

# SEMESTER STUDY ABROAD FAQ

Department of Architecture - Programs in Berlin, Germany and Barcelona/Girona, Spain

## 1. What is the overall cost of the study abroad program?

The overall cost for the study abroad program is announced to eligible juniors during their fall semester.

## 2. Does the overall cost include tuition?

NO. The program fee is paid in addition to regular term tuition at Wentworth.

## 3. What program expenses are included in the overall cost?

- \* Airfare (economy) from Boston to Europe and Europe to Boston.
- \* Housing in shared apartments arranged by the program.
- \* Studio Space in Berlin or Barcelona.
- \* Transportation, lodging and required admissions on scheduled trips.
- \* International Health Insurance for the term.

## 4. What program expenses are **NOT INCLUDED** in the overall cost?

- \* Meals (The use of cooking facilities in the apartments and the cost of meals varies on their individual budgets and preferences).
- \* Local transportation (subways/buses in Berlin or Barcelona or other cities).
- \* Books and supplies.
- \* Entertainment
- \* Personal / misc expenses in Berlin / Barcelona or other cities.
- \* Independent travel or personal trips made by students.

## 5. What forms of payment are accepted?

1. Online via credit/debit card or personal checking account at: <https://commerce.cashnet.com/witarch>
2. Or students can pay through a loan refund.

## 6. What is the process to apply for a loan?

Students must contact Student Financial Services to see what loan options are available to them. Once the loan is received, Student Financial Services will process a refund for the study abroad cost directly to the study abroad account.

## 7. When should students apply for their loan?

Immediately after acceptance into the program.

## 8. How much money should each student expect to spend for the term?

The Department cannot provide any estimate of student expenses abroad because it depends on the lifestyle / budget of the student.

## 9. Can a student lose his/her place in the program, after being accepted?

YES. By signing the initial application, students are in effect agreeing to commit to the terms and policies of the program. If any student fails to meet these requirements, he/she will be withdrawn from the program and lose all paid fees.

## 10. What conditions must students meet to participate?

- \* Students are required to attend several meetings prior to departure in order to prepare them for travel and life abroad.
- \* Additional safety and behavior policies are outlined in several documents, which students are required sign and return to the department.
- \* All students must achieve passing and/or minimum grades in all courses required for enrollment in the program, including the studio grade requirement. See also: Course Requirements (#11)

## 11. Are there required courses abroad?

YES. Students are required to register for the same courses as their peers in Boston. Part-time status abroad is not permitted.

## 12. Are students ever able to receive a refund of their paid fee?

Only students who submit an application and ARE NOT accepted into the program are returned their first deposit.

## 13. When do students find out about their acceptance?

Students who submit an application will be notified 2-3 weeks after the application deadline.

## 14. How long do students spend abroad?

The length of the program is 90 days.  
Fall travel: late August to late November.  
Spring travel: late January to late April.

## 15. How do students travel to and from Europe?

Students are required to travel as a group from Boston to Europe and Europe to Boston. Individually purchased tickets are not an option.

## 16. Do International Students require additional travel documentation?

YES. International students are responsible for acquiring a 90-day Schengen-area Tourist Visa. Department staff can assist the student in requesting the necessary letters confirming their participation in the program and/or health insurance coverage.

## 17. When should International students apply for their visa?

For fall travel: Collect materials and apply by July 1.  
For spring travel: Collect materials and apply by November 1.

## 18. How are students enrolled in the International Health Insurance plan?

Students are automatically enrolled in an international health insurance plan, provided by HTH Worldwide.

## 19. What is covered in the HTH International Health Insurance plan?

Plan information is distributed to students, but is also available at: <http://www.wit.edu/arch/docs/study-abroad/2013-HTH-Brochure.pdf>

## 20. Do students need health insurance in the U.S., in addition to HTH?

YES. Students are required to maintain US-based health insurance, in addition to the international plan, either through personal/family coverage or via the WIT health insurance plan.

## 21. What are the living arrangements like in Berlin / Barcelona?

Students live together in apartments near the city center, in both Berlin and Barcelona. Each apartment is fully furnished with all furniture and appliances, as well as dishes, pots and pans, bedding and household items.

## 22. How many students are in each apartment?

Apartments in Berlin & Barcelona are shared between 2- 4 students.

## 23. Are there *any* items that students will need to bring for their apartments?

Students are only asked to bring (or buy) towels. Sheets and pillowcases are required for Berlin students. Other details and measurements for the sheets and pillowcases are provided in the "Living Abroad" document.

## 24. Where are the apartments located?

The apartments are located near subway stations for convenient access to the studio and classroom spaces for their courses. A detailed description of where the apartments are located in the city is available in the "Living Abroad" document.

## 25. Are students required to bring studio supplies and equipment to Europe?

Students should decide how much personal equipment to bring with them (small tools, scales, etc.). There may be equipment leftover from previous semesters in studio and other materials can be purchased abroad as needed.

## 26. Are students able to contact the program director in an emergency?

YES. It is required that each student is available by telephone throughout the 3 months in Europe, at all times and at all locations in his/her travels. A student may bring his or her personal cell phone for use in Europe (preferred). If the phone is not blocked, he or she may bring a SIM Card that works in Europe or purchase a SIM Card in Europe, assuring that the cell phones is working throughout his or her time in Europe. If a student does not bring a cell phone to Europe, he or she has the option buy a pre-paid one in Europe. Several German carriers offer low-cost, pay-per-use plans for use within Germany and Europe. The costs for the SIM cards and the costs for phone are paid by the students.

## 27. Is the program director able to contact students in an emergency?

YES. Because the program requires each student have a cell phone, Rolf and Manuel have the ability to call any student in an emergency. Students are required to keep the phones switched on when not in class or group activity and maintain a minimum number of minutes.

## 28. Are the student's provided with a minimum number of minutes?

It is the student's responsibility to maintain a minimum balance on their phone, whether they are using their personal phone or a loaned phone. Loaned phones requires a 50EUR deposit that is returned to the student when the phone is returned in good working order at the end of the term.

## 29. Do students have semester breaks / opportunities for personal travel?

Because the semester is shorter for students studying abroad, the holiday schedule is different than what students experience in Boston. Students will receive an overview of the schedule for personal travel time for the term, a few months prior to departure.

## 30. What is the Schengen area?

The Schengen Area is a collection of about 25 European countries that have agreed to allow for travel within their borders, once admitted. For more information and a list of countries: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schengen\\_Area](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schengen_Area)