

Study Abroad

Previously existing methods to study abroad using GI Bill benefits:

1. Foreign School Direct Enrollment - The student is matriculated into a foreign Institution of Higher Learning's (IHL) degree program approved for GI Bill funding. No involvement with a U.S. based institution.
2. Guest Student Enrollment - U.S. Based Home IHL with Foreign IHL Guest enrollment – The student remains matriculated in a U.S. based IHL's degree program approved for GI Bill funding and enrolls in classes by study abroad modality at a foreign IHL approved for GI Bill funding as a guest student. The student's credits will transfer back to the home IHL. Both the U.S. based and foreign IHLs must follow the Parent/Guest policy in the SCO handbook.

Previously existing methods to use GI Bill benefits while studying overseas:

3. Instructor Led Enrollment - The student is matriculated into a U.S. based IHL's degree program approved for GI Bill funding and attends classes that may meet domestically, internationally, or both. These types of arrangements usually come in the form of cultural immersion led by an instructor of the U.S. based IHL. A student typically spends time at the domestic campus and then travels to a foreign country to continue their studies with the instructor and classmates. The student's credits will be granted by the U.S. based IHL.
4. Overseas Campus of U.S. based School Enrollment - The student is matriculated into a U.S. based IHL's degree program approved for GI Bill funding but attends classes at an approved branch or extension campus of that U.S. IHL, located overseas.

New methods to study abroad using GI Bill benefits (Section 9 of PL 117-333, Veterans Auto & Education Improvement Act of 2022, enacted 01/05/2023):

5. Study Abroad Section 9 U.S. School - The student is matriculated into a U.S. based IHL's degree program approved for GI Bill funding and enrolled in a study abroad opportunity offered under contract or written agreement between the U.S. based IHL and a foreign IHL not yet approved for VA benefits.

NOTE: The U.S. based IHL must seek approval of this arrangement from the State Approving Agency (SAA) of jurisdiction no more than five years from the first day of the term during which the first enrollment for that specific program involving study abroad is reported. Prior to granting approval, the SAA must ensure the foreign school(s) is separately approved in accordance with 38 USC 3680A (f)(1).

When certifying under Study Abroad Section 9, the U.S. based IHL agrees to assume responsibility for the quality and content of the covered study abroad course(s) and to serve as the certifying official (SCO).

6. Study Abroad Section 9 U.S. Guest School - The student remains matriculated into a U.S. based IHL's degree program approved for GI Bill funding and enrolls as a guest student in a study abroad opportunity offered by a second U.S. based IHL approved for GI Bill funding. The U.S. based Guest IHL has a contract or written agreement with a foreign IHL not yet approved for VA benefits.

NOTE: The U.S. based Guest IHL must seek approval of this arrangement from the State Approving Agency of jurisdiction no more than five years from the first day of the term during which the first enrollment for that specific program is reported.

The student's study abroad credits at the U.S. based Guest IHL must be transferable back to the U.S. based Parent IHL. Both U.S. based IHLs must follow the Parent/Guest policy in the SCO handbook. When certifying under Study Abroad Section 9, the U.S. based Guest IHL agrees to assume responsibility for the quality and content of the covered study abroad course(s) and to serve as the certifying official (SCO).

NOTE (applicable to #5 and #6): Study Abroad Section 9 arrangements do not require *initial* SAA involvement. The U.S. based IHL must seek approval of this arrangement from the SAA of jurisdiction no more than five years after the initial date of certification to the VA. However, the five-year timeline begins on the first day of the term for the first student certified in a program that includes a study abroad requirement. For example, BS in International Banking requires a term abroad. A student is certified to VA for Fall 24 beginning August 19, 2024. The effective date for SAA approval begins August 19, 2024, even if multiple foreign IHLs are potential study abroad options for the International Banking program. Any other degree program certified with a study abroad requirement would have its own five-year approval window.

Study Abroad Section 9 Extension Facility Code

Prior to certifying a student under a Study Abroad Section 9 arrangement, a U.S. based IHL must request and be assigned a Study Abroad Section 9 Extension Facility Code. Each IHL will be assigned only one such Study Abroad Extension Facility Code. All students at the U.S. based IHL studying under *any* Study Abroad Section 9 arrangement with a foreign IHL will be certified under the designated Study Abroad Section 9 Extension Facility Code assigned.

The format for the new Study Abroad Section 9 Extension Facility Code will be 1-1-**XA**11-11. The 'X' denotes extension, and the 'A' denotes study abroad. Assignment of a Study Abroad Section 9 Extension Facility Code will permit payment of tuition and fees to the U.S. based IHL, proper payment of the foreign housing rate to the student and tracking for compliance purposes.

To obtain a Study Abroad Section 9 Extension Facility Code, the SCO must submit a request using the attached Study Abroad PL 117-333, Section 9 Extension Facility Code Request Template. The completed template should be placed on school letterhead and submitted to the applicable email address below as indicated on the following jurisdictional map:

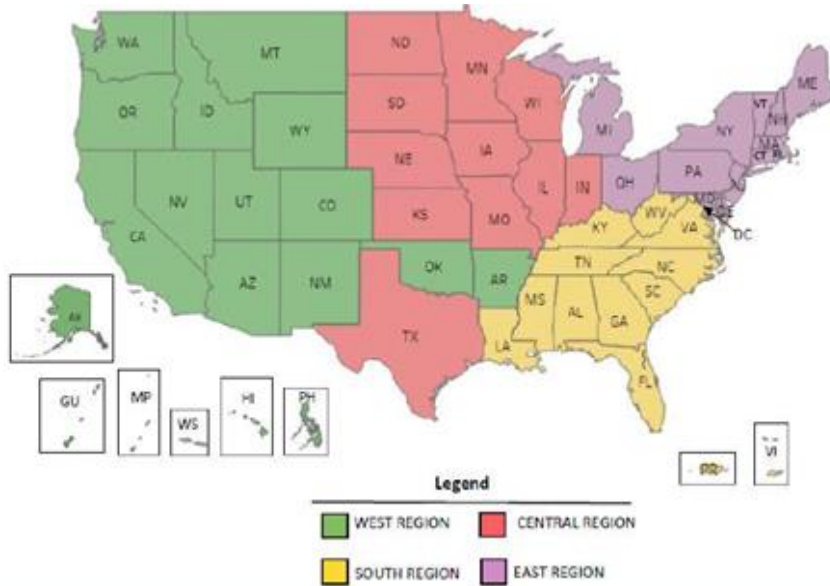
Central – ESUCENTRAL.VBASTL@va.gov

East – EASTREGIONCL.VBABUF@va.gov

South – EDUSVCSOUTH.VBAATG@va.gov

West – EDUESU.VBAMUS@va.gov

NOTE: These mailboxes are not intended for general inquiries regarding other school/VA related matters.



The ELR will notify the SCO when the Study Abroad Section 9 Extension Facility Code has been assigned and associated with the SCO's account in Enrollment Manager.

What Chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill May Cover, and which school certifies

Study Options	Tuition & Fees (T&FS):	Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA):	Which Facility Certifies:
Foreign IHL Direct Enrollment	Foreign School: Up to Annual Maximum T&Fs cap (per academic year)	Foreign Rate (National Average)	Approved Foreign IHL
Guest Student Enrollment U.S. Based Parent IHL with Foreign IHL Guest enrollment	Foreign School: Up to Annual Maximum T&Fs cap (per academic year)	Foreign Rate (National Average)	Approved Foreign IHL
Instructor Led Enrollment	Public School: Up to all T&Fs for an In-State Student <i>Or</i> Private School: Up to Annual Maximum T&Fs cap (per academic year)	MHA per current main, branch, extension, campus zip code	The U.S. Based IHL using main, branch, or extension campus

Overseas Campus U.S. based School Enrollment	Public School: Up to all T&Fs for an In-State Student <i>Or</i> Private School: Up to Annual Maximum T&Fs cap (per academic year)	Foreign Rate (National Average)	The U.S. Based IHL using main, branch, or extension campus located overseas.
Section 9 – U.S. School *New Matriculated at U.S. IHL with Foreign IHL enrollment under contract or written agreement	Public School: Up to all T&Fs for an In-State Student <i>Or</i> Private School: Up to Annual Maximum T&Fs cap (per academic year)	Foreign Rate (National Average)	The U.S. Based IHL using main or branch campus location. (Utilizing Study Abroad Section 9 Extension Facility Code)
Section 9 U.S. Guest School *New Matriculated at U.S IHL, attending U.S. Guest IHL with Foreign IHL enrollment under contract or written agreement	Public School: Up to all T&Fs for an In-State Student <i>Or</i> Private School: Up to Annual Maximum T&Fs cap (per academic year)	Foreign Rate (National Average)	The U.S. Based Guest IHL using main or branch campus location. (Utilizing Study Abroad Section 9 Extension Facility Code)

* *New Section 9 of PL 117-333, Veterans Auto & Education Improvement Act of 2022, enacted 01/05/2023*

** *Yellow Ribbon is payable at a participating foreign school for approved study abroad programs starting on or after August 1, 2021. It remains payable at participating domestic schools for all approved programs.*

What Chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill Cannot Pay For

Optional charges: Any optional fees charged by the U.S. based IHL or U.S. based Guest IHL may *not* be certified to the VA. Fees must be mandatory and be charged by the U.S. Based institution or U.S. based guest IHL.

Third-party Fees: VA cannot pay for any fees charged by a third-party facilitator, even if mandatory for the student. Third-party facilitators could be a government or foreign agency, or a company such as a travel agent or Study Abroad broker. If not directly billed by the U.S. based IHL or U.S. based Guest IHL, the fees cannot be certified to the VA.

Room & Board or Lodging: These fees must be excluded from certification to VA and shown separately on the student's financial ledger.

Important Points for Study Abroad Programs

- The student must be enrolled in courses that will apply to their degree program (approved program for VA purposes).
- The courses must be offered at an Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) leading to a standard college degree or the equivalent and apply to their degree program (approved program for VA purposes)
- Except for those that fall Section 9 of PL 117-333, Veterans Auto & Education Improvement Act of 2022, enacted 01/05/2023, the foreign institution must be approved by VA for GI Bill funding.
- Students eligible for Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill may receive prorated tuition and fees payment based in the student's eligibility percentage if the student is not eligible for the full benefit (100%)
- Students eligible for Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill must be enrolled more than half-time to receive monthly housing allowance (MHA).
- When certifying Study Abroad Section 9 for students using Education benefits other than Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill, the Study Abroad Section 9 Extension Facility Code should be used, although it will not impact monthly payments for non-33 students.