



STUDY ABROAD TIPS

from students, for students

MONEY

- Keep track of your spending
 - Use a budget journal
 - Try an app like Trail Wallet or Mint
- Changing currency
 - The airport charges extra; exchange your money elsewhere!
- Ask for student discounts
 - This can apply for transportation, tourist attractions, etc.
 - Your abroad institution might have a student discount card or information about where discounts apply
- Debit/credit card
 - Before you go, make sure you have a card that can be used internationally and check with your provider for any “unlocking” steps, etc.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- Apply for your visa and passport far in advance — aim for at least 3 months
- Always have your visa and passport on hand to avoid any complications that may occur
- Scan all of your important documents
 - Keep these scanned copies in a secure location in your residence
 - This includes your visa, passport, medical records, return flight details, and university letter of acceptance

STAYING CONNECTED


- Get a VPN to bypass Geo-locked content
- Use WhatsApp to call and text, especially internationally
- It's okay to not text home everyday; focus on making the most of your experience, your family and friends will understand



IMMERSE YOURSELF

- Research local customs and norms
- Immerse yourself in the environment and step outside of your comfort zone
- Avoid international food chains, eat at local restaurants and cafes
- Language barriers
 - Keep a pocket book or notes page on your phone with key phrases that you'll encounter
 - Download an app that can help you translate on the go (eg. Google Translate, WordReference, SpanishDict)
 - It's better to try to speak the language and make mistakes than to assume that everyone knows English
- Learn local transportation
 - You can ask your program or the international office at your abroad institution for tips
 - Pick up a local transit guide
 - Get a bus or subway pass
 - Find the cheap transportation — don't get scammed by tourist traps or pay for taxis

TRAVEL TIPS

- Never travel alone
 - It is always safer to have a friend with you
 - If you must travel alone, do so only for short distances (to the grocery store, to/from classes, etc.)
 - Take a lot of photos!
 - This may seem touristy, but you will definitely look back on the pictures in the future
 - Make a list of the places/things you want to see most
 - Plan ahead but also be open to spontaneity
 - Look into spending some extra time abroad after your program is finished
 - Look for travel options other than flying
 - Try the Omio App to compare modes of transportation
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PACKING

- Clothing
 - Research the typical climate of your abroad region during the time periods you will be there
 - Bring clothes that can layer easily, do not require ironing, can be hang-dried, and are comfortable and durable
 - Look into cultural norms of dress and what might be considered offensive or lucky
- Bring an electronic adaptor and universal outlet plug
- Don't overpack! You will want space in your bag to bring souvenirs home

MISCELLANEOUS TIPS

- Be polite! Always say please and thank you (and learn them in the local language)
- Souvenirs
 - Plan out who you want to buy souvenirs for (it doesn't have to be everyone you know)
 - Purchase as you go rather than all at the end
 - Avoid buying airport souvenirs, they are often overpriced
 - If you can, buy from local artisans rather than big souvenir stores
- Academics still matter!
 - It's super important to have fun and experience the area you're in, just make sure you leave time to do your homework and study.
- Don't overdo it on the alcohol
 - While you can legally drink in other nations, alcohol can be expensive
 - You also don't want to have to navigate the hospital system
 - You'll want to remember your nights out without blackouts or hangovers!
- Avoid setting high expectations
 - Let your experience guide you with what it has to offer rather than what you believe is there for you

MOST IMPORTANTLY... HAVE FUN!