SFU Formal Exchange, Applying for a Student Loan

Students can potentially receive student loan funding to participate in an exchange term. Eligible exchanges must be at least twelve weeks in length, without any significant breaks in your study period. Students must maintain the equivalent of full-time studies at SFU throughout their exchange study period and are expected to successfully complete their intended courses. You are encouraged to submit your application at least 4-6 weeks prior to the start of your exchange term.

By signing the “SFU Outbound Exchange Student Acknowledgement,” students agree to enroll at their partner institution in the equivalent of a minimum of 9 SFU units. Students who receive StudentAidBC or other government student financial assistance are required to successfully complete and transfer back a minimum of 9 units towards the completion of their credential at SFU.

In order to be considered for student loan funding, all students must provide Financial Aid and Awards the following supporting documentation for consideration:

- Student Loan Mobility Contract
- A copy of your SFU Outbound Exchange Student Acknowledgement

How to Apply for StudentAidBC funding

- Complete and submit the “Student Loan Mobility Contract” to Financial Aid and Awards along with a copy of your “SFU Outbound Exchange Student Acknowledgement.”
- Apply for your student loan through your StudentAidBC Dashboard.
- Select “Study Abroad/Exchange” as your program of study. This will generate an Appendix 3 request for SFU to provide StudentAidBC with your SFU formal exchange program costs and study dates.
- Financial Aid and Awards will confirm your exchange term study dates with International Services for Students. We will determine whether or not your study period is eligible for StudentAidBC funding. If your exchange is not eligible, we will email you in a timely manner.
- If eligible, we will complete the Appendix 3. Once we have submitted the Appendix 3, an email will be sent to your SFU email account indicating that you can now complete and submit your application.
- Prior to any funds being released, new applicants are required to:
  - Register for an account with the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC).
  - Complete a MSFAA (Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement) online and accept the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.
If you have previously submitted a MSFAA, ensure that your contact and banking information is up to date with the National Student Loan Service Centre (NSLSC).

You can monitor the progress/status of your application through your StudentAidBC Dashboard and your NSLSC Account (National Student Loan Service Centre).

Student Loans – Provinces other than BC

Complete and submit the “Student Loan Mobility Contract” to Financial Aid and Awards along with a copy of your “SFU Outbound Exchange Student Acknowledgement.”

Apply for your student loan through your home province.

Financial Aid and Awards will confirm your exchange term study dates with International Services for Students. We will determine whether or not your study period is eligible for StudentAidBC funding. If your exchange is not eligible, we will email you in a timely manner.

If eligible, we will complete/submit any documentation required by your home province and email you confirmation.

Ensure that your contact and banking information is up to date with the National Student Loan Service Centre and/or your provincial loan authority. You can monitor the progress/status of your application through your home province online access and/or your NSLSC Account (National Student Loan Service Centre).

Return from Exchange

You must successfully complete the equivalent of 9 SFU units at your exchange institution.

You need to apply for SFU Exchange credit approval through SFU International Services for Students.

You must submit a completed “Student Loan Completion of Studies Contract” to Financial Aid and Awards (please note - this form must be completed by the exchange institution) within 45 days of the end of the exchange study period. The Student Loan Completion of Studies Contract confirms the successful completion of your studies at your Partner Institution.

If the “Student Loan Completion of Studies Contract” is not received by Financial Aid and Awards or if you withdraw from or do not successfully complete the equivalent of 9 SFU units, SFU must report this information to the appropriate loan authorities. This may negatively impact any future student loan funding and/or any benefits associated with student loans (e.g. maintaining interest-free status) for which you may be eligible.