

# VA BENEFITS FOR STUDY ABROAD

Claim your benefits for a world-class education

## Steps to Claim Benefits

1. Submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid form) to determine what other kinds of aid you may be eligible for.
2. Visit [finaid.uno.edu](http://finaid.uno.edu) to obtain the study abroad financial aid form.
3. Financial aid will verify documents-gift aid like Pell grants may be applicable.
4. GI Bill benefits are handled through a third party. You can also contact your VA representative for more information.
5. Make sure your classes apply toward your degree.
6. Books and housing stipends will be distributed to you while the tuition allowance will be distributed to UNO.

## Most Common VA Benefits

### Chapter 33 (AKA "Post-9/11")

- For servicemen and women who have served after 9/11 and/or their dependents (after 2009)
- Used to assist with tuition and academic fees while abroad
- Between 40% - 100% coverage
- Provides a monthly cost-of-living stipend while abroad
- Provides a one-time book stipend while abroad
- Money for tuition is sent from the VA to the institution not the student, and the cost-of-living and book stipend is sent to the student

### Chapter 31

- For VA Vocational Rehab program participants. The veteran must have a service-connected disability
- Provides monthly stipend at set VA rate based on enrollment while abroad
- VA case manager must approve each semester
- The institution bills the VA for tuition and fees, and VA pays the institution

## Louisiana National Guard Tuition Exemption Program

- Provides UNO Tuition only, no fees
- Must be a drilling member of the Louisiana National Guard
- Name must appear on the STEP report produced by the Louisiana National Guard

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## IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

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### The G.I. Bill Funds:

- May be used toward tuition and academic fees
- May not be used toward travel costs and insurance (non--academic fees)
- May not be used to pay third-party providers or their costs, regardless of how these funds are routed
- May be used toward other costs as determined by the VA
- Are calculated based on a student's individual scenario and educational benefit

### Other Considerations:

- Whether or not G.I. Bill funds may be used toward other costs are determined by the VA directly
- The VA always considers who is administering the teaching/ training (and not just who is awarding credit) when determining if funds from the G.I. Bill may be used
- Courses taken at a foreign institution must be applicable to the home institution degree program



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## TYPES OF ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS AT UNO

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### Summer and Semester Abroad at UNO

VA money goes toward UNO's tuition and academic fees for summer and semester abroad programs . The financial aid office at UNO certifies the student for his or her VA benefits.

### Exchange

A program where universities, like UNO, have exchange agreements with each other and exchange students directly from each university. VA money must be used toward the home institution tuition and academic fees

### Direct Enroll

These programs occur where a full degree-seeking student from one university applies directly to a university abroad but is non-degree seeking at a foreign institution. Must be a VA-approved program for VA funds to be used.

### Not Eligible - Third-party Providers

Funds from the G.I. Bill may not be used to pay third-party providers or their costs. VA approved programs have to be degree granting institutions.



THE UNIVERSITY of  
**NEW ORLEANS**

DIVISION OF  
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## RESOURCES

Faith Cutrera, Coordinator  
Veterans Service Center, Library  
veteransservices@uno.edu  
504.280.6992  
[www.uno.edu/finaid/veterans](http://www.uno.edu/finaid/veterans)

