

Frequently Asked Questions

We encourage you to set up an appointment with our office to get one-on-one guidance. We can help you determine which options are the best for you and help you explore those options more in-depth. You can always call (907-786-1720) or e-mail (uaa_oiaa@alaska.edu).

How does studying abroad fit into my academic plan?

There are many ways to gain an international experience while in college including for-credit academic study abroad and internships abroad. Students should select a program that will enrich their overall studies and goals at UAA.

What is the difference between Study Abroad Programs hosted by a Third Party Provider (like Academic Program International (API), International Studies Abroad (ISA), etc.) and International Exchange Programs?

UAA has partnerships with five study abroad third party providers that facilitate study abroad programs for students. These partners are AIFS Study Abroad, Academic Programs International (API), Council on Educational Exchange (CIEE), International Studies Abroad (ISA), and Semester at Sea (SAS). UAA also has partnerships for international exchange programs at specific universities abroad for direct exchanges.

The main difference between programs hosted by a third party provider and international exchange is the amount of work a student puts into the preparation process. With programs hosted by a third party provider, students have more support by the third party provider with the application process, course registration, and securing housing. With international exchange programs (including north2north), students do not have as much administrative support, so these programs are not recommended for first-time travelers abroad.

What is north2north?

The north2north UArctic program is a type of international exchange program. All majors are welcome but students who choose to participate in the north2north UArctic exchange have the opportunity to focus on issues relevant to the North and to northern populations. Students who participate in the north2north exchange are responsible for their own course registration, securing housing, applying for a student visa, etc.

Can I use Financial Aid to pay for program fees?

Most financial aid can be used to pay for study abroad program fees. Students should consult with the UAA Office of Financial Aid (financial.aid@uaa.alaska.edu) for personalized details.

Can I use my Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and/or my UAScholars award for program fees?

Yes, but students must communicate with the UAA Office of Financial Aid in order to use these awards. These awards will not automatically apply to program fees.

Which option is cheaper?

It depends on a variety of factors. International exchange is not always the cheaper option, although from the first look it might seem so. We suggest setting up an appointment with our office to talk about things to consider when planning your time away.

For how long can I go?

It depends on the programs students are interested in. There are programs for summer, semester and year-long programs. Students are free to choose the length of their program as it fits into their academic plan.

Is there a limit to how many study abroad programs I can do?

Our office has no limits for how many programs students are able to do internationally. Students may participate in as many study abroad programs as they qualify for as long as it fits into their academic plan at UAA.

How will my grades transfer?

All classes taken on a program through UAA Education Abroad will come back to your UAA transcript. Students complete a Preliminary Course Evaluation prior to departure to determine the UAA equivalencies. Students must work with their academic advisor about how UAA academic requirements will be fulfilled.

Credit earned through study abroad programs hosted by a third-party provider or an international exchange program will be posted as resident credit. This means that the grades you earn will directly impact your UAA GPA and ability to graduate with university honors and maintain financial aid eligibility.

Credit earned on a study-away program through UAF will be posted as transfer credit. Why? UAF posts the credit as resident credit because you participated in the study away program through their university. UAA transfers the credit from UAF. While grades for transfer credit do not affect your UAA GPA as it appears on your academic transcript, they can affect your financial aid eligibility, as well as your ability to graduate with university honors.

I have been on a study abroad program before. Do I have to redo my whole application?

We are glad to see you again! If you want to participate in another program, please start a new application in the online UAA application system.

Will I still be eligible for the PFD?

The Permanent Fund Division may ask for proof that you were absent from Alaska for educational purposes when you apply for your PFD. Students must submit an Education Verification Form (AK PFD form #04304) directly to the Registrar's Office for processing. The form will be processed and sent directly to the AK Department of Revenue PFD Division within 3 business days. The Registrar's Office will not send the form back to the student.

Questions? Please email uaa.records@alaska.edu

How do I know which Insurance option to choose?

UAA requires all students going abroad to have health insurance coverage. Students participating in a program hosted by a third-party provider have their health insurance covered by the provider. Students on International or north2north Exchange must purchase student health insurance coverage provided by one of UAA's approved providers:

- [Gallagher Koster Gold Plan](#)
- [LewerMark: Gold/Platinum with Evacuation Rider](#)

I am an international student at UAA (F-1). Can I study abroad?

Yes! Although, there are some additional things students need to consider. Please set up an appointment with the International Student Services office to discuss your options.

David Racki, International Student Advisor
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Can I participate in a study abroad program through UAF?

Yes, but it depends on availability. UAA students who want to study abroad through a UAF program must do the following:

- 1) Complete the UAA study abroad application
- 2) After approval from UAA, students complete a UAF study away application
- 3) After UAF has approved the application, students then apply to their desired program

For additional information, please don't hesitate to connect with the Education Abroad Coordinator. We are here to help you fulfill your study abroad goals.

Phone: 907-786-1720

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