

Preparing to Study Away

November 2016

Questions

- What are you most excited about?
- What are you most anxious about?
- What is it going to be like to be away from campus?
- If you are going abroad, what will it be like to be outside the U.S. at this time?

Study Away Goals

- What were the goals you had when you first applied to study away?
- What do you want to have accomplished by the end of the semester?
- Academic goals
- Personal goals

Dealing with stereotypes abroad

- Knowing the history and culture of a country is an ideal starting place. Next is knowing what that country is like today. Research current events and trends to understand how that history has shaped current attitudes or politics of the people. Some countries make international headlines because of the setbacks or progress made with regards to the changing landscape of what the people want or demand. Think about current issues such as gay rights in Russia, or the Arab Spring. It's important to understand the state of affairs where you'll be living. That way, you can be much more mindful of how you are perceived, and therefore possibly treated. (from Diversity Abroad website)

Know before you go

- Read pre-departure online information carefully
- Studentsabroad.com, guidebooks, online resources
- Ask yourself: Does it matter that your cultural background, race, religion, skin color, disability, sex, or sexual orientation, etc. may place you in the minority or the majority in countries to which you will be traveling?

Know before you go

- [LGBTQ Information](#)
- [Diversity Abroad](#)
- [Mobility International](#)

Important Academic Considerations

- Courses transfer, grades do not. Must earn grade of C- or better for course to transfer.
- Courses will not meet curriculum exploration divisional requirements but may count toward major or minor requirements with departmental OK.

Course Selection and Registration While Abroad

- Must be registered as full time student as defined by your program. ALOA will allow for the equivalent of 4 full courses or up to 16 credits transferring back to Oberlin.

Important Academic Considerations

- Understand and follow the policies of the university and/or program in regards to attendance and submission of work.
- Your ALOA semester will not count against the post-matriculation transfer credit limit of three (3) courses.

Important Academic Considerations

- Your ALOA semester will count as only one (1) of your required three (3) Cultural Diversity courses if you are on an international program or on the Border Studies program.
- If you want to participate in internships, a practicum, or independent research for credit, please make sure you have preliminary approval.

Health

- The most likely health emergencies you will face away are:
 - Manifestation of a previously unknown pre-existing condition
 - Wrong place wrong time accident/injury
 - Preventable accident or injury (crime, sports, roads, or water)
 - Accident or injury related to alcohol consumption
 - Inability to manage a pre-existing health condition, despite best efforts
 - Failure to disclose serious pre-existing condition and now facing medical crisis

Conduct and Safety Abroad

- Top Ten List
- Knowledge of and respect for cultural norms
- www.studentsabroad.com

Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

- Community members who are studying or working away from campus on an approved academic or work assignment are protected by Oberlin's sexual misconduct policy. It is important to keep in mind that the laws of other countries, reporting options, and support resources may differ from those of the United States. If you are away from campus and need assistance, please contact Rebecca Mosely, interim Title IX coordinator, who will coordinate a support response with Ellen Sayles, associate dean of studies and director of international studies. You may also report online now.
- Referrals for medical care may be obtained through the study abroad program staff, or the appropriate travel health insurance carrier. United States citizens can also contact the nearest United States embassy or consulate (www.usembassy.gov) or call American Citizen Services

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- It is your responsibility to prepare yourself for your experience away.
 - Read and carefully consider all materials issued by the program.
 - Consider your physical and mental health and make available to the program accurate and complete physical and mental health information and any other necessary personal data.
 - Obtain and maintain appropriate insurance coverage and abide by any conditions imposed by the carriers.
 - Understand and comply with the terms of participation, codes of conduct, and emergency procedures of the program.

- Be aware of local conditions and customs that may present health or safety risks. Promptly express any health or safety concerns to the program staff.
- Obey host-country laws.
- Behave in a manner that is respectful of the rights and well-being of others, and encourage others to behave in a similar manner.
- Avoid illegal drugs and excessive or irresponsible consumption of alcohol.
- Follow the program policies for keeping program staff informed of their whereabouts and well-being.
- Become familiar with the procedures for obtaining emergency health and legal system services in the host county.

To Finalize Your Semester

- **As soon as possible:**
 - Consortium Agreement – for students receiving merit or need-based financial aid or loans
- **Make sure to follow instructions from your study away program for housing, course registration, visas, etc.**

Final Steps

- **Travel Documents - passports and visas**
 - www.travel.state.gov
 - www.visahq.com, travisa.com
- **Tickets**
- **Insurance**
- **Communication – cell phone, Skype, Viber, WhatsApp, etc.**
- **Vaccinations if necessary**
- **How will you deal with money while abroad?**

Returning To Campus

- Extending your leave – must request no later than March 15
- Registration
- Housing
- Mailing Address
- Email

Useful Web Resources

- new.oberlin.edu/office/study-away – See Health and Safety link under the Planning Your Departure section
- studentsabroad.com
- travel.state.gov
- studentsabroad.state.gov
- cdc.gov – Center for Disease Control
- goabroad.com
- WHO.org – World Health Organization
- internationalvaccines.com
- skype.com
- visahq.com