

BU Law Study Abroad Guidelines

These guidelines set forth the policies, procedures and requirements governing BU Law's study abroad programs and participants. They explain the academic and non-academic features that pertain to all programs, including such important matters as credits earned, ABA compliance, and the application and selection process. All students considering study abroad opportunities are expected to read these guidelines and the Fact Sheet(s) of any program of interest. The Graduate and International Programs Office (OGIP) always welcomes any and all questions about these guidelines and other study abroad curiosities (gradint@bu.edu).

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Planning considerations

The decision to study abroad is highly personal. Ensuring that you can attain your academic and personal goals is what a successful study abroad experience is all about. That means finding the right fit.

To start figuring out how a study abroad experience might (or might not) fit into your law studies, we **strongly** encourage you to meet individually with Associate Director John LaPlante (johnlap@bu.edu) or Director Maureen Leo (mtleo@bu.edu) to discuss your particular background, interests, and aspirations. While the Graduate and International Programs Office (OGIP) conducts general information sessions in the fall and early in the spring (you should certainly attend one of these), individual meetings can help you gain clarity on several key issues, i.e., how a study abroad experience may further your career and personal goals; the academic and non-academic trade-offs involved in being away for a semester or year; and your realistic expectations. Bottom line: We want to help you make the best decision, whether it's the threshold decision ("Should I stay, or should I go?") or a decision between several viable options.

But don't just listen to us or only read what's on the web. To get a sense of students' experiences, you should read past participants' program reports, available at OGIP and on [each program's individual web page](#) (use your BU login to access). (Take note that they do not necessarily convey BU Law's current official policies and procedures or those of the host institutions.) OGIP can also provide the contact information of former participants.

Comparing programs

To help you compare programs and their salient characteristics, we have assembled a [Study Abroad Comparison Chart \(pdf\)](#). Note that each program has its own start date and end date; and each follows the host school's academic calendar, which may differ from BU Law's. For example, spring programs that extend into early summer might be incompatible with summer clerkships or graduation/bar exam plans. In assessing your options, it is your responsibility to take note of the timing issues identified in the [Comparison Chart \(pdf\)](#) and in the programs' individual Fact Sheets.

Eligibility

Our study abroad programs are open to BU Law students in good standing who have completed at least one year of full-time study at BU Law. You may study abroad during the fall or spring of your second or third year; or for your entire third year through one of our five international dual (JD/LLM) degree programs. Students from other ABA-approved law schools are not eligible to participate.

With some limited exceptions, the number of students who may participate in a program in any given year depends on the exchange balance with the partner school. Several programs are capped at four participants. (The individual program Fact Sheets indicate the applicable caps.)

Tuition and Financial Aid

Students participating in BU Law study abroad programs pay full tuition to BU Law and are billed as if they were attending a semester in residence. All housing, living, travel, insurance and book expenses are the student's responsibility. There may be additional fees at the host school, such as student activities fees and other incidentals. These fees are disclosed in the individual program's Fact Sheet, accessible from the program's web page.

We anticipate that students who apply for financial aid through BU Law will be eligible for the same financial aid awards that they would have been eligible to receive if they were attending school on campus. Before accepting an offer to study abroad, students are required to meet with BU Law's Office of Financial Aid to discuss their financial aid situation.

Application Process

Application deadlines

The application deadline for study abroad programs is the first week of February. Late applications will be accepted only in extraordinary situations beyond the student's control. We anticipate notifying applicants of their status in mid-to-late February. For first-year students, acceptance into a program will be conditioned on OGIP receiving the student's spring term grades, demonstrating a continuation of satisfactory academic performance.

Application form and submissions

Candidates apply through the electronic [Application Form](#). A completed application includes a signed application form, a letter of recommendation from a BU Law instructor and a 2-3 page personal statement explaining your interests and motivations to attend the particular program to which you are applying. The statement is your opportunity to articulate how the opportunity fits with your academic, professional and personal goals. You may submit a recommendation from any BU Law instructor (doctrinal, lawyering program, clinical). Strive to obtain your letter from an instructor who knows you well and who can speak to your suitability for foreign studies. NOTE: Oxford applicants must also submit a writing sample.

Pre-application academic credit review

Credits earned through study abroad are considered "non-GPA" credits. (Other non-GPA credits include fieldwork components of externships (including fieldwork in the semester in- practice program); non-law courses taken elsewhere in the university or at other universities or law schools; coursework taken on a Credit/No Credit basis; and non-graded credit for work on law journals.) Under BU Law's Academic Regulations [[JD Student Handbook](#)], "a student may not apply more than 17 credits from such sources, independent studies, and moot court, toward the total number of credits required for graduation. This limit may be waived by the Academic Standards Committee on a showing of good cause, but the Committee shall not allow more than 21 credits from all such sources to be applied towards the graduation requirement in any case other than those involving students who have been in a full year study abroad program."

All study abroad candidates must meet with Nicole Haefner, the Associate Registrar, to review the status of their law school credits. Students are required to do this before they depart. However, we encourage students to do this before they submit their applications, so there are no surprises down the

line. All students must obtain Ms. Haefner's signature on [Pre-Departure Checklist](#), confirming that the credit review took place.

In-Person Interviews

After reviewing applications, the OGIP will contact viable candidates to schedule in person interviews with John LaPlante -- an important part of the application process. The interviews are an opportunity to elaborate further on your goals, motivations, and suitability for your program(s) of interest.

Foreign Language Programs

If you apply to a program where the language of instruction is foreign (not English), you must demonstrate to OGIP's satisfaction your fluency in the relevant foreign tongue. You would do this by submitting an additional essay written in the foreign language, as part of your study abroad application; and by partaking in an oral skills exercise with a member of the BU community. While you need not be fluent in the vocabulary and terminology of legal Spanish, French or Italian, as the case may be, you need to be fully conversant (speaking, reading, writing) in the foreign language.

Applying to more than one program

Students may apply to more than one program, but a separate personal statement must be submitted for each program and you must also rank your applications in order of preference. If you are interested in a single program but are able to consider both semesters (if available), please indicate your preference.

Accepting a study abroad offer

If you receive an offer to participate in a study abroad program, you'll have a short period of time to think about it (generally a week) before making a commitment. Once you accept an offer, we inform the partner school of your nomination. We expect all students to thoughtfully consider an offer before accepting it -- and we expect all students to honor their commitment to participate in a program once they accept an offer.

Acceptance by partner school

Most programs have an additional application process that must be completed after a student is approved (nominated) by BU Law. OGIP will inform the nominated students about the details of the relevant school's process. Students are not guaranteed acceptance until they are approved by the host institution; however, in the 25+ years of BU Law's exchange programs, no nominated student has been denied by a partner institution. After receiving final admission from the host school, students can expect to hear directly from the school's administrative team regarding pre-arrival academic and non-academic matters, including visa issues, housing options and the like. The administrative contacts are identified in each program's Fact Sheet. Our partners rely on your participation as they begin to plan for your arrival -- another reason why "backing out" is problematic.

Student Selection

Viable candidates have a clear idea of how their program of interest will help them achieve academic, professional and personal goals. Explaining this in your application and interview is essential.

We look for students with demonstrated international interests (i.e. previous coursework, work experience, internships, volunteer activities). Prior overseas experience may be helpful but is not at all

required. Many participants had not previously been outside the US. What is required is maturity, resilience, ambassadorial skills and open-mindedness.

Since taking classes overseas requires self-motivated study, we look for students who have performed well academically. As such, there is a presumptive requirement that all applicants hold a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Some partner schools have set minimum GPAs for their incoming exchange students (Oxford, NSU, Hong Kong). Any such minimums are indicated in the individual program Fact Sheet.

As noted above, our programs have caps on the number of students who can participate. Because of the expansive opportunities we offer, nearly all otherwise eligible candidates receive an offer to study abroad at some point in their BU Law careers. If more students apply to a program than available spaces, preference will be given to students entering their third year.

Expectations

During the interview, we will talk about expectations, particularly around your job-related goals. For example, if landing a permanent overseas job is your ultimate prize, a semester abroad may position you nicely for the right opportunity, but students should generally not expect to receive international job offers immediately upon completing a term or full year abroad. There are always exceptions, but that's the general pattern.

No matter which program you attend, you will enter new world, inside and outside the classroom. Student experiences have revealed some features to expect (or conversely, not expect):

Teaching Styles

You should expect your classroom experience to differ considerably from what you've experienced at BU Law. After all, that's the whole point. In general, the classroom dynamic outside the US is less active (more passive) than here. Socratic dialogues -- i.e., exchanges that might typify a 1L class -- are the exception, not the norm. (The notable exception to this is our Oxford program, which consists of individual tutorials.) It is not unusual for instructors to lecture -- sometimes entirely, sometimes combined with voluntary student participation. That said, there are ample opportunities to take smaller-sized, seminar-type classes at our partner institutions. Each program is different, so you should speak with past participants to get a sense of the teaching styles at your program(s) of interest.

New Academic Surroundings

Your foreign academic surroundings will likely be populated by students much younger than you. That's because obtaining a first degree in law outside the US is generally an undergraduate experience. (The first degree in law is often referred to as a Bachelor of Laws, or LLB degree. Advanced, specialized studies are pursued through master's programs, such as the Master of Laws (LLM) and the like). At several programs, both LLB- and advanced LLM-level classes are available; depending on the program, it may (or may not) be appropriate to enroll in LLB (undergraduate) classes. Some programs consist entirely of master-level classes. Either way, a common refrain among participants is that campus life revolves around a notably younger cohort. Neither good nor bad. Just different.

Administration

The administrative infrastructures at our partner schools vary from program to program. In general, however, you should not expect the same level of student service or support that you have experienced

and grown to love at BU Law. Many of the world's leading law faculties are part of large public universities, serving thousands of local students who pay little tuition. Getting the simplest things done can entail navigating opaque bureaucracies; information may not be readily communicated or accessible. As much as we'd like to travel with you and guide you through the semester, we can't. You'll often need to rely on your own resourcefulness to figure things out. If this sounds exciting, then foreign studies could be for you.

After you are admitted – but before you depart

Statement of Educational Objectives and Proposed Courses

Before they depart, all admitted study abroad students must submit to OGIP a 2-3 page [Statement of Educational Objectives and Proposed Study Plan](#), which identifies your academic goals for the semester/year. This is a strict ABA requirement. The Statement should list your preliminary course selections, obtained from the host school's list of available classes. Associate Director John LaPlante must review and approve your statement.

Study Plan Credit Calculation

To ensure compliance with the ABA's and BU Law's policies, all students must also submit to OGIP an online [Study Plan Credit Calculation](#) worksheet prior to departure. The plan must include in it the following details:

- List of proposed classes (and course numbers)
- Number of times per week that each class meets
- Duration of each class
- Beginning and end date of each class
- Total number of times each class meets and number of minutes per meeting
- Total number of minutes the class meets
- Form of assessment
- Credit hours assigned by the partner school for each class

We realize that the above information may not be available for some programs until right before the semester begins. If this occurs, you should obtain this information as soon as it is available from the host school and submit it to OGIP as a revised version of your Proposed Study Plan, even if this is after you depart.

Like BU Law, most schools have some sort of "Add/Drop" period during which you can make changes to your schedule by a specified deadline. If you add a class that was not included in your original Proposed Study Plan, you will need to provide the above information for that class in order to receive academic credit. In this case, you would submit a revised version of your original Proposed Study Plan.

After arriving overseas, all students must submit their final schedules to OGIP for review and approval. No BU Law credit will be awarded for classes that have not been approved.

Credits and Course Loads

In developing your Proposed Study Plans from the host school's list of available classes, note the following.

Maximum credits awarded

All single semester programs grant a maximum of 12 credits towards the JD degree, regardless of the number of courses taken. Our full-year international dual (JD/LLM) degree programs grant a maximum of 26 JD credits – 12 credits for each semester, plus two credits for an independent paper written under the supervision of a BU Law faculty member. (See below.)

Course loads

Students must register for the equivalent of twelve BU Law credits when they register for classes at the host school. Under the American Bar Association's and BU Law's credit granting policies and guidelines, one credit hour is the equivalent of 42.5 hours of in-class and out-of-class work over a 14-week semester (approximately 12.5 hours of class time, including exam time, and 30 hours of out-of-class preparation and studying). The program Fact Sheets provide general guidelines regarding how many actual classes might satisfy the credit hour requirements, but classes and schedules vary from year to year. It is incumbent upon each student to enroll in a sufficient number of classes to yield the equivalent of 12 BU Law credit hours.

Course Selections, Restrictions

- **Language Classes.** Students may, at their own expense, take language classes offered at the host school. While we recognize the benefit of foreign language skills to global law practice, no academic credit will be awarded for such classes.
- **No Repeat Classes.** Students cannot enroll in classes substantially similar to those already taken at BU Law. Students seeking to clarify whether a particular proposed class will be allowed should email a copy of the desired class's syllabus to the Graduate and International Program's Office, for the Assistant or Associate Dean's review.
- **Law-Related, Non-US Law Classes.** All classes for which a student seeks BU Law JD credit must be law-related. Coursework taken overseas should not focus on themes of U.S. law, unless it does so in an explicitly comparative manner.
- **No Experiential or Remote Classes.** No academic credit will be awarded for clinics, externships or distance education classes.
- **Graduate Level Classes.** It is generally expected that students enroll in graduate-level classes at the host school, particularly at common law faculties (i.e., Singapore, Hong Kong). That said, it is common for students immersed in foreign language taught classes at the host school (i.e., in Spanish, Italian for French) to take foundational civil law topics offered at the undergraduate (LLB) level.

Exams, Grades and Transcripts

Student Evaluation and Grades

- **Passing Grades.** Students participating in BU Law's study abroad programs will receive credit for each approved course for which they receive a passing grade. A passing grade is defined as a grade that would be considered passing at the foreign institution. It is your responsibility to understand the grading standard for the exchange program school you attend.

- **Exam Grading.** Your exams will be graded in the first instance by the host school's faculty in accordance with its own grading system. The ACCEPTANCE OF ANY CREDIT OR GRADE FOR ANY COURSE TAKEN IN THE PROGRAM, HOWEVER, IS SUBJECT TO DETERMINATION BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW.
- **Non-GPA Credits.** None of the grades you receive at the host school will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards academic honors and awards (including the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum laude*).

Obtaining transcripts from the host school

Students must arrange for the foreign institution to send two official final transcripts to the OGIP or BU Law's Registrar's office. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the transcript has been transmitted and received. Students in their final semester should confer with the Registrar's office regarding the deadline for certification for bar examinations.

BU Law transcripts

Upon successfully completing a course, BU Law students receive a designation of "credit" for the course on their transcripts. This designation will include an asterisk or footnote indicating that the actual grade is available upon request and that it will be accompanied by an explanation of the host institution's different grading system. The BU Law transcript will reflect the total number of BU Law credits earned (up to 12 credits) and the name of the host institution. Students can obtain foreign transcripts with courses and grades from the host institution.

Full-Year International dual (JD/LLM) Degree Programs

Several special guidelines and planning considerations pertain to our full-year international dual (JD/LLM) degree programs:

Credits

Students may receive a maximum of twenty-four (24) JD credits for a full-year abroad (12 credits each semester). In addition, to comply with BU Law's annual minimum of 26 credits, all students must complete a two-credit independent paper under the supervision of a BU Law faculty member.

Pre-departure completion of degree requirements

All dual degree participants must complete the following JD degree requirements before departing:

- Upper-class writing requirement
- Professional responsibility requirement
- Experiential credit requirement (minimum of six credits)

It is particularly important to meet with Nicole Haefner, the Associate Registrar, in the fall of 2L if you are planning to study abroad for your entire 3L.

Limit on non-GPA credits

BU Law caps the number of "non-GPA" credits that can count towards the JD degree at 17 or, with the Academic Standards Committee's approval, to no more than 21. The JD Regulations, however, carve out an exception to this 21-credit outer limit for students in a full-year study abroad program. It is particularly important for students who plan on spending their 3L abroad to confer with the Registrar on

their non-GPA credit count. Students should also confer with Associate Dean Gerry Muir on whether they need to petition the Academic Standards Committee in light of their 2L non-GPA credits.

Independent Paper requirement

All full-year abroad students must complete a 2-credit independent paper under the supervision of a BU Law faculty member. (This is because all students must complete at least 26 credits in an academic year; full-year abroad program award only 24, tops.) The paper need not relate to your overseas studies, but it may. Students must secure their faculty supervisor before they depart. Prior to the end of the fall semester's add/drop period, they need to submit to the Registrar's Office a completed [Supervised Research and Writing Project Form](#). Note the following regarding the independent paper requirement:

- Upper-class students cannot earn more than 3 credits through independent papers. If you will surpass this through the two-credit paper requirement, you need to obtain the Academic Standard Committee's approval.
- The two credits earned through the paper cannot be replaced by law journal credits or through other sources.

Overall Participant Requirements

The following summarizes the requirements that all BU Law study abroad participants must complete.

Pre-departure

- Complete host school's application form.
- Complete the appropriate visa application (through host school).
- Meet with Associate Registrar, Nicole Haefner (nhaefner@bu.edu), regarding the status of your JD credits and graduation requirements.
- Submit to OGIP a 2-3 page [Statement of your Educational Objectives and Proposed Study Plan](#), which identifies your academic goals for the semester/year. This is a strict ABA requirement. The Statement should list your preliminary course selections.
- Submit to OGIP an online [Credit Calculation](#) based on your preliminary course selections.
- Register your travel plans in [BU's Global Registry](#).
- Download and read the [US Department of State's Country-Specific Information](#) for the country/region of your studies.
- Meet with Financial Aid. Discuss any recommended adjustments to covers expenses, fees and related costs, such as travel.
- Certify that they have completed all steps outlined on the [Study Abroad Pre-Departure Checklist](#).

After arriving at the host school

- Obtain OGIP's approval of your final course selections.
- Complete of a one-page mid-semester written report, assessing the attainment of your academic goals and objectives. Students will receive a reminder email from OGIP.

Upon program's completion

- Submit an end-of-program report assessing your academic progress and attainment of educational goals.
- Complete a survey, evaluating your overall experience, inside and outside of class.
- To comply with ABA requirements, submit a copy of any papers written for academic credit while abroad.
- Arrange for the OGIP or Registrar's Office to receive two official original copies of your final transcript from the host school.

Students will not receive academic credit until they complete these items.

Living Expenses

Student living expenses vary from program to program. Estimated expenses are set forth in each program's Fact Sheet. Keep in mind that these budgets represent the host institution's approximation of a typical graduate student's living expenses in the school's location, which may be of a different standard than a law student in the US. You should budget and plan your finances with specific regard to the program you'll be attending.

Non-BU Law Study Abroad Programs

Other Schools' ABA-Approved Programs

Students may petition the Academic Standards Committee for permission to participate in, and receive credit for, fall- or spring-semester courses in another school's ABA-approved "semester abroad" program. The petition must specify the particular program and must be presented before the semester of proposed study. The Committee may allow the student to apply toward the JD degree a maximum of 12 credits earned in the other school's program, if either (1) that program is located in a country different from those in which BU Law conducts its own foreign-study programs, or (2) in a previous semester the student unsuccessfully applied to a foreign-study program sponsored by BU Law. Students who establish either of these two circumstances are eligible for, but not necessarily entitled to, Committee approval. Other factors the Committee may consider include the strength of the student's academic record, the extent to which that record demonstrates an interest in international study, the reasons given in the petition for pursuing foreign study, and the number of students pursuing foreign study through non-BU Law Programs.

Students who propose to study through another school's program are responsible for obtaining the same BU Law pre-departure approvals for their final course selections as students who study through a BU Law program.

Self-initiated study abroad

Under Article IV, paragraph 9 of the JD Academic Regulations, students seeking credits for foreign study through neither a BU Law program nor another school's ABA-approved program must obtain advance approval from the Academic Standards Committee. This approval will be forthcoming only in "exceptional cases." Independent programs are administratively difficult to arrange, requiring substantial planning by the student. Students are encouraged to contact the Graduate and International Programs Office at least a year in advance, if not sooner, if this option is of interest.

Tuition for non-BU Law programs

Students attending a non-BU Law program will pay tuition to the program they plan to attend, not to BU Law, for the semester. They will be charged an *in absentia* fee (10 percent of tuition) by Boston University.

Program Cancellation Information

To date, all of BU Law's study abroad programs have taken place as planned, with no unanticipated cancellations. However, the ABA requires that we inform you about our contemplated course of action in case a program is cancelled, substantially changed or takes place in an area for which the US State Department has issues a Travel Warning or Alert.

General policy

In the unlikely event that an entire program is canceled, BU Law will immediately inform selected students by email, or in person, and notices of cancellation will be posted on the BU Law website. In addition, individual meetings will be arranged with any student who wishes one. If in the even more unlikely event that a program is canceled after students have arrived at the host school, the OGIP will contact all participating students by telephone, if possible, or by email.

State Department Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts

If a Travel Warning or Alert is issued for a program location, all applicants interviewed for the program will be personally informed via email and phone. If, based upon the information conveyed, a student wishes to cancel his or her participation in the program, the student may do so. If such a Warning or Alert is issued after students are selected or during the program term, all participating students will be notified immediately by phone and email and given an opportunity to withdraw. See below for Refund Policy information. [State Department Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts](#) are available on their website.

Specific program cancellation information

A BU Law study abroad program may be subject to cancellation by the host school in the event that conditions in and around its location may endanger the health, safety or security of its participants or others. In addition, Boston University reserves the right to direct all University faculty, staff, or students to evacuate or to not travel to a given location when, in its sole judgment, conditions have changed to the extent that continued participation in an activity at that location endangers the health, safety or security of participants. Were this to occur, BU Law's study abroad program will be cancelled. BU Law will immediately notify participants by email of a program's cancellation and will post an appropriate announcement on the program's web page. If a student does not heed the University's instruction to evacuate, the student does so at his or her own risk, may forfeit insurance coverage, academic credit, tuition payments or expense reimbursement, and may be held responsible for additional expenses incurred by the University due to the individual's refusal to follow this policy.

If a program is cancelled prior to commencement of the term, all students will be refunded in full any fees paid to Boston University related to the program (excluding any advance room, board and travel costs associated with getting to the host country that have been paid). In addition, all students will be integrated into the regular semester at Boston University School of Law.

If cancellation takes place while a program term is underway, students will be permitted to choose either a refund of fees billed by Boston University, in accordance with the University's refund schedule

(this would exclude room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date of cancellation), or completion of the semester's study at BU Law if such is feasible. WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE OPTION OF COMPLETING THE SEMESTER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (AND THUS NOT LOSING A SEMESTER'S PROGRESS TOWARD THE JD DEGREE). This option is dependent on resources and the availability of course and independent study opportunities at BU Law. If alternative arrangements at the school are not feasible, or if the student elects a refund, the student will be refunded tuition and fees in accordance with the University's refund schedule.

Health and Safety Abroad

Global Programs

Boston University's Global Programs provides support to members of the university community who travel abroad. It is an excellent source of guidance and information for planning your time abroad, particularly regarding [health and safety](#).

US State Department Resources

As noted above, all participating students are required to certify that they have downloaded and read the [US Department of State's Country-Specific Information](#) for the country/region in which they plan to study. In addition, though not required, you should consider enrolling in the State Department's "[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#)" to keep up to date with important safety and security announcements from the US Government. Another helpful resource is the State Department's "[Traveler's Checklist](#)."

Health Insurance

The Boston University Student Health Insurance Plan

BU's basic student health insurance plan is effective worldwide and should be more than adequate for your study abroad experience. If you would like more information about the plan's covered services, including travel assistance and medical evacuation services, visit [BU's Student Health Insurance plan website](#) and [Aetna's Student Health's website](#). If you have questions about how the plan pays overseas and the rates used to pay claims, please contact Aetna Student Health directly.

If you do not carry the BU Student Health Insurance plan, you should ensure that your plan provides both medical and evacuation insurance and emergency travel assistance in your destination country. If you would like to purchase additional coverage, Boston University contracts with GeoBlue to offer a comprehensive international health insurance and evacuation/emergency travel assistance plan to BU students, faculty, and staff who travel abroad for University purposes, at a reasonable price. Please contact Global Programs (finkhous@bu.edu) for more information.

Provisions for Students with Disabilities

The availability of services and accommodation for students with disabilities vary from program to program. If you are interested in a particular program and will need some special assistance due to a disability, please speak with Associate Director John LaPlante. He will then contact the host school to obtain information about the availability of needed services.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Abroad

It is important to be aware of the cultural, legal and social issues regarding sexual and gender identity in your destination country. To educate yourself about a country's law regarding same-sex relations and behavior, as well as anti-discrimination laws, consider starting with the following resources:

- [LGBTI Travel Information, US State Department.](#)
- [NAFSA's Rainbow Special Interest Group.](#) Resources for gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer and transgender study abroad students run by NSFSA, the leading professional association for international educators.
- [The Transgender Law Center.](#)
- [The International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association \(IGLTA\)](#), self-described as "the world's leading network of LGBTQ+ welcoming tourism businesses.
- [The LGBTQ Guide to Travel Safety \(pdf\).](#)

Study Abroad Documents and Forms

[Study Abroad Comparison Chart](#)

[Application Form](#)

[Statement of Educational Objectives and Proposed Courses](#)

[Study Abroad Credit Calculation Worksheet](#)

[Pre-departure Checklist](#)