Financial aid from Grinnell College can be applied toward Grinnell-approved off-campus study (OCS) programs, making OCS accessible to all students.

How will my financial aid change if I participate in a Grinnell-approved OCS program?

It depends on the type of financial aid you receive.

- Students receiving only merit scholarships can use those funds for one Grinnell-approved OCS program. They are not eligible for additional grants and scholarships from the College.
- Students who receive need-based financial aid will have their cost of attendance and need-based financial aid adjusted to reflect the cost of their program. Students who choose a program that is more expensive than Grinnell may have their need met with a combination of grants and loans. All students can use financial aid for one Grinnell-approved OCS program.
- Students who receive ACM, GLCA, or staff tuition remission may be limited in how they can use tuition remission. Contact the Office of Financial Aid for more information.

How is the cost of my program determined?

The Office of Financial Aid considers the same cost of attendance components as when a student is on campus. These include tuition, fees, room, meals, books and supplies, personal expenses, and transportation. Find more information about each component below.

- Tuition: The student is charged Grinnell tuition or the published program tuition, whichever is higher.
- Fees: Fees include the $350-per-semester OCS administrative fee charged by Grinnell College and any required fees charged by the OCS program, such as health insurance or required activities fees.
- Room and Meals: If a program offers multiple housing options, the room and meals cost for a homestay will be included in the cost of attendance. If there is no homestay option, the least expensive housing and meals option will be included. Choosing more expensive room and/or meal options will increase the student’s out-of-pocket costs.
- Books: This stays the same as if the student was on campus.
- Personal Expenses: $1,500 per semester of OCS is included for personal expenses. This is meant to cover a visa, basic necessities, and other necessary OCS-related expenses.
- Transportation: Transportation is a standard amount based on the student’s home region and their OCS region. It is meant to reflect the approximate cost of one roundtrip flight.

Optional expenses, including pre/post-sessions, are not considered when determining financial aid eligibility and are an additional out-of-pocket expense to the student. This includes intensive language study before the program begins.

Questions? Email finaid@grinnell.edu, call 641-269-3250, or visit 1227 Park Street, 2nd Floor, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.
Are there outside scholarships available for OCS?

Yes, there are several scholarship programs specifically for students who are studying abroad. Additionally, check with your OCS program to see if they offer grants or scholarships. Find more information about OCS-related scholarships on the Office of Financial Aid website.

The regular policy for outside scholarships applies to scholarships for OCS. A student can generally receive up to $20,000 in outside resources during their four years at Grinnell before their need-based aid from Grinnell is reduced.

How will I be billed for OCS?

With the exception of the initial program deposit, which the student pays directly to their OCS program, Grinnell College pays all program invoices and then bills the student for billable expenses related to the OCS program.

The College will bill the student for estimated direct costs of the program prior to the beginning of the semester. After Grinnell receives the invoice from the program, an adjustment will be made to the bill to reflect actual charges and the deposit paid by the student (if applicable).

Please email the Office of Student Accounts with questions related to billing.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

Multiple offices can help you!
- The Office of Off-Campus Study can answer most questions about OCS.
- Questions about program cost and financial aid can be directed to the Office of Financial Aid.
- The Office of Student Accounts can assist with billing-related questions.

Can I request an estimate of how my financial aid would look for my OCS program before I make a final decision?

Yes, email or make an appointment with your financial aid counselor to request an estimate. Be sure to let them know the program(s) you are considering and which semester(s) you are planning to participate in OCS.

Questions? Email finaid@grinnell.edu, call 641-269-3250, or visit 1227 Park Street, 2nd Floor, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.