POLICIES RELATED TO STUDY AWAY


These policies generally apply to undergraduate PLU students for the 2015-2016 academic year. The Wang Center reserves the right to adapt these policies as necessary due to unforeseen global crises. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Wang Center at 253-535-7577 or wang.center@plu.edu.

**ACADEMICS**

*Credit for Study Away Courses*

Prior to studying off-campus on semester or year-long programs and on short-term programs through study away providers, students must work with their academic advisors to determine how courses taken and credits earned will fit with their academic goals and degree planning at PLU. This academic planning for semester and summer programs is documented on the Assignment of Credit for Study Away form; the Assignment of Credit form is not required for PLU Short-Term faculty-led study away courses.

For courses to count towards a major, minor or GenEd (General Education Requirement), students must use the Assignment of Credit for Study Away form to obtain the signatures of their academic advisors and the written approval from the chairs of the involved academic departments. For example, for a History course taken on a study away program to apply towards a student’s History major, the chair of the History Department must give advance written approval on the Assignment of Credit for Study Away form.

As soon as it is completed and approved, and in advance of the student’s departure date, the Assignment of Credit for Study Away form must be submitted to the Wang Center. In some cases the approval must be obtained after the program start date (i.e. course registration on-site changes the original plan). Failure to obtain approvals will result in elective credits.

PLU Gateway and Featured programs have established course equivalencies that are available on the Registrar’s website under the Interactive Guide. Students should use the Assignment of Credit form to communicate to the Wang Center how to assign the credits even in the case where a signature is not required.

The “C” Cross Cultural Perspectives GenEd requirement is fulfilled by participating in a semester of study away. This requirement is completed only through specifically designated short term (J-Term or summer) courses. Refer to the PLU Course Catalog for clarification.

Studying off-campus through an approved study away provider must be documented by an official transcript, which should be sent to the Wang Center. It is also advisable for students to retain class notes, graded papers, syllabi, and any certified documents of attendance provided by the school.

The number of credit hours a student receives for a particular course or semester is determined by the program provider (PLU or otherwise) and is reflected on her or his PLU transcript. Please contact your program administrator to determine the equivalencies for credit hours.

While studying away for a semester, students must take a minimum of 12 credits per semester and may exceed the 17 credit hour limit without incurring financial penalty when taking courses as part of the study away program.

While studying away, students are registered by the Wang Center for a block of 12 SABR credits. This holds his or her place as a full-time student over the course of the program. Once the program is complete and the Wang Center receives the transcript, the transcript will be reconciled.
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with the Assignment of Credit form and sent to the Registrar’s office for review. The Registrar will then add individual courses, grades, and specific credit hours to the student’s PLU transcript.

Grading
Students participating on PLU directed and approved study away programs – both short-term and long-term – receive letter grades for their coursework. Courses, credits and grades are recorded on the PLU transcript. Grades for semester study away are not calculated into the cumulative PLU GPA unless the student is participating in a study away course with a PLU instructor on record including independent studies, PLU faculty-led short term programs, and select courses taught by PLU faculty. Students majoring in the School of Business should contact their advisor for more information.

Students may elect to use the pass/fail grading option for study away courses if that option is still available to them and the program allows it. Students are responsible for arranging the pass/fail option with their program provider and the PLU Student Services Center and must follow the PLU calendar to adhere to the appropriate deadline.

To earn credit for study away classes, students must earn a passing grade in accordance with published PLU policy.

Independent Study
Students wishing to register for an independent study while studying away must complete a Study Away Independent Study Registration card. For independent studies outside of the normal parameters of their program, students will be charged for the additional credit hours.

International Honors Program
With prior approval by the IHON program director, an appropriate semester-long course abroad may take the place of one 200-level IHON course. Such a course must focus on a contemporary issue, be international in scope, be interdisciplinary, and require honor’s-level critical thinking and writing.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND
PLU reserves the right to decline an application for off-campus study. PLU further reserves the right to cancel the participation of an accepted student before departure or during the program. Students forfeit the $50 non-refundable application fee for any non-participation circumstances.

PLU SHORT TERM (J-Term, Spring Break and Summer)
Cancellation of a program/course: Pacific Lutheran University reserves the right to cancel a program/class at any time. Should circumstances require that PLU cancel a program/class, students will be notified immediately. The timing and cause of the cancellation will determine the exact amount of the refund.

Student withdrawal: The initial payments of the $50 application fee and $300 confirmation payment (unless another specified amount based on the program) are non-refundable. All students issued Acceptance Letters will be enrolled in the program for which they have been accepted and will be responsible for paying the program fee. The Wang Center must be notified in writing of any withdrawal or cancellation of an application.

J-Term students who withdraw their participation after August 31st will forfeit their initial payments ($50 application fee and $300 confirmation payment) AND will be charged an additional $300 cancellation fee AND will be charged for any unrecoverable funds expended on their behalf (e.g. airline and/or other travel tickets, deposits, entrance fees, theater tickets, visa
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fees, lodging, meal advances, etc.). J-Term students who withdraw their participation after December 1st are responsible for the full program fee that has been billed to their student account.

Dismissal: Students who are dismissed from off-campus study because of unacceptable personal behavior and/or academic performance are responsible for all program fees and will not receive academic credit for the class.

Global Scholar Award Recipients: Receipt of the Global Scholar Award is contingent upon participation in the study away course. This award is not transferable to other programs or for other financial needs.

PLU SEMESTER (Gateway)

Cancellation of a program/course: Pacific Lutheran University reserves the right to cancel a program/class at any time. Should circumstances require that PLU cancel a program/class, students will be notified immediately. The timing and cause of the cancellation will determine the exact amount of the refund; all efforts will be made for a full refund on behalf of the student.

Student withdrawal: The initial payments of the $50 application fee and $250 confirmation payment are non-refundable. All students issued Acceptance Letters will be enrolled in the program for which they have been accepted and will be responsible for paying the program fee. The Wang Center must be notified in writing of any withdrawal or cancellation of an application.

Students who withdraw at any point will be charged for any unrecoverable funds expended on their behalf (e.g. airline and/or other travel tickets, deposits, entrance fees, theater tickets, visa fees, meal advances, etc.).

Students who withdraw their participation 90 days or less in advance of the program start date will forfeit their initial payments ($50 application fee and $250 confirmation payment) AND will be charged an additional $300 cancellation fee AND will be charged for any unrecoverable funds expended on their behalf (e.g. airline and/or other travel tickets, deposits, entrance fees, theater tickets, visa fees, meal advances, etc.).

Students withdrawing after the program start date will be responsible for 100% of the program fee as billed to their student account; an exception will be made for students who withdraw in time to return to campus and enroll full time at PLU for the same semester, in which case the student will forfeit their initial payments ($50 application fee and $250 confirmation deposit) AND will be charged an additional $300 cancellation fee AND will be charged for any unrecoverable funds expended on their behalf (e.g. airline and/or other travel tickets, deposits, entrance fees, theater tickets, visa fees, etc.).

Dismissal: Students who are dismissed from off-campus study because of unacceptable personal behavior and/or academic performance are responsible for 100% of the program fee and will not receive academic credit for the semester.

Global Scholar Award Recipients: Students who receive a Global Scholar Award are responsible for reimbursing the University for the amount of the award if they withdraw, cancel, are dismissed, or are unable to participate for any reason.

PLU SEMESTER (Featured)

Student withdrawal: The initial payments of $50 application fee and $250 confirmation payment of participation program payment are non-refundable. All students issued Acceptance Letters will be enrolled in the program for which they have been accepted and will be responsible for
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paying the program fee. **The Wang Center must be notified in writing of any withdrawal or cancellation of an application.** Students who withdraw their participation 90 days or less in advance of the program start date will forfeit their initial payments ($50 application fee and $250 confirmation payment) AND will be charged an additional $300 cancellation fee.

Cancellation and withdrawal policies from the program provider will also apply (AHA, ILACA). Students should contact the program provider for specific details.

**Dismissal:** Students who are dismissed from off-campus study because of unacceptable personal behavior and/or academic performance are responsible for 100% of the program fee and will not receive academic credit for the semester.

**Global Scholar Award Recipients:** Students who receive a Global Scholar Award are responsible for reimbursing the University for the amount of the award if they withdraw, cancel, are dismissed, or are unable to participate for any reason.

**APPROVED (Semester and Summer)**

**Student withdrawal:** The Wang Center must be notified in writing of any withdrawal or cancellation of an application. Students who withdraw their participation 90 days or less in advance of the program start date will be charged a $300 cancellation fee by PLU in addition to the $50 non-refundable application fee.

Cancellation and withdrawal policies from the program provider (e.g. IES Abroad, CIEE, SFS, SIT) will also apply. Students should contact the program provider for specific details.

**Dismissal:** Students who are dismissed from off-campus study because of unacceptable personal behavior and/or academic performance are responsible for 100% of the program fee and will not receive academic credit for the semester.

**DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

PLU students with disabilities are encouraged to participate in the many opportunities offered by global education at PLU. All university policies related to the Study Away program apply equally to students with disabilities. PLU will attempt to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disclosed and documented disabilities who want to incorporate study away experiences into their degree programs. Such students are responsible to initiate early planning, including articulation of their academic goals, with their academic advisors, PLU Disability Support Services (DSS), and the Wang Center for Global Education.

**Accommodations & Accessibility**

PLU will attempt to provide reasonable accommodations to enable participation by students with disabilities commensurate with the amount of control PLU has over the program, the facilities, and the sometimes rigorous physical requirements certain programs demand. Although physical accessibility cannot always be provided, PLU will make reasonable efforts for program access and upon request, will provide as much information as possible on accessibility of its Study Away programs. Students registered with disability services who are eligible for on-campus accommodations are also eligible for overseas accommodations when such accommodations can be reasonably made, given the distance and the lack of control PLU has over physical facilities, medical care, the number of faculty on a given program, etc. Students must be aware that requests that are reasonable in the domestic context may not fall in to that category in the international context. Students are encouraged to disclose and provide documentation regarding their disabilities to the Director of PLU Disability Support Services as early as possible so appropriate accommodations and special arrangements can be considered on a case-by-case basis, in advance. If necessary, the Study Away Clearance Committee will conduct an individualized review of the
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request, the circumstances and various means of accommodation, including their feasibility, cost, and effect on the academic program.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCESS
To be considered for study away programs, students must meet or exceed the following standards:

For all study away programs – students must be currently enrolled at PLU and be in good standing and remain in good standing before and during program participation. Good standing means that students receive academic, health, student conduct, and financial clearances from the University. Program acceptance is conditional pending final determination of good standing prior to the program start date.

Both before and during the program, the Wang Center collaborates with other university offices such as Student Services, Rights and Responsibilities, Health Center, Registrar, and the Business Office to determine good standing. Should the good standing of a student be in question before or during the program he or she is participating in, the Executive Director of the Wang Center convenes the Study Away Clearance Committee on an as-needed basis. This committee is made up of representatives from the aforementioned university offices and other relevant departments as necessary. The Study Away Clearance Committee’s purpose is to provide the Wang Center with a recommendation regarding individual students whose good standing status is in question either before or during the program.

For short-term study away programs – students must successfully complete a minimum of one semester at PLU prior to studying away, be in good standing and meet all other prerequisites specific to the program. Eligibility of transfer students to participate in short-term programs will be determined as outlined in the section on Transfer Students.

For semester and year-long study away – students must have completed two or more semesters of study at PLU by the time the program will begin (exceptions apply for Transfer Students and some programs require Junior standing or above), meet the minimum GPA requirement for the program (specifics below), meet all other prerequisites specific to the program; and must be enrolled at PLU in the semester immediately preceding the program start date.

- Chengdu, China = cumulative GPA of 2.7, 3.0 preferred
- Oaxaca, Mexico = cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Oslo, Norway = cumulative GPA of 2.7, 3.0 preferred
- Oxford-IHON = cumulative GPA of 3.6 or higher
- Telemark, Norway = cumulative GPA of 2.7, 3.0 preferred
- Trinidad & Tobago = cumulative GPA of 2.7, 3.0 preferred
- Windhoek, Namibia = cumulative GPA of 2.7, 3.0 preferred depending on major
- ILACA Granada, Spain = cumulative GPA of 2.7, 3.0 preferred
- AHA London = cumulative GPA of 2.7
- Approved Programs = 2.7 minimum, 3.0 strongly preferred (each approved program may also have their own minimum GPA requirement)

The application process generally includes a written application, essays, recommendations, an official transcript (not required for Short Term and most Gateway/Featured Semester programs), an advising session and/or interview. However, each application varies and students should consult with an advisor prior to applying. Students applying to an Approved third-party program are required to meet with a Study Away Advisor prior to submitting their application. Additional information from students will be requested for application to some programs.
FEES AND FINANCIAL AID

**Program Costs – Featured and Gateway**
The cost to participate in Featured and Gateway semester study away programs, listed below, typically includes:
- PLU comprehensive fee for tuition, housing, most meals, study away insurance, and visa (if required)

Additional expenses may include, but are not limited to, passport, round-trip international air travel, baggage fees, independent travel, meals not included in the program, cell phone and usage fees, personal spending money and recommended or required immunizations.

Featured and Gateway semester programs include: PLU China, PLU Namibia, PLU Norway (Oslo and Telemark), PLU Mexico, PLU Oxford-IHON, PLU Trinidad & Tobago, ILACA Granada, AHA London.

**Program Costs – PLU-Approved**
The cost to participate in PLU-Approved third party programs, offered by providers such as CIEE, IES Abroad, SIT, and others, varies by program. The cost to participate in these study away programs typically includes, but is not limited to:
- The program fee, as published by the provider
- A PLU administrative fee of $1,500 for semester, $3,000 for academic year or $200 for summer programs

Additional expenses may include, but are not limited to, passport and visas (including travel to consulate), round-trip international air travel, baggage fees, independent travel, housing deposits and/or surcharges, program excursions, lab or science course fees, optional add-ons and other program-specific surcharges, meals not included in the program/supplemental meal plans, cell phone and usage fees, personal spending money, recommended or required immunizations, health plan deductibles, optional study tours, and local transportation to/from classes.

**Application Fee, Confirmation Payments and Cancellation**
PLU Gateway and Featured, PLU Short-Term and PLU Approved study away programs require a non-refundable application fee, and the majority of these require a non-refundable confirmation payment. A student will forfeit all of these payments if withdrawal occurs. Additional fees may apply following cancellation; see program-specific cancellation policy for more details.

**Financial aid** may be applied to all PLU Featured, Gateway and Approved programs. This includes State and Federal financial aid (with the exception of work study), university grants and scholarships, and government loans. Other outside scholarships, grants and loans may not apply. Students must receive financial clearance from the university in order to participate in a study away program. Students may use their PLU gift aid on one Approved program experience (for either a semester or an academic year). PLU gift aid may be applied to an unlimited number of Gateway or Featured programs.

**Tuition remission** benefits apply to the cost of study away tuition but not to housing and meal charges and any additional supplemental fees. (Please see Tuition Benefits Policy, found at www.plu.edu/human-resources/documents)

**Tuition exchange** benefits do not apply to study away, except for these PLU programs: China, Norway, Mexico, Namibia, England [Oxford-IHON], Trinidad & Tobago and PLU International Internships. Tuition exchange students accepted for these PLU-directed opportunities must pay for housing, meals, and all additional expenses associated with participation, including a
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supplemental fee for internships. Tuition exchange benefits do not apply to any other study away programs offered through third party providers, consortia, etc., as indicated in the Tuition Exchange offer letter.

*International students* attending PLU-directed semester programs in China, Norway, Mexico, Namibia, England [Oxford-IHON], and Trinidad & Tobago will continue to receive their PLU financial aid.

**FIRST YEAR AND STUDY AWAY**
First year students are required to enroll in a J-Term course. Several domestic study away programs are available to first year students. Participation by first year students in international J-Term courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis and requires review by the Wang Center, the faculty leader, and others as appropriate.

**HOUSING DURING STUDY AWAY**
To provide security and comfort to the greatest extent possible, and to take advantage of cultural opportunities such as home stays, students must reside in the housing accommodations provided by the program. Students may not elect to arrange housing independently, even when this is an option offered through a program provider. Short-term faculty-led program participants typically reside in shared hotel rooms with other program participants of the same gender; all such accommodations contain a sufficient number of single beds based on the number of occupants.

**MEALS DURING STUDY AWAY**
The number of meals provided varies by study away program. Check program details for more information. PLU students participating in full year continuous Gateway Programs are only eligible for a meal stipend during the January term provided the student is enrolled in program-related coursework on-site or is enrolled in independent coursework, including internship credit, through PLU. Students on Approved programs are advised to seek this information directly from program providers.

**INSURANCE**
Students and dependents, if applicable, are required to maintain their domestic health insurance policy while studying away. If they do not have a domestic insurance policy, they are required to purchase short-term domestic insurance for the duration of their study away program. More information can be found here: [www.plu.edu/health-center/insurance-fees/](http://www.plu.edu/health-center/insurance-fees/). Additionally, students may not waive out of the PLU Wellness Plan while away. More information is available here: [www.plu.edu/health-center/wellness-access-plan/](http://www.plu.edu/health-center/wellness-access-plan/).

A **supplemental** study away insurance policy that includes travel assistance, accident & sickness coverage, emergency evacuation, and repatriation is included in the program fees for all study away international Short-Term, PLU summer, Gateway, Featured, and Approved semester programs. PLU's foreign travel insurance does not cover international students/employees traveling to their home country.

**PROGRAM PETITION**
Students wishing to participate in a study away program that is not approved by PLU may submit a proposal to the Wang Center for Global Education and the Global Education Committee to seek one-time approval for the proposed program. All PLU study away policies and requirements are applicable to this one-time approval.

**SAFETY AND TRAVEL WARNINGS**
PLU does not allow students to study in sites that are designated by the U.S. State Department as existing under a travel warning or trade block. Current travel warnings can be found at: [http://travel.state.gov/](http://travel.state.gov/).
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Students must attend all mandatory study away orientations which include important information about health and safety issues related to international and off-campus travel. Failure to attend mandatory study away orientations may result in dismissal from the program.

Pacific Lutheran University reserves the right to cancel a program/class at any time. Should circumstances require that PLU cancel a program/class, students will be notified immediately. See Cancellation and Refund section for more details.

**Independent Travel**

Students often maximize their time away with personal travel before, during and after the study away program. Such travel is permitted provided students adhere to and recognize the following policies:

PLU does not allow students to partake in personal travel to or within countries that are designated by the U.S. State Department as existing under a travel warning or trade block.

Travel to approved destinations before the program start date, including early arrival, is considered personal travel.

For personal travel to approved destinations during the program dates, students must follow program-specific policies related to communicating personal travel plans with on-site contacts. Some programs may have policies that limit personal travel, to which students must adhere.

For personal travel to approved destinations after the program date, students are required to sign out of the program using the Travel Waiver form:

[http://www.plu.edu/studyaway/widgets/documents-forms/items/other/Travel-waiver.pdf](http://www.plu.edu/studyaway/widgets/documents-forms/items/other/Travel-waiver.pdf)

The University is not responsible for any incidents that occur during personal travel before, during or after a study away program, nor is it responsible for any costs incurred by the student for such personal travel, including any requested travel deviations from group travel arranged by the Wang Center.

**SENIOR RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**

The final 32 semester hours of a student’s program must be completed in residence at PLU. This requirement is satisfied when students participate in PLU Gateway, Featured and Approved study away programs, for which the credits earned appear on the PLU transcript.

Students may study away during their final semester at PLU, but should be aware that the posting of grades and graduation date may be significantly delayed.

**STUDENT CONDUCT**

All students participating in off-campus study programs must review and sign the Student Agreement for Off-Campus Study in accordance with PLU’s Student Conduct Policy.

In addition to PLU Code of Conduct, students must abide by the laws of the host country (related to personal weapons, sexual relationships, drug use, etc.) during their study away.

**SUMMER PROGRAMS**

If students choose to use their financial aid and receive PLU credit for their summer study away, they must work with the Wang Center to study through an approved program. Students must adhere to the appropriate Wang Center deadlines, attend the mandatory Wang Center orientation and pay a $200 administrative fee.
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TRANSFER STUDENTS
Students who transfer to PLU must satisfactorily complete at least one semester of study on campus before they can apply to participate in semester or year-long study away programs. Students who transfer to PLU in fall term may apply to participate in off-campus J-Term courses in that same academic year. The eligibility of J-Term participation for students who transfer to PLU for spring term will be determined on an individual basis.