2018-2019 Study Abroad Student Handbook
Florida A&M University College of Law

This Study Abroad Handbook supersedes all preceding Handbooks and any other documents or provisions relating to provisions contained within unless specifically authorized or exempted by the Dean of the College of Law.

All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the guidelines and regulations contained in this Study Abroad Handbook.

June 2018
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INTRODUCTION

This Study Abroad Student Handbook contains the rules, regulations, and academic policies that govern students at the Florida A&M University College of Law. This Study Abroad Handbook (“Handbook”) is not intended to replace the College of Law Student Handbook. This handbook is designed to assist prospective study abroad students in navigating the Florida A&M University study abroad process. Specifically, this is an attempt to compile all the relevant information on study abroad found in various documents and websites.

There are many people involved in the study abroad programs at the College of Law as well as at the University. While the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will coordinate these programs, students will still have to contact a number of departments to finalize the study abroad program that they are interested in. Moreover, all students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the guidelines and regulations contained in this Study Abroad Handbook, University rules and ABA rules governing study abroad programs.
DISCLAIMER

The provisions of this Student Handbook do not constitute a contract, expressed or implied, between any applicant, student, or faculty member and Florida A&M University or the State University System. Florida A&M University and the State Department of Education reserve the right to withdraw courses at any time, to change fees, calendars, curricula, graduation procedures, and any other requirements affecting students. Changes will become effective whenever the proper authorities so determine and will apply both to prospective students and to those already enrolled.

While every effort is made to assure accurate and up-to-date information, the College of Law and the Florida A&M University do not assume responsibility for any misrepresentation which might arise through error in the preparation of this or any other of its catalogues, or through failure to give notice of changes in its requirements, policies, tuition and fees, course offerings, and other matters affecting students or applicants.
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WELCOME TO THE STUDY ABROAD PROCESS

Congratulations on your decision to study abroad! This will, almost inevitably, prove to be one of the most educational and memorable experiences of your life. Before deciding to partake in a study abroad program, you should ask yourself why you are interested in studying abroad. How will it enhance your academic and career goals? Which country would you like to visit? What area of law would you like to study?

The decision to study abroad must be made carefully because of the various time, financial, health, psychological and institutional implications on you and your academic career. For example, does it foster your career goals, did you know you should undergo a comprehensive health examination before studying abroad, and are you still on track to meet individual requirements for graduation. Housing and living standards will also be different. You cannot assume or even expect the environment or living arrangements to be the same as they are at Florida A&M University College of Law or in Florida.

Study Abroad isn’t for everyone. There are other options for students who cannot spend a summer abroad. Some students may obtain international experience by participating in international-orientated international law internships in the US and abroad.

As with all changes and challenges in law school, careful and thorough preparation is key to success. This handbook has been designed to help you achieve a smooth transition to the program of your choice, so you can confidently handle any difficulties you may encounter along the way. Please take the time to read this handbook.
STUDY ABROAD EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to the American Bar Association “Criteria for Accepting Credit for Student Study at a Foreign Institution”, the Florida A&M University College of Law publishes this statement defining the educational objectives that the law school seeks to achieve in allowing students to study abroad for credit towards the J.D. degree.

Studying abroad is designed to provide an opportunity for students to be exposed to other legal systems and cultures, given the growing internationalization of law practice in the United States. Participating in a study abroad program allows students to become more comfortable with other cultures and languages, and gain an understanding of how our view of the law may differ from that of our global neighbors. Students gain skills to represent clients from different cultures and countries and enhance their ability to communicate across cultures. Studying abroad will provide students with a broader legal perspective that will promote their ability to meet the legal needs of a diverse mix of clients.
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBILITY

The American Bar Association sets out standards designed to provide assurance of a sound educational experience in a study abroad program sponsored by an ABA-approved law school. The following rules are in accordance with these standards and are required:

(1) Student must be admitted to the J.D. degree program at FAMU College of Law for the term

(2) Student must have completed at least one year of full-time or part-time study.

(3) Student must be in good standing, as determined by the FAMU College of Law at the time of application.

(4) The maximum credits applicable toward the J.D. degree for all study as a visiting student shall not exceed one-third of the credits required for the J.D. degree at the FAMU College of Law (30 credits). Student credits from foreign study count against this maximum.

(5) Student must be proficient in the language of instruction of the foreign institution. Even though most courses for ABA-approved study abroad programs are taught in English, if you are applying for a program in which you have no prior knowledge of host country’s language, it may be to your benefit to enroll in a beginner language class prior to going abroad.

POINTS OF IMPORTANCE

(1) The College of Law strongly recommends that all students have a minimum GPA a 2.5 cumulative grade point average at FAMU COL before requesting permission to participate in a study abroad program.

(2) Students must also meet the requirements established by the sponsoring program or the foreign host institution. Students are urged to apply early to allow time to assure compliance with guidelines or to apply for financial aid and scholarships.

(3) Apply early. Completed application materials, accompanied by a required program enrollment fee, must be submitted by the stated program deadline. Deposit deadlines for study abroad programs may vary according to the host institution, but are generally posted for early February for summer programs, early May for fall programs, and early November for Spring programs.

(4) All students will be registered by the Office of the Registrar for the courses listed in the General Study Abroad Criteria. No exceptions will be made. Registration and final billing will be based on the information provided on the Course Approval Form.

(5) If you are a member of a journal at the College of Law and wish to study abroad during a semester while continuing to work on the journal, please contact your faculty advisor for instructional implications.

(6) We strongly discourage you from studying abroad in the final semester of the College of Law as this could lead to delays and possibly missing graduation and deadlines.
STARTING THE STUDY ABROAD PROCESS

CHECKLIST

1) **Identify the country in which you would like to study** at least a semester in advance of the summer of study abroad.
   - Please consult the website [ABA Foreign Study Programs](#) which provides a listing of ABA-approved programs.
   - Review each program for the coursework that fosters your interest and career goals.
   - Read books and articles about the country in which you will study.

2) **Obtain a U.S. Passport** three months in advance.

3) **Make an appointment** with faculty advisor, career mentor or the dean for academic affairs to explore selected programs for study.

4) **Complete all required documents.** Submit the following materials to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Nicky Boothe-Perry:
   - The FAMU College of Law Application for Permission to Receive Credit for Studying Abroad;
   - The International Travel Participation Agreement;
   - Statement of Voluntary Medical Authorization and Consent;
   - A letter of Good Standing with GPA from the FAMU COL Office of the Registrar;
   - College of Law Transient Student Form; (please include)
     - Program and course description for the study abroad program that you wish to attend;
     - and
     - A copy of resume.

5) After you are approved by the Associate for Academic Affairs to study abroad, **send the application for the study abroad program** that you have selected to the institution prior to the deadline.
   - Please note that the host institution has its own application process
   - Ensure that you explore and adhere to all of the procedures and requirements for admission and participation in the host university’s study abroad program. Permission to receive credit for studying abroad from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs does not guarantee admission into another law schools study abroad program.

6) Upon acceptance, **complete all applicable forms in Financial Aid Guide for Summer Abroad and Consortium Students** if you intend to use financial aid to finance your study abroad program.
   - If financial assistance is needed, apply for aid prior to the beginning of the academic year in which you will study.
   - Please schedule a meeting with the Associate Director of Financial Aid to discuss the intricacies of “study abroad” financial.
   - Begin the process early. Contact the host school and be vigilant about being the keeping track of your financial aid paperwork.

7) Only **purchase a plane ticket** after receiving permission to study abroad by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and obtaining admission into the desired study abroad program.

8) **Check on necessary inoculations and immunizations.** Countries may require proof of certain inoculations and/or immunizations, or health status before permitting entry.
9) **Purchase International Health Insurance** that includes an emergency evacuation component.

10) **Appoint power of attorney.** A person you trust with temporary Power of Attorney may be needed to assist with banking transactions, financial aid, loans and financial emergencies.

11) **Evaluate your Banking Needs.** Access to money will be important. Check whether banks or credit unions offer special services to accommodate banking needs while you are out of the country.

12) **Make list of emergency contacts** to keep on you at all times. Also provide a copy to people in the United States and at your host institution.
PREPARING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY

This sections of the handbook will provide information and discuss important issues about the study abroad experience including the following topics:

1. Travel documents (passport, visa, etc.)
2. Travel arrangements (international transportation, etc.)
3. Housing information (living arrangements, roommates, etc.)
4. Health and safety issues (what to do, what not to do)
5. Financial matters (payments schedules, financial aid, etc.)
6. Communication with family and friends (how to establish, etc.)
7. Host culture information (history, customs, laws, politics, etc.)
8. Knowledge of foreign perception of home culture.

Students are encouraged to visit the U.S. Department of State website ([The State Department](http://www.state.gov)) to obtain country-specific health and safety information. They should obtain a hard copy of this information for themselves and for the Director of the Center for International Law and Justice (CILJ). While visiting the State Department website, students should also determine whether immunizations are required as a condition for entry into the country in which they will be studying.

Ensuring a student’s health and safety abroad involves collaboration among students, parents/guardians, and International Programs staff. The Director of the Center for International Law and Justice (CILJ) follows the "Health and Safety Guidelines for Study Abroad" recommended by the Association of International Educators (NASFA) and practices the following:

1. We monitor United States Department of State [Travel Advisories](http://travel.state.gov) regarding the health and safety conditions at FAMU-study abroad program sites and in other programs in which FAMU students are enrolled. We will not approve students to study abroad in a location where there is political unrest, threat of terrorism or war.
2. We provide health and safety information so that students can make informed decisions concerning study abroad.
3. We provide orientation information to participants, including information on how to deal with health and safety issues, potential risks, and appropriate emergency responses.
4. **We require that students studying abroad obtain international insurance that covers emergency evacuation and repatriation.** We require participants to carry sufficient [medical insurance for illness or accidental injury occurring while overseas](http://www.state.gov). We conduct appropriate inquiries regarding available medical services and provide information to help participants obtain the services they may need.
5. We communicate applicable codes of conduct and the consequences of noncompliance to participants. We take appropriate action when aware that students are in violation.
6. In cases of serious health problems, injury, or other significant health and safety incidents, we maintain good communication among all program sponsors, FAMU program coordinators and others who need to be informed.
7. We require study abroad students to participate in on-site orientation sessions in the host countries prior to beginning study. These sessions provide valuable information on local health services, codes of law, and guidelines for dealing with emergencies and natural disasters such as tropical storms, floods and earthquakes.
HEALTH

Planning for Health Overseas

Your health and safety during your study abroad experience will depend on the choices you make and precautions that you take prior, during, and following your time overseas. However, there are no guarantees or absolutes with regard to health and safety in any setting, especially a foreign country. Before you depart, please make sure that you are in good health, obtain any immunizations that are required and learn as much as you can about the health and safety conditions in your host country. Many study abroad program sponsors will require you to submit medical clearances or other forms about your physical and mental health. You will also be asked to show proof of health and accident insurance or to purchase a special policy that covers these areas overseas. More discussion of these topics will be a part of your on-site orientation.

We highly recommend that you have a physical and dental exam before going abroad, especially if you will be in a country with an inadequate health care system. Please consult with your health care professionals about any general health precautions you should take.

If you have an ongoing medical problem, such as allergies or diabetes, you need to take special precautions in preparing for and managing your condition overseas. How will the stresses of the environment and the study abroad experience impact your health? If you have a disability, how will your needs be met?

If you take prescription medications, bring a supply to last throughout your time abroad. Foreign drugs may not necessarily be tested under the same standards as drugs in the United States, even if they have the same chemical formula. They may be marketed under different names and may not be available in the strengths you desire. It would be wise to have a letter from your home physician or pharmacist describing your medicines, their dosage, a generic name for them and the condition being treated. This letter could be helpful in an emergency.

Make certain all drugs are in the original pharmacy containers and are clearly labeled. You should carry copies of the prescriptions to avoid problems with U.S. Customs and other customs agencies. In the case of narcotic medicines, it may not be prudent to carry additional supplies because of possible Customs difficulties. In that case, bring a prescription with the drug's generic name.

If you are diabetic or have another medical condition in which a syringe is needed to administer medication, bring a supply of disposable syringes. These are not available in all countries and it is imperative that you protect yourself against HIV, hepatitis, and other communicable diseases. Even if you do not routinely inject medication, it is a good idea to bring a few disposable syringes if you will be studying in a country where they are not available, in the event that you need an injection. Some countries, however, restrict the importation of syringes -- as well as certain medications and contraceptives. Before departure, find out if this applies to your host country.

It is a good idea to bring a copy of your medical and dental records with you. If you have any ongoing medical or dental problems, bring a letter from your doctor or dentist explaining how they are being treated. Don't forget the telephone and fax numbers of your doctor and dentist, in the event you need to contact them.

For certain conditions such as diabetes, asthma, mild epilepsy, or allergy to penicillin, it would be wise to wear a tag or a bracelet or carry a card to identify the condition so that in the event of an emergency you can be treated properly. Take an extra pair of eyeglasses and/or contact lenses if you wear them. Bring
along extra contact lens solution as well. Do not pack all of your medications in your checked luggage. Pack some of them in your carry on so that in the event your luggage is lost you have a ready supply.

**World and Regional Health Conditions**

Some health illnesses and sicknesses are worldwide; whereas, some diseases are found only in certain regions. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and the U.S. State Department's Overseas Citizens Emergency Center can give you detailed information about particular regions you plan to visit on study abroad.

Centers for Disease Control

www.cdc.gov

1-800-311-3435

Centers for Disease Control

Overseas Citizens Emergency Center

(202) 647-5225

Additional information about health issues abroad is available from:

American College Health Association

15879 Crabbs Branch Way

Rockville, MD 20855

Many travelers experience some form of diarrhea or upset stomach while adjusting to local food and water. In many cases, it will be mild but ask your doctor to recommend an anti-diarrheal medication so you can take it with you. If you are going to a country in a tropical region where there may be bacterial, fungal and parasitic diseases, be sure you get some anti-malarial medication. Your doctor may recommend that you start taking it before you leave the United States. One can also contract hepatitis or cholera in countries where the drinking water is untreated. Students must take preventative measures and receive treatment if necessary.

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), such as gonorrhea, syphilis, and herpes, pose health risks in any country. The HIV virus, from which AIDS is contracted, can be transmitted sexually but also through contaminated hypodermic needles and blood supplies. If you are going to a country where AIDS is prevalent, find out what you should do in an emergency if you require an injection or a blood transfusion.

**Immunizations**

While some countries require immunizations for a visa or entry, others do not. These requirements can change according to the health conditions of a particular country. Therefore, it is important to check on a regular basis to see if your host country has requirements. Check also to see if your country requires an AIDS test for entry or a residency permit. Even if immunizations are not required, you still may want to get them. Be sure to discuss this with your doctor, local travel clinic or county health department. If you will travel to other countries, don't forget to check their immunization requirements, as well.

You may be required to present an official record of immunizations. An "International Certificate of Vaccinations" is the most common form used. It is issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is approved by the World Health Organization. You can get the form from your local department of health, travel clinic, passport offices and from many physicians and travel agencies. It must be filled out and dated by the person who provides the immunization. Your campus health service may be able to provide the form and the necessary immunizations.
It may also be wise for you to have your basic childhood immunizations (tetanus, polio, diphtheria, etc.) updated. If you will be traveling to a developing country, then typhoid fever, hepatitis A and B, cholera and yellow fever are frequently recommended immunizations. Do not forget anti-malarial medicine if traveling to malarial areas.

**Nutrition**

Be aware that you will probably experience a change in your diet and eating habits. You may start eating a healthier diet, as processed foods and drinks are typically consumed less outside of the United States. It is customary in many countries to eat more grains, fresh fish, fruits and vegetables. Before you leave, try to learn more about the foods and the eating habits of your host country. This is an integral part of the culture.

**Emotional and Mental Health**

Emotionally and mentally, international living can be stressful. Most travelers will experience a degree of culture shock during the normal adjustment period. Culture shock causes feelings of disorientation and unease which can be intensified for students dealing with ongoing unresolved emotional or medical issues. Thus, it is very important that students with such problems discuss these with their study abroad advisors, mental health providers, or other trained medical personnel before leaving. Once on site, there should be program staff available to help you through the adjustment cycle, but this is seldom guaranteed. Check with your program to see what psychological counseling is available, should you need it. Remember, studying abroad is hard work and not a vacation.

**Substance Abuse**

Substance abuse is viewed differently around the world. Sometimes students that are away from their home campuses fall into patterns of alcohol and drug abuse. They may misinterpret how alcohol is used in their new culture. It may be less expensive to buy; there may be a lower drinking age or maybe the laws against drunkenness are less stringent. Your program sponsors will most likely discuss this topic during your orientation to explain the program's regulations concerning alcohol consumption as well as the consequences for abuse. If you currently attend a support group such as Alcoholics Anonymous, check on meeting availability and schedules in your host country. (For Alcoholics Anonymous contact Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Telephone: 1-212-870-3400)

Drug and alcohol abuse can lead to immeasurable health risks as well as serious cultural and legal consequences. Risks are magnified tenfold by impure drugs, shady and often criminal contacts, and rigid legal systems that impose severe penalties. The U.S. government has no jurisdiction and very little influence over the judicial systems in other countries. **Don't do the crime if you can't do the time!**

An excellent resource on detailed health information entitled "Health Information for International Travel" is available for online viewing or purchase from:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1-800-311-3435
http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/contentYellowBook.aspx
Medical and Accident Insurance

It is extremely important that you obtain adequate insurance before departing. This coverage should also include medical evacuation, repatriation of remains and life insurance. If you are currently included on your family's insurance policy, you must make sure that the coverage meets your program's insurance requirements and is valid overseas for the duration of the program. Students with an International Student Identity Card receive basic medical/accident insurance coverage for their travel outside the continental United States, for the period that the Card is valid. But such coverage may not be adequate to meet every contingency, so you should check to see what additional protection you might need.

Cultural Insurance Services International
River Plaza
9 West Broad Street
Stamford, CT, 06902-3788
http://www.culturalinsurance.com/
(203) 399-5130

Medical Care Abroad

It is important that you obtain information about the health-care system in the region where you are studying. If you need medical care, what will the facilities be like? How do you pay for it? What legal right do you have to medical services? How are patients treated in your host country? (In some countries, doctors welcome questions from patients, while in others, patients are merely expected to follow doctors' orders.) You can get a list of English-speaking doctors worldwide by contacting:

International Association for Medical Assistance to Travelers (IAMAT)
417 Center Street
Lewiston, NY 14092
http://www.iamat.org/

Family Emergencies

Discuss with your family what you will do in the event of a family emergency, illness or death. It is much easier to have these conversations around the kitchen table prior to departure than in an intercontinental phone call in the midst of a crisis.

SAFETY

Planning for a Safe Trip

Remember there are no guarantees concerning personal safety anywhere in the world. Personal safety requires that you pay careful attention to your surroundings and act accordingly. The U.S. State Department issues several kinds of public announcements for travelers going abroad. Travel Warnings advise U.S. citizens of countries or parts of countries to avoid. Public Announcements warn about
terrorist activity and other short-term threats. Consular Information Sheets have information for every country in the world about the crime risk and any areas of unrest, as well as issues such as visa requirements and the quality of medical care available. Contact the State Department at 202-647-4000, or visit its website at travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html.

**Helpful Reminders:**

Obtain as much information as possible about the safety of your study abroad program before departure. Seek information from your program sponsor or a representative from your host school:

- What can you do to enhance your safety in the neighborhood in which you'll be living?
- If you're staying in a dormitory, what kind of security is provided?
- If you're living with a host family, have they been thoroughly investigated by the program?
- Have they hosted U.S. or other international students before?
- If there are program-related excursions, what kind of safety provisions have been made for them?
- Who is available on-site in case of an emergency?

For more safe travel tips, visit the website [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html) or request the pamphlet "A Safe Trip Abroad" from:

**Being Safe During Your Visit**

Many of the health and safety problems that students encounter abroad are similar to those found on US college campuses. Anecdotal evidence strongly suggests that individual student behavior (sometimes misbehavior) is the cause of most illnesses, injuries, and fatalities. When students do not prepare themselves properly, ignore the advice and counsel of campus and overseas personnel, or act naively or as if they are invulnerable, they can get into a lot of trouble. This is especially true when they travel excessively on their own or engage in dangerous social behavior, such as binge drinking or hanging out in unsavory local nightspots. Students are considerably less likely to be the victim of a natural catastrophe, social violence, disease, or of program negligence than of being victimized by her or his own poor judgment.

However, there are health and safety problems that are not the direct responsibility of students themselves, but which can victimize them. These involve modes of travel (airplane, bus, van, taxi, car, etc.), criminal behavior directed against them (theft, sexual assault), and permanent or evolving health and safety conditions in the local environment (disease, natural catastrophes, political upheaval). In order to be prepared to meet the challenges, it is important that students and their parents learn from information provided by the program sponsors, and students who have participated in study abroad.

In those few locations where even remote danger might occasionally exist, program directors work with local police, U.S. consular personnel, and local university officials in setting up whatever practical security measures are deemed prudent. In such places, students will be briefed during orientation programs and reminded at times of heightened political tension about being security-conscious in their daily activities. Terrorism is a twentieth-century reality and is not likely to diminish (or increase) significantly.

**In Case of Emergency**
It is important to ensure that students have sufficient insurance, which would include major medical, evacuation, repatriation, and 24 hour emergency assistance. Do not leave home without having as many reliable means of contact as possible in place - a mailing address, an e-mail address, and telephone and fax numbers. These should be furnished in advance by the program sponsor (or campus study abroad office, or both). As noted, overseas programs and home campuses are likely to have set up regular and reliable means of communication, so it may be best to utilize these systems as a first resort, rather than trying to make direct contact. Nevertheless, a family communication plan for regular telephone or e-mail contact should be developed, with contingencies for emergency situations. With this in place, in times of heightened political tension, natural disaster, or other difficulty, you should be able to communicate with each other directly about safety and well-being. On the other hand, responsible programs may even anticipate your concerns, and make contact with you immediately. Instant international communication in emergency situations continues to improve with easy access to international e-mail access and cell phones around the world.

TRAVEL

Travel Documents

You will need to obtain and carry a passport when travelling outside of the United States. A passport is the only form of identification recognized everywhere in the world that verifies your citizenship. Depending on the length of stay, there are a few areas of the world such as Canada, Mexico and some Caribbean countries that may allow U.S. citizens entry without a passport. However, a valid passport is always the best form of identification. Most countries will also require an additional entry document called a visa. Passports are issued by your country of citizenship and visas are issued by the country that you are visiting. As the next sections indicates, a visa usually takes the form of an official stamp on a page of a passport that allows you entry into a country, though it can also be a separate certificate issued by the country to be visited.

When traveling outside the U.S., carry your passport with you to verify your citizenship. Most countries require that you possess a passport and visa to enter and exit them. Make several copies of your passport. Upon settling in the host country, place your passport in a secure place. Keep a copy with you at all times for identification when leaving your place of residence.

Visa

Depending on the length and purpose of their stay, most countries require that U.S. citizens obtain visas before visiting them. A visa is an official document granted by the government of a country granting permission to enter it. It may be in the form of a stamp imprinted on a page in your passport or it may be an official document that includes a photograph.

Visa requirements vary from country to country. Information relating to all visas may be obtained from the nearest embassy or consulate of the country or countries in which you will study and/or travel. An online source is http://travel.state.gov/foreignentryreqs.html. If you are planning to study in a country for an extended period of time, you may need a student visa or residency permit. In most cases, you will need to obtain a visa before leaving the United States. Check with your program sponsor to determine what is required of you. The program sponsor may need to provide letters or documents to submit with your visa application. You will also likely need to provide passport-size photos. It is a good idea to have extra copies of these photos for this purpose and other situations.
**Passport Application**

Applying for a passport can be a lengthy process, so apply for one at least three months in advance of your departure date. The normal processing time is four to six weeks — even longer during the peak travel season (March to August). If you have never had a passport, you may apply for one by contacting the U.S. Department of State. You can also make an application through selected post offices or clerks of any federal, state or county courthouse. If you have a passport already but it will expire during the time you are abroad, apply for a new one before you leave. You must apply in person unless you are renewing a passport obtained after you turned eighteen years of age.

**Below is a list of what you must present along with your application form:**

1. Proof of U.S. citizenship (an official birth certificate, a naturalization certificate, or a previous U.S. passport).
2. Two recent identical color photographs (2”x2”) with a white background.
3. Form of current identification with your signature and photograph (i.e., a driver's license)
4. $100.00 fee if you are 16 years or older. There is an additional fee of $60.00 for expedition services.

Again, make several photocopies of your passport. Leave a copy at home with your family and carry a copy with you at all times when you are overseas. Be sure to keep an additional copy with your belongings. If you lose your passport, the copies may speed up the process of replacing it. If this happens, immediately notify the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

**International Student Identity Card**

Next to your passport and visa, if needed, the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) can be among the most valuable travel documents in your possession. The College of Law requires every student participating in an international study abroad program to obtain an ISIC. It verifies your student status and it is widely recognized throughout the world. With the card, you are eligible to qualify for discounts ranging from lower airfares, cheaper insurance coverage to reduced or free admission to museums, theaters, concerts and cultural sites around the world.

The ISIC also provides supplemental health insurance coverage. This plan covers emergency medical evacuation in case your illness or injury cannot be treated overseas and repatriation of remains in case of death. Most private health care plans do not incorporate this kind of coverage. This is why many program sponsors are either providing a special overseas insurance plan or requiring that you obtain the card.

Not only do you receive the medical coverage and discounts while overseas, but you also have access to a toll-free help line for assistance with medical, legal, or financial emergencies. In addition, you can use the card in the United States for special student discounts on airlines, lodging, international phone calls and international money transfers. The card comes with a detailed handbook that provides information on all its uses.

The ISIC card may be obtained from the ISIC Card Section:
http://www.myisic.com/MyISIC/
STA Travel – ID Card Division
750 State Highway 121, Suite 250
To learn more about the ISIC Card and its benefits, terms and conditions:
International Student Travel Confederation
http://www.istc.org/sisp/index.htm

**HOUSING OPTIONS**

Most study abroad programs provide some form of housing or lodging. Common forms of housing are in a hotel, apartment, university residence hall or lodging with a host family. Be sure to list your living arrangements preferences on the housing form provided by the study abroad program to ensure that you receive appropriate housing. Meals may not be included in your lodging costs and may need to be purchased separately.

If lodging is not provided by your study abroad program, give yourself plenty of time to arrange for it. Since student housing is at a premium in most countries, ask the study abroad program director for recommendations. If you are enrolling directly in a foreign university, contact the university to see if there is a student housing office that can assist you in finding accommodation.

*Hostels*
When traveling on weekends, during school breaks or at the end of your study abroad experience, you may want to consider staying in a hostel. Hostels are much cheaper than hotels and can range from private rooms to dormitory-style housing. Many cities also have youth hostels, which may have additional restrictions (e.g. impose curfews, require you to bring your own bedding or limit your stay to a certain number of nights).

In order to stay in youth hostels, you may be required to have an International Youth Hostel Pass, another form of identification that can be obtained before your departure. The pass and handbook with locations and contact information are available from:

Hosteling International/American Youth Hostels National Office
P.O. Box 37613 Room 804
Washington, DC 20013-7613
http://www.hihostels.com/

Many countries also have student hostels that can only be used by university students. These usually offer more amenities than youth hostels, such as food service and laundry facilities, and are a great way to meet other international students. In order to stay in university student oriented youth hostels you may need to have a valid International Student Identity Card to verify your student status.

**PACKING**

Airlines limit the amount of luggage you can take and may charge additional fees for overweight items and checked baggage. Pack only what you need. Most programs will provide a recommended packing list. If you are not sure of what to pack, contact the Education abroad or study abroad coordinator for suggestions. Many countries have a conservative dress code. Leave very expensive electronics and
jewelry at home. If you are on medication, ask your doctor to provide you with enough for the duration of your program.

Airlines typically allow two (2) pieces of luggage (consult airline for height and weight restrictions) with one carry on that will fit under your seat or in the overhead compartment. However, the airline may charge fees for one or both pieces of checked luggage.

- Your baggage can be and most likely will be searched and screened.
- Keep your money and important documents such as your ticket, I.D. and passport in a safe and easily accessible location on your person or hand bag.
- A lightweight backpack is ideal.
- Keep your bags with you at all times. Do not carry items or bags for strangers.
- Act as if you are a seasoned traveler. What you don’t know can hurt you especially if other people know you don’t know it!

**Going through Customs**

1. Upon arrival at the destination airport, immigration officials will ask the purpose of your trip and check your passport. Be patient. English is usually spoken during these checks.
2. If you are carrying certain expensive items, you will be asked to declare them. Your luggage may be opened and checked.

**Cultural Adjustment & Exploration**

In order to get the most out of your overseas experience you must be able to adjust to a different lifestyle, food, climate, and time zone, often accompanied by the necessity of learning to communicate in a foreign language. This process is never easy and can include mood swings alternating between heady exhilaration and mild depression. In the early weeks, you will probably feel excited about your new experiences and environment. Soon, you may find the excitement of new surroundings and sensations increasingly replaced by frustration with how things differ from home.

**Culture Shock**

This frustration and confusion is usually called “culture shock.” Variations of culture shock can affect even experienced travelers and is considered a natural (and perhaps even essential) part of adjusting to a foreign culture. Symptoms can include depression, sleeping deprivation, homesickness, a lack of concentration, isolation and irritation with your host culture.

It is not unusual for experienced travelers to experience homesickness; however, there are numerous ways to combat it:

1. Learn as much as possible from local residents about their culture.
2. Keep in touch with other American students. If you are directly enrolled in a foreign university, find out if there is a local hangout for Americans. It can sometimes be helpful to meet with them and share experiences.
3. Keep busy doing things you enjoy. When you have free time, visit museums, go to the movies, and tour local sites of interest.
4. Keep in contact with your family and friends at home (letters, phone calls, or e-mail contact will make you feel less isolated).
5. Try to keep your long-range goals in mind. Experiencing a new culture will inevitably involve some frustration and feelings of loneliness as you leave a familiar environment for a foreign one; however, such feeling will not last forever.

Since there is almost no way to avoid culture shock, you should accept it as something everyone goes through. Keep in mind that students returning from study abroad programs often describe working their way through culture shock as a necessary maturing experience, something that provided insight into their own cultural assumptions. You can ease your transition by recognizing the factors that cause culture shock and by taking steps to minimize them.

For most students, the symptoms of culture shock decrease after the first few weeks or months, as they begin to understand their host culture better. However, if you find that feelings of irritability and depression linger, you may need help from a doctor or counselor. Your study abroad program director, host university or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at FAMU should be able to direct you to counseling or support organizations.

**Fitting In and Being Accepted**

Your study abroad experience will be heightened if you try as much as possible to become part of the local social environment. In the beginning, it is perhaps wise to behave like a guest, as indeed you are. For a while you may even be accorded a special status, that of a well-meaning (but not quite-with-it!) outsider. But as time goes on, you will want to be able to behave in ways similar to that of the local students and citizens—and others will begin to expect such behavior of you. This means learning what behavior is and isn't appropriate in this new setting, and acting accordingly. Observe local students in your dormitory, on campus, and on the street. If you live with a host family, see how family members dress and interact with one other and others. It's fine to ask questions about local customs and ways of behaving. In fact, people will appreciate that you are trying to learn about their culture and lifestyle, and are likely to help you adjust.

In some countries more than others, there is an unflattering stereotype of American tourists, one who throws money around, drinks too much, is loud and rude, expects all foreigners to speak English, thinks the United States is better than any other country, and is always in a hurry. In other countries Americans are seen as happy, cheerful, carefree, and above all rich. Locals in your host country may assume parts or all of this to be true about you simply because you are from the United States. Remember that their images of what “Americans” are like are based on direct interactions with Americans (typically white Americans) or indirectly through movies and media. Non-white Americans must remember that host country nationals may have innocent stereotypes of them and should not overreact to culturally insensitive remarks. African-Americans may be viewed or received differently (possibly more favorably) depending on the country visited. The challenge is to conduct yourself in a way that does not generate misleading images and false impressions, so that there can be mutual understanding with persons in your host country.

**Learning and Respecting Local Customs**

“When in Rome, Do as the Romans Do” is not legal counsel, but rather seasoned advice to newcomers. Certain ways of acting in a country not of your own may affront local custom and show ignorance or
disrespect, or both to local citizens. In many countries, for example, women traditionally cover certain parts of the body, such as the head, arms, and legs. In others, it is frowned on for couples to hold hands or display other types of physical affection in public. Most countries have customs associated with religion and sacred places. In certain Islamic societies, non-Muslims may not enter sacred sites. In Thailand, Buddhist monks must carry out an elaborate purification ritual if a woman touches them, including sitting next to them on a bus!

Understanding local customs will help you feel a part of the new culture and avoid potentially embarrassing situations. Especially if you are not fluent in the local language, your body language is often your only mode of communication. Saying hello or goodbye via a simple hand gesture is, for example, done quite differently from place to place, even within Europe. When to shake hands or kiss is communicated between people in different ways from country to country. How close to sit or stand when talking also varies greatly. These are just a few of the many simple cultural norms or habits that you need to learn in order not to avoid unintended offense.

**Women Abroad**

Appropriate behavior for young women varies from country to country, and even within countries. Some countries have well-defined gender roles. Others restrict certain activities for women, such as driving and meeting with men who are not relatives. You may find that behavior and dress that are acceptable in major cities are inappropriate in rural areas. Sometimes, though, just the opposite is true, and behavior is more relaxed outside of metropolitan areas.

Observe how local women your age act and dress and try to do likewise. In spite of your efforts, however, you may find that you are harassed. In some countries, women are routinely whistled at, pinched, and even grabbed -- especially foreign women. This may be because the cultural stereotype of western women is that they are promiscuous. You can minimize unwanted attention by taking the following steps:

Dress modestly. Avoid sleeveless tops and short skirts, even in hot climates. Try to dress in the same style as the local women. Avoid making eye contact with men in the street. What may seem to you like simple friendliness might be interpreted as flirtation to a man from a country where women keep their eyes down. Study gender roles, particularly those of women. Notice how they avoid and turn away unwanted attention. Mimic their behavior. Take a friend with you when you go out at night or to an unfamiliar area. In some countries, young unmarried women never go out alone. Arrange a public meeting place when you get together with people you don't know well.

**Sexual Orientation**

It is advisable that before departure, you conduct research and understand the culture-specific norms of friendship and dating for relationships between people of any sexual orientation in your host country. Homosexuality is forbidden in certain countries. Laws regarding same-sex relationships differ from country to country and you should educate yourself about them before your program begins.

Issues regarding sexual orientation are often included in materials prepared by study abroad offices and program providers. Check to see what information is available regarding GLBT issues from the programs in which you are interested. Travel guides, web resources, and your institutional GLBT office can provide additional valuable information.

For a bibliography regarding sexual orientation issues in countries outside the U.S, check the following
RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES

When you come back to the United States, you must pass through U.S. Customs, where you will be asked to declare the value of items that you purchased abroad and are bringing back into the US. Certain items are illegal to bring into the United States, and some require that you pay an import tax or duty.

There are two pamphlets available with complete information on Customs and duties: Passports and Customs, available for a small cost from:


OR

U.S. Customs Service
Box 7407
Washington, DC 20044
Telephone: 202-927-6724

Reverse Culture Shock

As odd as it may sound, you should prepare yourself for a period of cultural adjustment -- or reverse culture shock -- when you return to the United States. Returning travelers experience the same physical and emotional upheavals as in the early stages of life abroad. This includes jet lag, as your body adjusts to the change in time zones.

In fact, many returning students are surprised to find that adjusting to life "back home" is more difficult than the adjustment they made to life in a foreign country. Why is this? While students understand that study abroad is a life-changing experience, many of them are not immediately aware of how they changed or how their experience abroad has caused them to look at life in the United States through different lenses. You may also experience a sense of loss after leaving your new friends and the life that you led while abroad.

After return, you may feel out of sync with friends and family, who may express only a polite interest in the experiences that you found fascinating. You might experience boredom and a lack of direction. You may also return to find that problems that were on hold while you were abroad - personal issues or career questions - are still waiting for you. Take time in readjusting to your old life.

Some returning students experience particular difficulty reintegrating into the structure and expectations of law school. For that reason, it is advisable to allow some time between returning home and starting classes at FAMU COL, if this is feasible.

Evaluate Your Program
The law school requires you to complete a written evaluation of your study abroad program. This can be a valuable experience for you, as it provides an opportunity to consider the pros and cons of the program you selected and reflect on what it meant to you. It may be even more valuable for future participants. Your evaluation will be made available to students considering studying abroad, as well as faculty and administration. A copy will also be sent to your study abroad program, so program sponsors can learn what works and what needs improvement from the point of view of as many participants as possible.

**Career Planning**

Your study abroad experience may propel you to begin searching for an international career as soon as you return home. The following will help you in this: Consult publications on working abroad, and pay attention to immigration policies in the countries that interest you. While you are abroad, make a list of contact information for anyone you meet who works in an area you're interested in. Write to your contacts once you return home and inform them of your interest in returning abroad to work after you graduate. Prepare a resume with the help of FAMU COL Career Services office. Visit the Office of Career Services to discuss international opportunities. Be sure to include your study abroad experience, language skills, and cross-cultural adaptation skills. Attend job-hunters' workshops that are relevant to your career goals. Find out if agencies and companies with offices abroad recruit on your campus. Investigate jobs in the United States that have an international focus. Find out if you need a graduate degree (LL.M. or Ph.D.) to get the job you want and, if so, find out which colleges offer that degree?