

CGC Resources for Study Abroad/Away:

Centre believes that all students should have the opportunity to pursue a study abroad experience. We are also aware of the challenges that many diverse and underrepresented groups of students may face when considering education abroad. Such challenges include limited finances, minimum support, and discrimination.

The Center for Global Citizenship would like to help you, Centre students, to meet these challenges by providing some resources to help you navigate and prepare for your study abroad program(s). The CGC strives to mirror the values expressed in the College's "Statement of Diversity" and "Statement of Community."

Centre statement of diversity:

As the body entrusted with the overall governance and stewardship of Centre College, the Board of Trustees pledges continuing efforts to build and strengthen a community enriched by the differences of its members and founded upon our common humanity. We also affirm that the values of diversity and inclusion are critical to the fulfillment of the mission of higher education in general, and Centre College in particular. To that end, we welcome into the Centre community individuals of different backgrounds, viewpoints, races, faith traditions, nationalities, sexual orientations, and experiences. These differences enrich our search for truth, our understanding of our fellow human beings, and make each of us more effective leaders and actors in this world. Because Centre honors the American ideals of access and social mobility through education, we are committed to not only welcoming into the Centre community persons who have traditionally been underrepresented, but also fostering their full participation in the community. Further, we are dedicated to creating a college community known for its honesty, strength, compassion, and commitment to the greater good.

Centre statement of community:

We pledge continuing efforts to build and strengthen a community enriched by our differences and founded upon our common humanity. Centre respects the right of all members of the community to express their individuality in a manner that is consistent with the dignity and welfare of others. Centre strives to create an environment where differences are celebrated rather than discouraged, where individuals have the opportunity to exchange ideas and share in the richness of mutual experience. By valuing the individual's total character over any single characteristic, Centre will maintain its unique community.

General Resources

- [Students Abroad](#)
- [Students Traveling to Europe](#)
- [NAFSA Resources for Supporting Diversity and Inclusion Abroad](#) ●
[Diversity Abroad](#)
- For more videos and resources, we recommend checking out [Diversity Abroad's YouTube page](#)

International Students Studying Abroad/Away

As an international student and F-1 visa holder, you already have a valuable set of intercultural and adaptation skills that set you up for success in a study-abroad/away program. International students at Centre can and do study abroad in a wide variety of countries! As part of the planning process, you should make sure that you understand all entry requirements to your intended study abroad destination. This also applies to any countries outside of the program that you may wish to visit while abroad. To maintain your F-1 status, you must be enrolled full-time in the program you attend outside the US (for Centre-term this is 3+ credits and for long semesters this is 12+ credits).

There are additional considerations to studying abroad/away while you are a F-1 visa holder, for advice please contact Assistant Director of the CGC/ International Student Services jessica.leonard@centre.edu. Additional help may be found in the link below: ● [CentreNet page for International Students](#) ● [DHS Study in the States May I Study Abroad?](#)

LGBTI Travelers Abroad

It is imperative to understand the local laws and attitudes in your destination regarding LGBTI identities. Some countries are more accepting legally and culturally than the US. Other countries provide little rights or protection to the LGBTI community. For more information on rights and legal protection please consult the U.S. Department of State's [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices](#) and the [Outright Action International](#).

Some Important Questions for LGBTI Students to Consider:

- Do I plan to be out as LGBTI while I am away?
- Is it safe for me to be out in my host country and city?
- Is homosexuality legal in my host country?
- Is identifying as LGBTI culturally acceptable in my host culture?
- Are there LGBTI organizations at my host university or in my host city?
- Do I have concerns about my housing situation?

The [Rainbow Specific Interest Group](#) of NAFSA: Association of International Educators provides resources on their website for LGBTQ students to help answer these and other questions. Please contact us in the CGC if you have any questions or need help. The following links and sources also may be helpful:

- [LGBTI Travelers Abroad](#)
- [State Department LGBTI Travelers](#)

Gender and Studying Abroad

Gender roles differ from country to country and even within a country. It is important for you to consider how you identify and how that resonates in your destination. This is important for both men and women and is especially important if you identify as transgender or genderqueer. Your gender may affect how and with whom you are able to interact, how others perceive you, what you can wear, and where you can go. It may afford you greater or lesser privilege than you enjoy in the U.S. There may also be differences in how locals are treated based on gender and how foreigners are treated based on gender. Please consult your program director for more guidance.

Some women from the U.S. are surprised by greater levels of equality of women and men in certain countries. Others struggle to integrate in a culture where women are expected to assume more traditional roles in the home. Men from the U.S. may be uncomfortable if they enjoy certain privileges in the host culture which women on their program do not. Please talk about any concerns you have with your program director.

Some important questions to consider about gender:

- What are the dominant attitudes and perceptions about my gender in my host culture?
- Will there be new or different expectations of me based on my gender?
- What are the cultural norms about appropriate dress for my gender?
- Are there any specific safety issues related to gender in my host culture?
- Are housing and facilities genderqueer and transgender-friendly?

In addition to researching information ahead of time, it is important to speak with and take cues from your local counterparts in the host culture. Observe and follow their behavior and dress when appropriate. Please contact the program director for recommendations on what to wear while abroad and recommendations for behavior.

- [Women Abroad](#)
- [State Department: Women Travelers](#)

Travelers with Disabilities Abroad

Students with disabilities are encouraged to disclose their disabilities early in the process of planning for study-abroad or study-away. This will allow students to explore program accommodations and allows the CGC to help you in this journey to help you have the best experience possible.

It is important to remember that the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) and [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act](#) are not enforced outside of the United States. It is the student's responsibility to disclose any disability that requires accommodation and to make plans for their needs.

If a student chooses to not disclose disability-related needs prior to arrival at their host institution, it may not be feasible to plan for accommodations requested too close to the departure date or once on site. Visit the following links and sources for more information.

- [Mobility International USA \(MIUSA\) – Americans Going Abroad](#)
- [Mobility International USA \(MIUSA\) – Resources and Stories](#)
- [State Department Travelers with Special Considerations](#)
- [Students with Disabilities Abroad](#)

Religious Travelers Abroad

Countries all over the world have varying belief systems and expectations of religion. The religious practices and beliefs of your host culture may not be the same as your religious views. You should research the religion of your host culture and whether your faith is practiced in that region. You should also know how the culture of your destination treats those of your religion.

Some important questions to consider regarding religion:

- Do I plan to practice my religion abroad?
- Is my religion legal in my host country or city?
- Is my religion culturally acceptable in my host country or city?

- What religion or religions are the most prevalent in my host country or city?
- Are there organizations for my religion in my host university or city?
- Do I have concerns about my religion abroad?

If you are religious or actively practice a religion, you should consider getting involved with the host culture's local resources. This is a great way to keep practicing and to meet new people. The [Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life](#) is a great resource for discussing your religious beliefs. The following links and sources may be helpful:

- [Religious Diversity Abroad](#)
- [State department on Religious Based Travelers](#)

Underrepresented Students Studying Abroad

No matter your identity, students will be entering a culture very different than their own. Therefore, each student should research and prepare, mentally for the attitudes on race and ethnicity in the country they are traveling to. International students who study away will have added layers to their identity to consider. They should also consult the international students tab.

Some important questions for students to consider:

- With what groups do I identify?
- How are these groups viewed where I am traveling to?
- What are the dominant racial and ethnic groups within this culture?
- What is the history of this culture regarding race and ethnicity?
- How might the different dimensions of my identity interact with this culture?

In order to prepare, students should consult the historical information on the culture as well as the U.S. Department of State's [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices](#) for an overview of attitudes in different countries. Students may also find the following links and sources helpful:

- [Diversity and Inclusion Abroad Guide](#)
- [NAFSA Diversity and Inclusion Abroad](#)
- [Studying Abroad As A Minority](#)
- [All Abroad US](#)

First Generation Travelers Abroad

At the CGC we understand each student has a different background travel and college experience.. Some families may hesitate to encourage their students to study abroad because of their lack of experience. We recommend making sure you are prepared by learning about your destination, planning for expenses, finding support, and seeking out opportunities tested by other students within your budget. For more information follow the links below.

- [First Generation Student Traveling Abroad](#)
- [Resources and Testimonials to Read](#) For saving money while abroad:
- If you plan ahead, there may be scholarships available for your abroad program. Watch for emails from the CGC about scholarship deadlines and reach out to Assistant Director of the CGC karen.ryan@centre.edu or Director of the CGC lori.hartmann@centre.edu for more information.

- Make sure you factor in your passport and, if necessary, visa fees. If you are a first-year student please attend the passport fair so Centre can cover this fee for you!
- Bring your student ID to get discounts when you're abroad.
- Some locations might require using public transportation to get to and from class—check with your Program Coordinator about how much you can expect to spend on local transportation.

The Centre for Global Citizenship is committed to a diverse and inclusive study abroad/away program. To learn more about the opportunities and supportive resources the CGC provides contact karen.ryan@centre.edu and lori.hartmann@centre.edu.