



# FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDY ABROAD

## STRATEGIES AND PARTICIPATION

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### REPORT OVERVIEW

The purpose of the study described in this report is twofold:

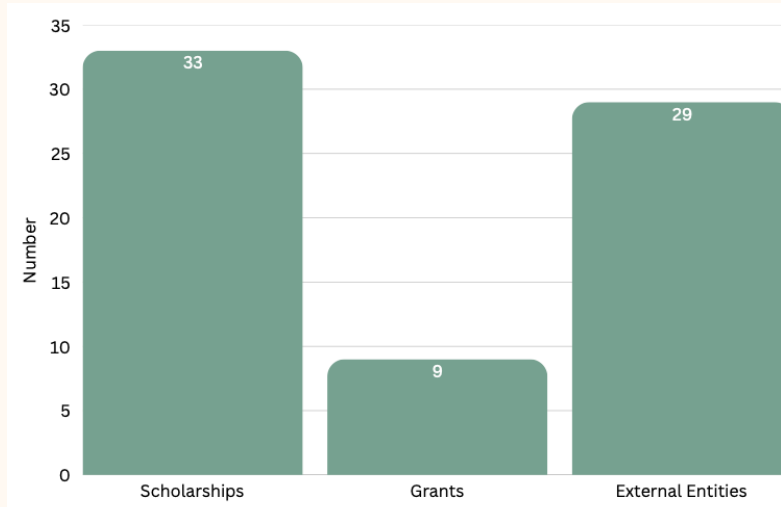
1. To document how community colleges financially support study abroad participation
2. To explore possible associations between financial support models for study abroad and the percentage of students who participate

This study's primary data source consisted of survey data collected between April and June 2025 from a nationally-representative sample of community colleges that offer study abroad opportunities. This survey collected information about colleges' study abroad offerings, experience implementing study abroad programs, number of participants in the 2023-24 academic year, and approaches to providing financial support. In total, 324 survey participation invitations were sent to potential participants, each representing a college that offered study abroad. We received 71 unique responses (response rate=21.9%). Overall, 39 survey participants completed the full survey and 56 survey participants completed a sufficient number of questions to be included in this study's analyses.

# HOW DO COMMUNITY COLLEGES FINANCIALLY SUPPORT STUDY ABROAD?

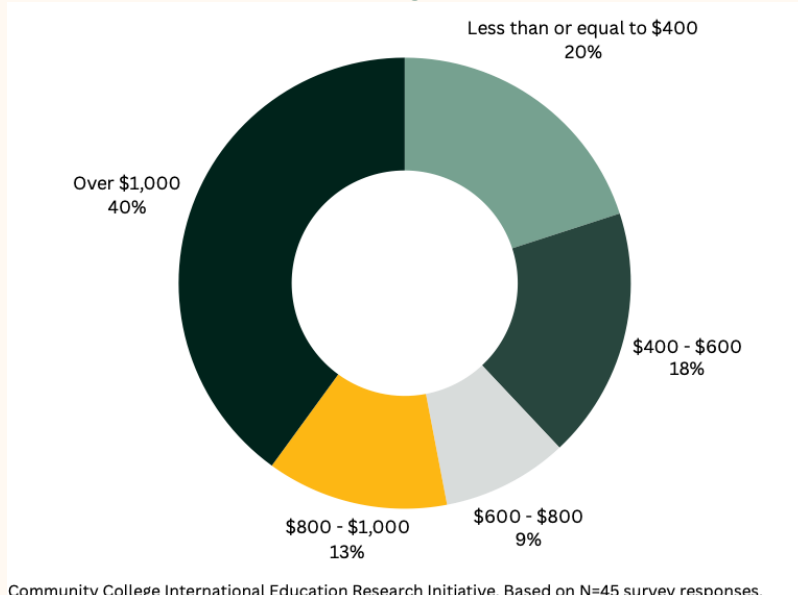
The majority of colleges in our sample (89%) provide some sort of financial support for study abroad, while the remaining 11% do not. The following figures summarize information about how community colleges financially support study abroad participation.

## How does your college provide financial support for study abroad?



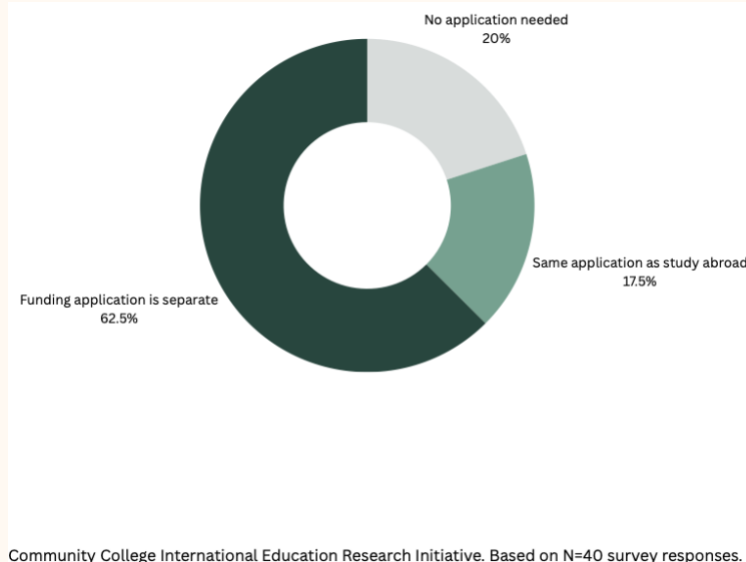
Community College International Education Research Initiative. Based on N=50 survey responses (multiple selections possible).

## What is the typical amount of funding students receive for study abroad?

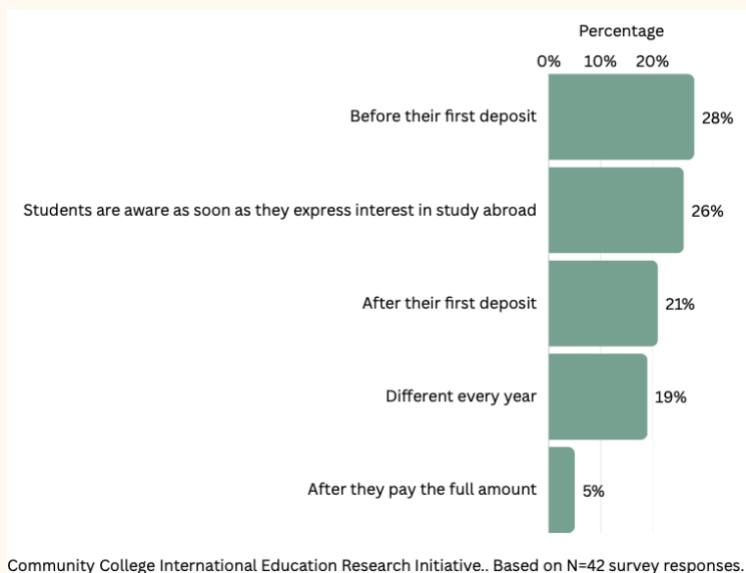


Community College International Education Research Initiative. Based on N=45 survey responses.

### How do students apply for financial support to study abroad?



### How do students learn they have received financial support for study abroad?



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPATION

The results of our statistical analyses indicate that there is no significant relationship between whether a college offers financial support and the percentage of students who participated. Similarly, our results suggest that the way in which financial support is offered is not related to the general participation rate. Although these results are surprising at first glance, they align with previous research that indicates that financial support is not the only, or even the most important, barrier to or facilitator for study abroad (e.g., Swentzel, 2012; Whatley & Stich, 2021). The full version of this report provides additional suggestions for why this might be the case.

## ACCESS THE FULL REPORT ON OUR WEBSITE:

<https://ccintled.pages.wm.edu/reports/>

## ABOUT US:

The Community College International Education Research Initiative (CCIERI) is a research group organized by Dr. Melissa Whatley in William & Mary's School of Education. Our work focuses on all aspects of international education in the U.S. community college context. We are especially interested in unconventional, less common, and new approaches that promote access to international learning opportunities for underserved populations and that result in outcomes that lead to a more just world.

Learn more at <https://ccintled.pages.wm.edu/>.

## OUR WORK:

This summary corresponds to the second of the Initiative's reports. Other ongoing research projects focus on the following topics:

- Institutional characteristics that promote access to international learning opportunities at community colleges
- International student support services at community colleges
- International educational discourses at community colleges
- Virtual exchange program characteristics and student outcomes in the community college context

Visit our website to sign up for our Newsletter to get updates about our work.