GSPM’s Global Perspective Residencies: Logistics behind Group Purchasing

GSPM understands that financing your education can be stressful and challenging.

With this in mind, we want to provide for you a clear picture of where your **GPR Group Expenses** is going – and why.

If you recall from GSPM's Global Perspective Residencies: Where's My Money Going?, the **GPR Group Expenses** funds charged to you cover arrangements made by GSPM on behalf of you – the student.

Please note that GSPM doesn’t charge you anything over what it costs to have you take a three-credit (or, for “Advocating in the East Asian Capitals,” six-credit) course at GW and pay for your group expenses abroad.

What’s included in your **GPR Group Expenses** varies based on the residency location but often comprises the following, from most to least expensive:

1. **Lodging during the programming.** This is generally $100-$150/night, at the best negotiated group deal we can achieve through GW’s travel system. The goal is to get every student a single-occupancy room.

2. **In-country (that is, in the residency location) group transportation and activities during the programming, possibly including public transportation, taxis, hired buses, intra-country and intra-continental flights, group cultural events and tours, etc.** This amounts to approximately $50-$100/day, at the best negotiated group rate we can achieve through GW’s travel system.

3. **Several group meals (daily breakfast and a few lunches and dinners) during the week’s programming.** This is approximately $60/day but is most heavily weighted on either end of the programming, with two special celebratory dinners at landmark in-country locations.

4. **GW-mandated (required for study abroad by GW) health, safety and emergency evaluation insurance.** This is currently $1/day, minimum $17.50. This allows GSPM to ensure there is group coverage for accidents, sickness, medical conditions, medical evacuation, political or natural disaster evacuation, and repatriation services.

The total **GPR Group Expenses** charged to your GW account is typically $1,500-$2,000, location- and year/time-dependent. This current estimate is subject to change.

**Why this price tag?**

GPRs are jam-packed to ensure you reap the full benefits of the course and your international travel. For this reason, we have very tight, specific windows of time for group transportation within the residency location.

When purchasing group airline tickets for a class traveling between Seoul and Beijing, for example, GSPM staff must consider
• the specific window of time in which the class must depart and arrive to the destination;
• which flights have enough seats to hold the entire group at the lowest price (note: airlines often only offer a few seats at each of the different published fares);
• which airlines have relationships with GW through required booking agent Travel Leaders; and
• if cancellation insurance can be added at a reasonable price.

In general, much of the same criteria apply to lodging and group meals.

Until GSPM has a fully committed and deposit-paid class, bookings cannot be made, rates cannot be guaranteed, and students face higher price tags for later-than-ideal purchases. This is, in part, why it is so important to respond to GSPM emails on time. The sooner staff hears from everyone, the sooner booking can occur.

We know this is a lot to take in. Please check out our FAQs and our website more GSPM Global Perspective Residency information. Thank you for your interest, and hope to see you abroad!