

For VT students: Please note:

The Linking Lives program honors **all** financial aid and scholarships a student would receive if the program was offered through VT and was VT faculty led. That is, VT students pay the same tuition to attend the Linking Lives program through Roanoke College as they would if the program was offered through VT.

Information about the financial aid and scholarship agreement between Virginia Tech and Roanoke College is included below.

1. **Virginia Prepaid plans** – This plan can be used to pay the Roanoke College tuition. It cannot be used to pay program fees.

Process: Roanoke College will certify enrollment because they charge tuition. If you have a 529 prepaid tuition plan, you apply during the start of the semester you plan to study abroad. You must contact your 529 organization and notify them of the student's change in enrollment for that one term only. RC will then certify enrollment at the end of the add/drop period and the 529 payment will come directly to RC, not VT.

2. **Veterans Benefits** – This plan can be used to pay the Roanoke College tuition.

Process: Like prepaid plans, RC certifies these benefits. You must provide RC with a copy of your certificate of eligibility. A RC official will certify enrollment, and the VA benefits will begin to flow. If their benefit provides tuition funds, those will go directly to RC. Housing allowances and book stipends will flow, as normal, directly to you.

3. **State funds** – You may not use State Grant funds (i.e., Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP) and Commonwealth Awards) for this program. These grants are specific to public institutions and Roanoke College is a private institution.

Process: If you currently receive state grant funds to attend VT, these funds cannot be used to participate in the Linking Lives study abroad program. Since VT does not charge tuition for the Linking Lives program, you are not eligible for your state grant. *Please contact Lizzie Campbell (ecampbell120@vt.edu) ASAP if you receive state aid.*

4. **VT Institutional Support** – Most VT scholarships may not be used for this program.

Process: Almost all VT scholarships may not be used for this program. If you receive a scholarship from an academic department or college, you should speak directly with that college regarding your eligibility to keep that scholarship while participating in the Linking Lives program. Scholarships awarded by University Scholarships and Financial Aid cannot be used for this trip. If you have questions about your scholarships, please contact University Scholarships and Financial Aid at 540-231-5179 or finaid@vt.edu.

5. **Federal Financial Aid** – These funds may be available for use during your participation in the program. To be eligible for federal financial aid, including student and parent loans, the courses you take in the Linking Lives program must transfer back to Virginia Tech **and** count toward your graduation requirements.

Process: You will need to complete the Certification of Progress Toward Graduation Requirements form to ensure that the Linking Lives courses count toward your graduation requirements. Once that is completed, federal aid will be processed and adjusted (if applicable, based on the number of credits counting toward graduation requirements). Federal aid will be disbursed into your Hokie account once the verification of enrollment has been received by Virginia Tech. Once you receive your refund from Virginia Tech, you may use that money to pay Roanoke College tuition.

6. **Private Financial Aid** – These funds are available for use.

Process: You will need to complete the Certification of Progress Toward Graduation Requirements form to ensure that the Linking Lives courses count toward your graduation requirements. Once that is completed, private financial aid will be processed and adjusted (if applicable, based on the number of credits counting toward graduation requirements). Once you receive your refund from Virginia Tech, you may use that money to pay Roanoke College tuition.

7. **Payment Plans** – Roanoke College offers 5-month or 4-month tuition payment plans through Nelnet.

Process: The payment plan should be set-up in student's name with parents as authorized payers, as desired. This is the [webpage](#) to Nelnet's information and enrollment.

Please contact Dr. David Brinberg (brinberg@roanoke.edu) or Lizzie Campbell (ecampbell120@vt.edu) if you have any questions.