

Resources:

Regulations covering all Veterans benefits - U.S. Code: Title 38. Veterans' Benefits:

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/38>

- Part III- Readjustment and Related Benefits- Chapters 30 - 35:
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/38/part-III> or
<https://www.benefits.va.gov/WARMS/bookg.asp#141>
- Administration of Benefits- Chapter 36:
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/38/part-III/chapter-36>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: <https://www.va.gov/>
- VA Educations and Training Benefits: <https://www.va.gov/education/>
- Getting GI Bill® Certified: https://gibill.custhelp.va.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/1481/
- VA Campus Toolkit: <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/studentveteran/studentvets.asp>
- The Yellow Ribbon Program: https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon.asp &
<https://www.military.com/education/gi-bill/the-yellow-ribbon-program-explained.html>
- ROTC- Project Go: <https://www.rotcprojectgo.org/>

NAFSA:

- Education Abroad Regulatory Practice:
https://www.nafsa.org/Professional_Resources/Browse_by_Interest/Education_Abroad/Education_Abroad_Regulatory_Practice/
- Diversity & Inclusion Links:
https://www.nafsa.org/Professional_Resources/Browse_by_Interest/Education_Abroad/Resources_for_Supporting_Diversity_and_Inclusion_in_Education_Abroad/

Other:

- Military.com: <https://www.military.com/>
- Student Veterans of America: <https://studentveterans.org/>

VA Terminology To Know:

Most definitions are from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs School Certifying Official Handbook, and other VA sources (see resource list).

Academic Year	The academic year means the period of time beginning August 1st of each calendar year and ending July 31st of the subsequent year.
Chapter 30	Also known as the Montgomery GI Bill®. Provides a monthly stipend at a set rate and money is sent directly to the student.
Chapter 33	Also known as the Post-9/11 & Forever GI Bill®. This is for servicemen and women who have served after 9/11 and/or their dependents. Used to assist with tuition and fees, paid directly to the primary school. It also has provisions for housing and book stipends.
CHELO	Chief Educational Liaison Officer (see ELR)
ELR	Education Liaison Representative - An ELR is the person at the VA regional office responsible for the education liaison and program approval functions. The ELR is the education expert at the Regional Office and is responsible for promptly informing state approving agencies, schools, and training establishments of changes in policies and procedures. https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/education_resources/school_certifying_officials/elr.asp
IHL	Institution of Higher Learning- A college, university, technical or business school offering instructions at the postsecondary level that leads to an associate or higher degree. The institution must be empowered by the appropriate state education authority (under state law) or accredited by a recognized accrediting agency to grant such degrees.
MHA/BAH	Monthly Housing Allowance or Basic Allowance for Housing are generally the terms used for an amount based on the zip code for your school (for study abroad, this will NOT change to the foreign institution).
NCD	Non-College Degree- A course or program of education, or any other institutional vocational/educational training, which does not lead to a standard college degree.
SCO	School Certifying Official - Each school must designate at least one SCO to carry out VA reporting requirements on behalf of the school. They are responsible for enrollment certifications, monitoring student progress, complete and maintain records, and communicate with the ELR.

Education Abroad, the GI Bill, and Veterans Affairs: Getting Veterans Abroad

NAFSA Annual Conference Thursday, May 30, 2019: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SAA	State Approving Agency- This organization is authorized by Title 38 of the U.S. Code. Each state has a SAA that is responsible for ensuring the quality and integrity of programs of education and training for the use of the GI Bill benefits. Schools need to be approved by the SAA to offer VA benefits to its student veterans.
SME	Subject Matter Expert
POC	Point of Contact
Primary School	Also known as Parent School. This is the school that will grant the degree an eligible student is pursuing. Generally, the eligible individual will be enrolled at the primary school for the majority of the program of education. Study Abroad Administrators might call this the home institution.
Program of Education	A combination of subjects, unit courses, or training activities pursued at a school or training establishment which is generally accepted as necessary to meet requirements for a predetermined education, professional, or vocational objective (diploma, degree, certificate, occupation). An "Approved program" is a course of study or program of training that the appropriate State Approving Agency has determined meets the legal requirements for payment of VA educational assistance benefits to eligible individuals.
RPO	Regional Processing Office
Tuition and Fees	<p>This term includes the total cost of tuition and fees that a school charges all students whose circumstances are similar to VA benefit- eligible individuals enrolled in the same course/degree. Typically this does not include books, supplies, or housing. These are mandatory fees such as lab fees, health premiums, graduation fees, first year fees, but do not include those charged for study abroad course(s) unless the course(s) is a mandatory requirement for the completion of approved program education (Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), 3323(c)).</p> <p>Maximum Tuition & Fee Reimbursement per Academic Year: Public School: All tuition and fee payments for an in-state student Private or Foreign School: Up to \$24,476.79 (2019 Academic Year) https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch33/ch33rates080119.asp</p>
WEAMS	Web Enabled Approval Management System - WEAMS is a central search database that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs uses to store all the institutions, programs, and yellow ribbons schools that have been approved for VA benefits and other functions. WEAMS is used to store VA and State

	<p>Approving Agency (SAA) approval information. That information may be entered by VA Central Office (VACO) personnel, Education Liaison Representatives (ELRs), Education Compliance Survey Specialists (ECSSs) and, in some instances, SAAs.</p> <p>https://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do</p>
Yellow Ribbon Program	<p>The Yellow Ribbon Program is an optional program schools can enter into to provide additional financial support for student veterans. This includes charging in-state tuition rates for non-residents, waiving some costs, or covering the costs above the national maximums for cost of attendance.</p>

Brief History of the Department of Veterans Affairs:

The **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** dates back to the earliest moments of U.S. history. In its earliest forms it provided pensions and other support to disabled soldiers. Through the years it added services like employment assistance, public health services, and housing for veterans. Post World War II, the VA introduced education into the mix with the **Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944**. This Act, known as the *GI Bill*®, grew in popularity and a later version, the **Montgomery GI Bill**® (*Chapter 30*) is credited by many to have helped build the U.S. middle class.

In 2008, and later in 2010, the **Post 9/11 GI Bill**® (*Chapter 33*) expanded the benefits and also allowed dependents to also use the educational assistance. Today, we see the **Forever GI Bill**® furthering the time that veterans have to use their funds, and also including additional pockets of veterans such as reservists who also served.

This year the VA is celebrating the **GI Bill**®'s **75th Anniversary!** Check out their site to hear veterans' stories: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/75th-anniversary.asp>

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

Thank you for joining us! If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to any of the presenters for assistance.

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