

Check list #2 for Parents of Study Abroad Participants

These are suggestions about what you and your student can do to finalize preparations for a safe and productive study abroad experience.

Bank and Credit Card companies

- Notify bank(s) of the fact your student will be abroad. Be as specific as possible regarding dates and locations of travel. Encourage your student to contact the bank(s) with updates as travel plans change.
- If possible, request a small amount of the host country's currency from your bank so that your student can have some on hand immediately upon arrival.

Documentation

- Make multiple photocopies of passport information page and visa, if relevant. Keep one copy in the U.S. with parents, one or more copies in safe place abroad but separate from the original document.
- Photocopy of front and back of all credit and debit cards. Keep one copy in the U.S. with parents, one or more copies in safe place abroad but separate from the original document.
- Record numbers of travelers checks, if your student is using them. Make sure you and your student have the emergency telephone numbers available if checks are lost or stolen. Keep the list separate from the travelers checks and update it as checks are used.
- Make sure you and your student know the location of important travel documents such as passport, tickets, and letters of admission or financial guarantee (if applicable). When packing, these should all be in a student's carry-on baggage rather than checked luggage.

Miscellaneous

- Confirm flight information at least a week before traveling. Make sure you and your student are aware of luggage size and weight limits of the airline, as well as limits on carry-on baggage.
- Communicate arrival information to program staff, if requested.
- Develop a communication plan with your student. This can outline how and within what timeframe you expect to be contacted when your student arrives in the host country, or if there is an incident of any sort (natural disaster, political unrest, act of terrorism, train/bus/plan crash) that may affect your student in the host country or while traveling. It is also prudent to make a similar plan should anything happen in the U.S. Provide your student with contact information for family or friends outside of your hometown in case he or she is unable to reach you at home or via cell phone.
- Talk to your student about the importance of responsible behavior abroad, particularly in areas such as alcohol consumption, sexual behavior, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. It is particularly important that students who regularly use prescription medication to manage a chronic condition continue using it.