent to the host country for the use of the Pitzer study abroad program or that students receive the equivalent meal plan amount for their meals abroad. As with all college programs and departments, each year the Treasurer's Office at Pitzer develops a budget for Study Abroad as a whole and for the individual programs abroad. The portion of your payment that does not go to the host country or to you directly is used to support the cost of promoting and administering the study abroad programs. It is also used to support the overall infrastructure of the College (from financial aid, information technology, public relations, financial services, and insurance, to on-line library resources, etc.) that is available for study abroad students before, during, and after their time abroad.

HOUSING

Housing covered by Pitzer College means accommodations that are typical for that program or country during the period that school or the program is in session. Most programs provide dormitory housing, or a family stay as part of the program fees. Please note that housing expenses during breaks (including periods between terms or semesters, for example Easter break or winter break in the UK), and housing expenses before or after the program are the responsibility of the student and are not covered in the fees paid to Pitzer. Students are also responsible for paying any additional charges if requesting single accommodation. If the program does not provide housing, the Office of Study Abroad & International Programs at Pitzer will provide an allowance for housing based on an amount recommended by the program.

MEALS

Meals covered by the fees paid to Pitzer College include whatever is typical in the host culture but usually means breakfast, lunch and dinner Monday through Friday and brunch and dinner on weekends while the program is in session. Many programs cover expenses for meals as part of the program fee. However, there are programs that do not include meals as part of the program fees. For these programs, the Office of Study Abroad & International Programs at Pitzer will provide a meal allowance based on an amount recommended by the exchange/program partner. Students will not be reimbursed for missed meals that are provided by the program. Meals during any break periods between semesters/terms (including the extended Easter break typical in the UK and other countries) or before or after the program are the responsibility of the student and are not covered by the comprehensive fees paid to Pitzer.

For students staying with a host family, typically they will have a combination of meals with host families (whenever possible), meals provided directly by the program, and a meal allowance given to students (if applicable), which together provide students with a diet and eating schedule that is typical for the host culture. Students will not be reimbursed for missed meals that are provided by the program or their host families.

Having a full semester's worth of housing and/or meal funds available at the beginning of the program requires some careful planning. Figure out the number of weeks in the country and determine a figure that can be safely spent each week and still have the money last until the program ends. Normal fluctuations in the exchange rate are considered when determining your meal allowance amount. A meal allowance is meant to cover expenses for food you purchase at a grocery store and prepare yourself or for purchase in a student cafeteria. It will not cover eating daily in a restaurant. Just as the board fees paid to Pitzer do not cover late night pizza expenses or your favorite snacks, the same applies abroad. If the meal allowance seems inadequate to cover your food expenses, consult the program sponsor to learn how these amounts are determined and how often they are updated. Pitzer cannot provide additional meal allowance funds unless the program sponsor/exchange partner recommends in writing that Pitzer make these adjustments. Keep copies of your receipts for a week to check that you are staying within your budget. You can use these receipts to demonstrate that additional funds are needed, if appropriate.