



The College of New Jersey

# Center for Global Engagement

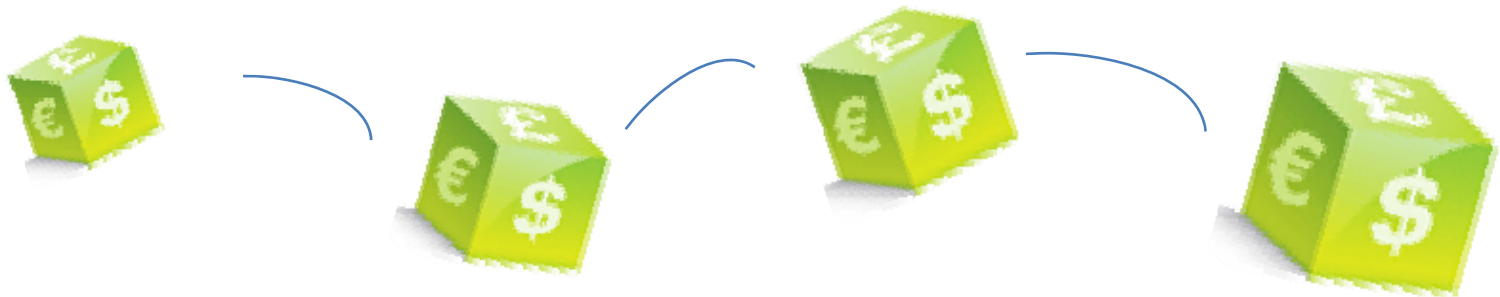
## Studying Abroad & Financial Aid



# CONGRATULATIONS!

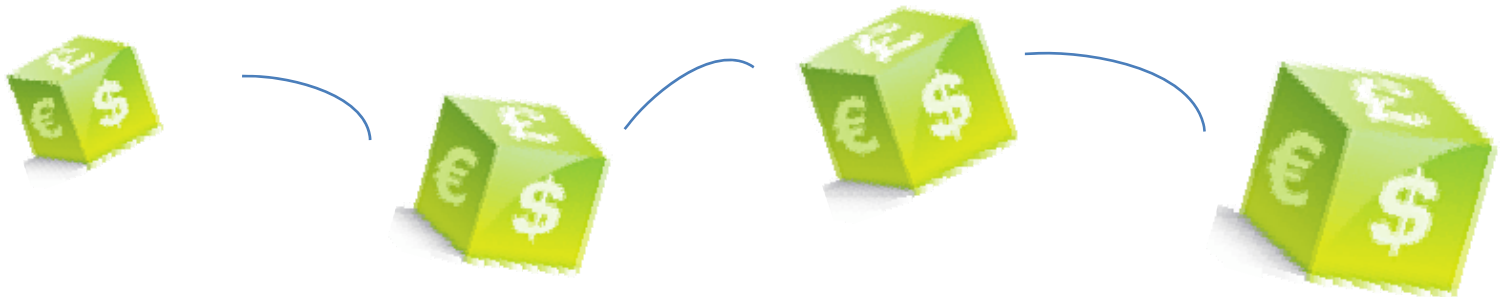
You've just taken your first step towards an amazing study abroad experience!

We're here today to see how your Financial Aid will apply towards your study abroad program



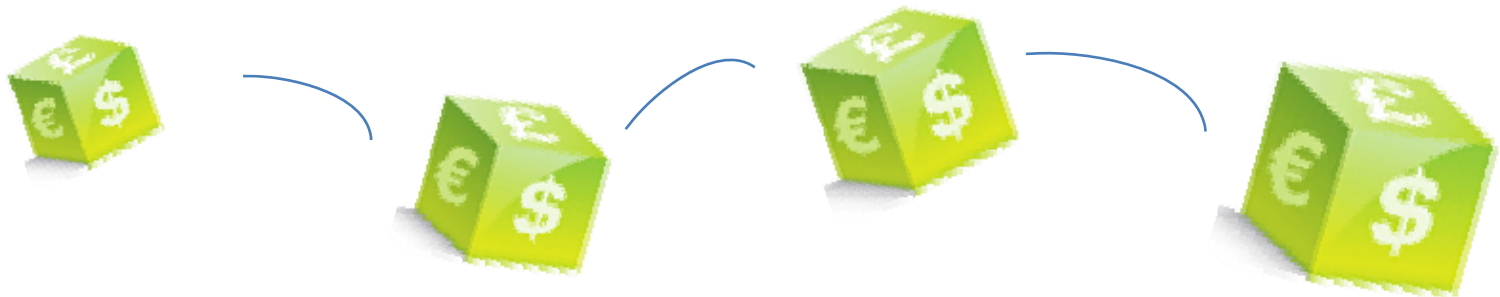
# WHAT IS STUDENT FINANCIAL AID?

- Refers to funding intended to help students pay educational expenses including tuition and fees, room and board, books, etc.
- Includes Grants, Loans, Assistantships, Scholarships, Fellowships, Tuition Waivers, and other monies provided to meet the student's needs
- Funded by Federal, State, Institutional and Private sources



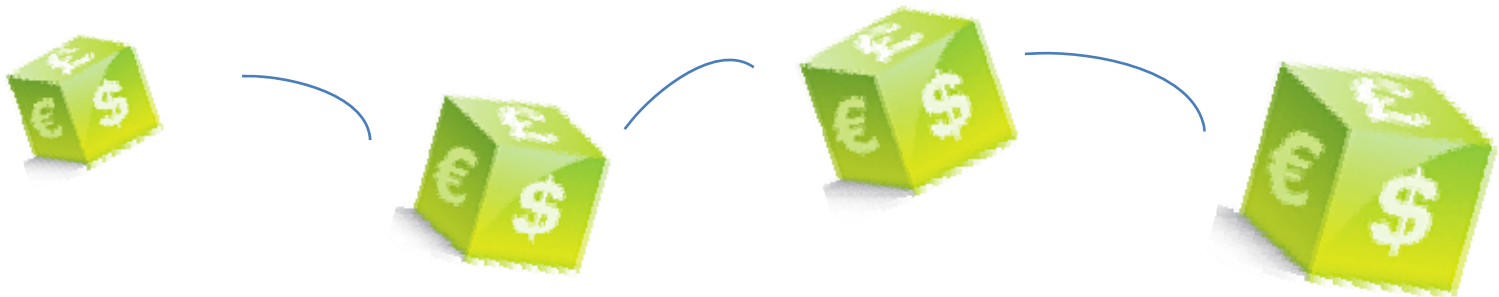
# DOES MY FINANCIAL AID WORK WHEN I'M ABROAD?

- In most cases, Financial Aid can be applied to the cost of the study abroad program
- Must be considered a “full time” student: 12 credit (3 Unit) minimum for semester-long programs
- Exclusion may apply depending on the restrictions of the specific loan, grant or scholarship



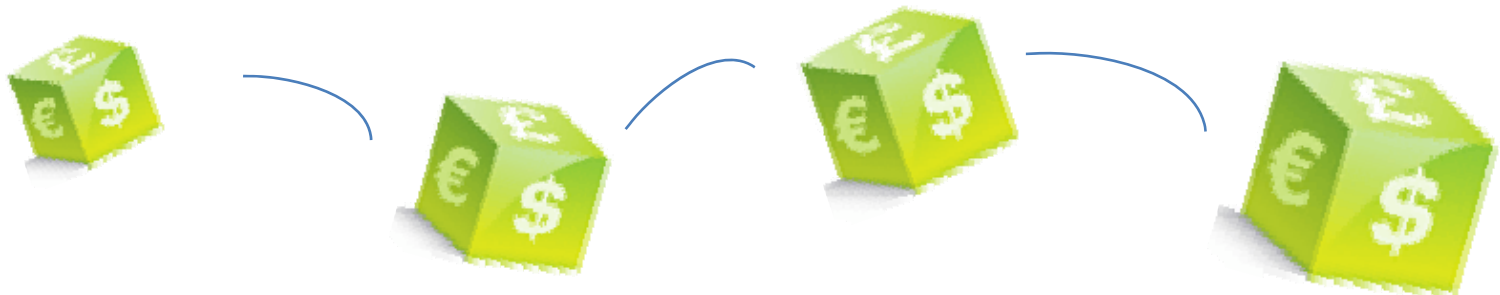
# WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH FINANCIAL AID I'M GETTING?

- It is very important to know what type of aid and how much you are receiving
- To find out your Financial Aid Summary:
  - Log on to MYTCNJ → PAWS
  - Under “Student Center” → “Finances” → “Financial Aid”
- (Lists everything from your Financial Aid summary to your Award History by year and cost of attendance)



# NOW THAT I'VE APPLIED FOR STUDYING ABROAD, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

1. Make sure you have your Program Cost Sheet – you can get one on our website or stopping by our office
2. Use the Program Cost Sheet to complete the Program Cost & Financial Aid Form – can be found under the “Application Procedures” page on our website
3. Make an appointment to meet with a Financial Aid Advisor – be sure to bring both the Program Cost Sheet and Financial Aid Form with you



# WHEN SHOULD I SEE A FINANCIAL AID ADVISOR?

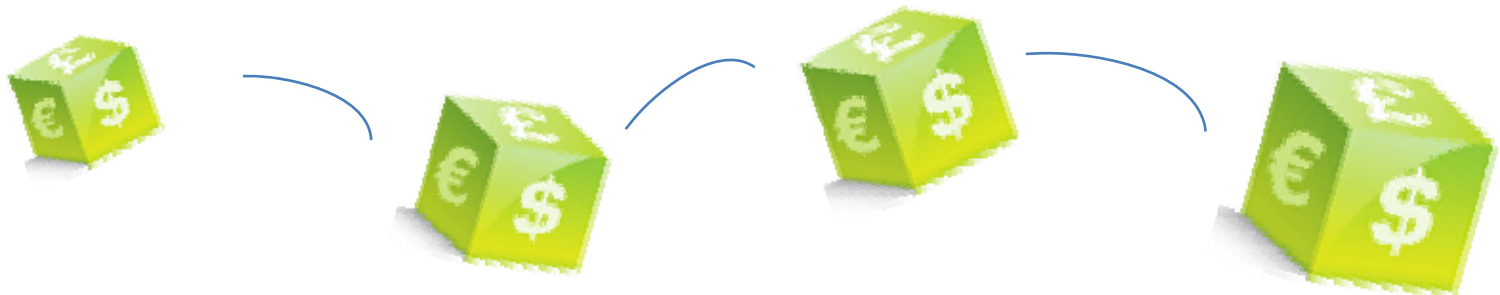
A. Once you've been accepted by your program/university

**AND**

B. (1) If you are receiving Financial Aid but are unsure about how much will be covered/if you specific aid will cover you

(2) If you are not currently receiving Financial Aid but think you may need to apply

- (All transactions, meetings and /or appointments with the TCNJ Financial Aid office must be completed 2 weeks before the end of the semester, otherwise there is no guarantee the funds will be released in time)



# I'VE APPLIED FOR FINANCIAL AID. NOW HOW DO I GET MY FINANCIAL AID REFUND?

- Financial aid is generally applied to your student account at the beginning of the semester you are abroad:
- For students on all programs (EXCEPT for EXCHANGE PROGRAMS): you will have NO CHARGES on your PAWS account for the semester you are abroad. Because of this, any financial aid you receive will be issued to you through a refund check.
- For students on EXCHANGE PROGRAMS: you *will* be charged TCNJ tuition and fees on your PAWS account, and any financial aid will be automatically applied to these charges.

## **FINANCIAL AID REFUND CHECK:**

- Refund checks are available **approximately 14 days after** the disbursement of your financial aid. Students must monitor their student account via PAWS for the disbursement date of the refund check:
- When the refund check is posted to your student account, if you are still in the United States, you may pick it up at the **Office of Budget and Finance in the Administrative Services Building on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** with your TCNJ student ID.
- After 1:00 p.m., the refund checks are mailed to the permanent home address.
- If you have already departed for your study abroad program and are no longer in the United States, the refund check will be mailed to your permanent home address.



# I'VE APPLIED FOR FINANCIAL AID. NOW HOW DO I GET MY FINANCIAL AID REFUND?

- Some types of financial aid (i.e. private loans) require that you sign a paper check before funds are applied to your account. Once the checks are received, the Office of Student Accounts will contact you to endorse the funds. If the check requires a borrower's signature (i.e., a parent), the borrower must sign the check before it is applied to the student's account.

## DOES TCNJ SEND THE REFUND TO THE PROGRAM/UNIVERSITY FOR ME?:

**NO,**

***TCNJ cannot send the financial aid refund to your program provider/university for you. It is the student's responsibility to use their financial aid refund to pay their study abroad costs by the deadline dates set by their program provider/university.***

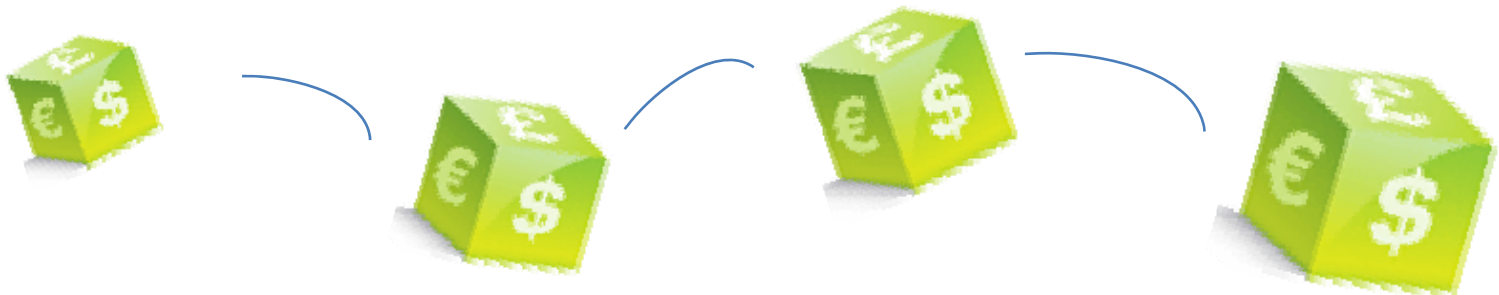
- It is suggested that students should arrange with a family member or close friend about what to do with the refund check once it is received and where to send the refund check.



# WHAT IF I'M ON A PROGRAM THAT'S NOT LISTED IN THE "STUDY ABROAD FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES" PACKET?

- In most cases, this applies to students attending petitioned programs or "TCNJ Direct" programs.
- Students are encouraged to contact their program or university to determine their policies on Financial Aid
- You may be expected to make a small deposit for some programs, while others may simply need to keep a record of your financial aid information

***FOR ALL STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS, it is important that you keep in touch with your program provider/university in regards to your financial aid***



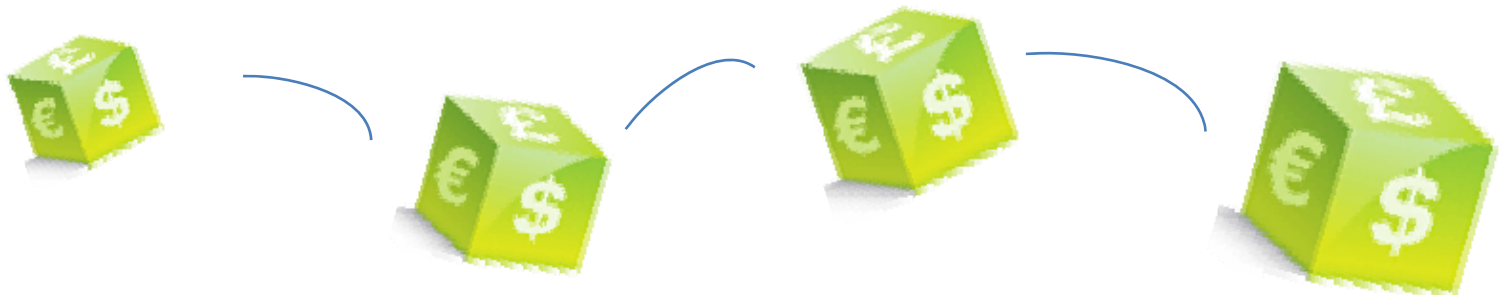
# DOES YOUR OFFICE OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS?

Although we currently do not offer any specific scholarships for students through our office, there is other aid available. Students can find a list of scholarships and other opportunities on our website:

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~goglobal/undergraduate/StudyAbroadScholarships.htm>

## **DON'T FORGET!**

Many study abroad programs and universities also offer their own scholarships for students.



# SO TO RECAP, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- 1.) **Talk with the TCNJ Financial Aid office** to determine if you're your Financial Aid can be applied and how much
- 2.) **Determine your additional expenses** based on your Program Cost Sheet
- 3.) **Contact your Program Provider/University** to determine their policies on Financial Aid if they have not already informed you
- 4.) **Research other Financial Aid resources** if what you have determined is not enough to cover you
- 5.) **Budget Ahead!** Your Financial Aid may not be disbursed in time or be enough to cover you for "settling-in" costs, such as blankets, pillows, meals and other living necessities upon your arrival

**Each Study Abroad Program/University has their own policies, so don't forget to let them know that you are planning to use Financial Aid!**

