



Travel Seminar

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the different types of travel seminars?

There are 2 types of travel seminars:

Stand-alone travel seminar: This program is not connected to any course on campus; rather, the course is delivered in its entirety off campus. This program model may be offered during the winter and summer breaks.

Travel seminar incorporated into an on-campus course: This program is a combination of an on-campus course and an off-campus academic experience – the travel seminar. The on-campus course is offered during the fall or spring semester. The off-campus portion may be offered during the winter, spring or May breaks. The travel seminar will follow or will be delivered in the middle of the on-campus course rather than precede it.

Which semester will the travel seminar be counted toward?

There are various iterations:

- Fall semester on-campus course plus winter break travel seminar – **all credits will be applied to the fall semester**
- Spring semester on-campus course plus spring break travel seminar – **all credits will be applied to the spring semester**
- Spring semester on-campus course plus early May travel seminar (beginning the week following final exams or directly after the graduation ceremony) – **all credits will be applied to the spring semester**
- Winter break stand-alone travel seminar – **all credits will be applied to the spring semester**
- Summer break stand-alone travel seminar – **all credits will be applied to the corresponding summer session**

Why do travel seminars differ in the amount of credits granted?

The number of credits awarded is based on instructional hours on site and number of days of the program. Credits will vary based on those two aspects of the travel component.

What is the application process for a travel seminar?

The application process for each travel seminar may differ. While there is a formal application that must be completed, the questions presented in the application will be specific to the travel seminar. Additionally, faculty directors and OCSE may elect to hold in-person interviews or request additional written materials from applicants which will be pertinent to the specific travel seminar.

Can you apply for a travel seminar without attending an information session?

Yes. Information sessions are conducted to give students an opportunity to learn more details on the travel seminar from the faculty directors and OCSE and pose specific questions that may not be answered in the program brochure. Attendance is not mandatory in order to apply as travel seminar brochures and applications can be found on the OCSE webpage (http://cms.skidmore.edu/ocse/programs/short_term/index.cfm).

Is there a limit on the number of travel seminars that you can apply to or participate on?

There is no limit on the number of travel seminars that you can apply to or participate on. However, each travel seminar has its own separate and independent application process. Due to limited space, travel seminars can be highly competitive.

When are students notified of the results of the application process?

The notification process will differ for each travel seminar; however, admission decisions are generally made within 2 weeks of the application deadline. All applicants will be notified by email of the results.

What happens if I am waitlisted for a travel seminar?

Students who are waitlisted for a travel seminar will be advised as to their numerical standing on the waitlist. A deadline will be given as to when they must notify OCSE if they wish to remain on the waitlist or withdraw, surrendering their position. Should a student choose to remain on the waitlist for a travel seminar with an on-campus course, he/she must register for and take the on-campus course. He/she must understand that there is no guarantee of participation on the travel seminar even though they are taking the on-campus course. Wait-listed students' participation on the travel seminar is contingent upon another student's inability to take part in the program.

How do I register for a travel seminar?

Students cannot register for (or withdraw from) a travel seminar themselves. OCSE will work with the Registrar's Office to register all accepted students.

Can I enroll in a travel seminar as Pass/Fail?

No. All travel seminar participants will receive a letter grade.

Can I audit a travel seminar?

Full-time matriculated undergraduate students cannot audit travel seminars. In rare cases, OCSE will allow for a non-matriculated individual to audit a travel seminar. However, current full-time students are given priority in participant selection.

Can I participate in a spring semester on-campus course and early May travel seminar as a graduating senior?

Graduating seniors have two options both in which grades will appear on your official Skidmore transcript. They can be May graduates and enroll in the travel seminar as a post graduate course, paying the travel seminar program fee **and** the additional fee for the number of course credits. They would not be eligible for aid. Alternatively, they can be August graduates and have the course reflected on their spring semester course load. The student would pay the program fee. There would not be any additional fees assessed for the on-campus course, unless the student is carrying an overload. Eligible students would also receive aid. (Note: Aid for stand-alone summer courses is not available.)

Please note that the selecting to be a May or August graduate only affects the date that will appear on the diploma. Students electing to be August graduates may still participate in the May ceremony.

Is there any financial aid available to participate on travel seminars?

Yes, there are travel grants available through Financial Aid for eligible students that will cover up to 50% of the travel seminar program fee. Travel grants are not available for travel seminars conducted during the summer. Additionally students may be eligible for student loans. Please contact the Financial Aid Office (518-580-5750 and/or finaid@skidmore.edu.) to determine whether you are eligible for aid.

How will I be billed for the travel seminar program fee?

All invoices for the travel seminar program fee are processed by the Skidmore College Bursar. Generally billing for the winter break travel seminar will occur in November and payment will be expected in December. Spring break and May travel seminars are typically billed in February and payment is due in March. Stand-alone summer travel seminars will be billed according to the summer session billing calendar. Questions on billing should be directed to the Bursar's Office (518-580-5830), lower level Starbuck Center.

What forms of payment are accepted?

Confirmation deposits must be paid to Off-Campus Study & Exchanges in the form of cash, check or money order made payable to "Skidmore College." Program fees must be paid directly to the Skidmore Bursar's Office—please consult the Bursar's Office for payment options.

Can Financial Aid be used for off-campus study?

Yes, financial aid can be used for off-campus study. Students receiving financial aid should speak with a Financial Aid representative to review possible aid changes based on increased expenses resulting from off-campus study. It is highly recommended that all students intending to study off-campus meet with Financial Aid to find out if the increased expenses associated with studying off campus qualify them to receive aid even if they previously did not.