

## **What is the International Studies Tuition Policy?**

Like its peer institutions, Villanova University in 2001 adopted a tuition policy governing its study abroad programs. Under the policy, students participating in overseas education programs pay the standard Villanova tuition regardless of the overseas location. Under the policy, students may apply their Villanova financial aid to study abroad, just as they do when studying on campus.

## **Why was this policy adopted?**

International Studies is an expensive operation for Villanova University. Charging normal tuition for overseas study allows us to cover that cost without raising the general tuition, imposing fees, or cutting other programs. It also makes study abroad “transparent” in that student pay the same tuition at home and abroad, allowing them to choose their overseas programs based on academic rather than financial factors.

## **What about room and board?**

Non-tuition costs such as room and board are not paid to Villanova University, but are instead paid to the university or program in which the student enrolls. *In general*, these room and board costs tend to be about the same as they would be at Villanova University. Keep in mind, though, that several factors have to be taken into consideration here, such as geography (i.e., cost of living in London or Tokyo versus Capetown or Bangkok), travel, expenses, and fluctuating exchange rates (i.e., the US dollar versus the Euro)

## **What if the program I choose is more expensive than Villanova University tuition?**

In most cases, Villanova pays the overseas tuition even if the recipient institution’s tuition exceeds Villanova’s. You should assume that your full tuition overseas will be covered. If there is an exception, you will be specifically notified.

## **What are the benefits of this policy?**

Remember, the opportunity to study overseas is not a break from a Villanova education: it is an extension of the Villanova education. Because all participants remain full time Villanova students and cannot take a leave of absence for study abroad, all financial assistance applies. Whether students have grants, federal aid, even University scholarships, that money is credited to the student’s account as if they had stayed at Villanova. The policy is an equalizing one that allows all eligible students to study overseas on essentially the same terms as on-campus study regardless of financial need. It also allows students to choose a program based on its academic rather than financial merits. Furthermore, students who elect to study abroad on a Villanova-approved program are kept “on the books” like every other Villanova student; that is, they have access to email, Novasis, and online registration. The Office of International Studies remains in regular contact with these students, helping with issues of advising, course approval, and other troubleshooting. Most importantly, coursework successfully completed overseas transfer to the Villanova transcript. Credit earned abroad is applied toward major, minor, and core requirements as approved prior to departure.