

How to Prepare For Your Study Abroad Program

YOU GOT ACCEPTED INTO YOUR PROGRAM! WHAT'S NEXT?

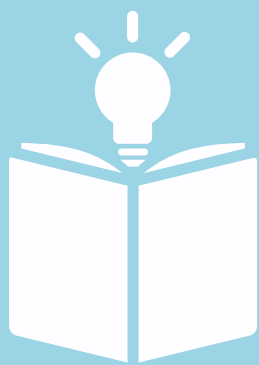


GATHER FORMS & DOCUMENTS

Make sure to get your passport, visa (if applicable), and other documents by the requested date of your program. Try not to delay since passports and visas can take weeks to process.

PLAN YOUR FINANCES

Create a monthly or weekly budget plan that will help you stay organized and save money. Some important things to consider when budgeting are food, rent (if applicable), and transportation. Consider getting a travel credit card to avoid costly foreign transaction fees. When traveling, it is also good to always carry some cash.



RESEARCH YOUR COUNTRY'S CUSTOMS, LANGUAGE, CULTURE

Do some research to familiarize yourself with your study abroad country. Whether it be following a custom or learning a few phrases, it will help with your adjustment and make your experience more meaningful. You can also listen to music, watch movies, or talk with a returnee from that country.

PLAN YOUR TRAVEL ITINERARY (OPTIONAL)

It is suggested to plan your travel itinerary as early as you can. This can help save you money by buying flights and accommodation while they're cheaper. However, it is up to the student as they may prefer to be spontaneous and not have to commit to their plans.



START PACKING

The earlier you start packing, the better! It is recommended to pack light as you will most likely be buying more clothes, souvenirs, and other things while abroad. Be sure to pack clothes accordingly to your country's climate. Other useful things we recommend you pack are: universal adapter, luggage locks, fanny pack.

PREPARE YOURSELF MENTALLY

Most importantly, prepare yourself for the journey ahead – the things you'll learn, the people you'll meet, the places you'll see, and so much more. Be prepared to step outside of your comfort zone and experience many things for the first time. In addition, you may want to build a strong support system by keeping in touch with friends and family who will help you overcome the challenges of living away from home.

