

Checklist for studying abroad

Applying for a program

___ Research a study abroad program that interests you by going to LoneStar.edu/study-abroad.

___ Contact the responsible faculty member organizing the trip to learn more about the program.

___ If necessary, meet with an advisor to ensure the study abroad meets your educational needs.

___ Research possible financing options for the program and tuition costs.

___ Complete the study abroad program application and register for the appropriate classes associated with the program.

___ If eligible, apply for the Study Abroad Student Financial Awards and submit the complete application by one of the two deadlines to the study abroad program faculty: 5 PM on 1) the second Friday in October OR 2) the first Friday of November every year for all study abroad programs. Because the study abroad award program is competitive and funds are limited, if all funds are awarded to October applicants, no additional awards will be made in November. See the Study Abroad Student Financial Awards Application for details.

Pre-departure

___ Apply for a passport (U.S. passports can take 6–10 weeks)

___ Learn of any special visa requirements for the countries you plan to visit from your study abroad faculty and apply for the required visas. International students may have different requirements than U.S. citizens to enter the destination countries.

___ International students also have to meet requirements to re-enter the U.S. Determine whether

this applies to you and what the requirements are. If you have questions contact IP@lonestar.edu.

___ Make payments to your program cost (please contact your study abroad faculty about where to send payment).

___ Pay tuition costs to cover the courses you will be taking abroad.

___ Submit the required Risk Management forms to your program faculty within the allotted timeframe

___ Purchase any required books or study materials for your trip.

___ Speak with study abroad faculty about arranging payment of any applicable financial awards.

___ Register your travel with the Department of State <https://travelregistration.state.gov>

___ Check the Department of State's website on a regular basis for travel alerts and information <http://travel.state.gov>.

___ Plan a budget for your spending money and trip expenses. Obtain traveler's checks and ensure credit cards or ATM cards are accessible from abroad.

___ Visit your doctor as early as possible to ensure you are up to date on routine vaccines and to inquire about any special vaccinations needed for travel, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control website: www.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list. NOTE: Some vaccinations require multiple doses or must be taken well in advance before travel so be sure to plan ahead.

___ Make sure all medications you will be traveling with are in their original containers with the prescribing doctor's name clearly marked.

____ Make two copies of all essential documents (your itinerary, passport, credit cards that you plan to bring, driver's license, and airline tickets). Leave one copy with family or friends and ensure they know your contact information. Take the other copy and originals with you.

____ Check with your health insurance company to determine if you have coverage abroad. Your travel insurance through the college is not medical insurance and will only cover you in certain cases. Make two copies your medical insurance card and leave one with a friend or family member. Bring the photocopy and the original insurance card along with you on your trip.