

Study Abroad starts NOW!

Although you haven't yet set foot on a plane, your study abroad experience has begun. Take the necessary steps to prepare yourself.

All of the meetings mentioned below are REQUIRED

General Pre-Departure Meeting – Sept. 19th at 4:15 – 5:45pm, Alumni Lounge

Before the General Pre-Departure Meeting

- ❑ Return the enclosed forms to the Office of International Education by February 26th, 2007
- ❑ Make a deposit of \$300 to Student Accounts by February 26th, 2007
- ❑ Mark your calendar for the MANDATORY Pre-Departure Meeting on September 19th at 4:15 in the Alumni Lounge
- ❑ Apply for a passport NOW if you do not have one. If you do have a passport make sure it is good for six months after your program finishes. To apply go to: <http://travel.state.gov/passport>
- ❑ Consider your personal health and safety needs when accepting a place in a program. Make available to our office and other sponsors pertinent, accurate, and complete physical and mental health information that may affect your time abroad.

Before your Site Specific Pre-Departure Meeting

- ❑ Research visa requirements for your host site. Some programs will send you information on requesting visas after you are officially accepted into the program. However, not all programs will provide you with this information. You will need to turn your passport in to the visa agency, so you must already have a passport at this time. Visas are requested from the consulate of the country in which you will be studying. **Many consulates require that you appear in person to apply for your visa. (Typically this means traveling to San Francisco.) Visas can take up to three months to be processed. Plan ahead!** We will talk about specifics for visas at each pre-departure meeting.
- ❑ Research your host site. Do you know what kind of currency is used there? What is the weather like? Who is the leader of the country?
- ❑ Do you need shots or a medical screening? Find out what sort of health precautions you should take while abroad. Look up your host site at www.cdc.gov/travel.
- ❑ Copy the front page of your passport and bring it to the meeting.

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Before the end of the semester

- ❑ Complete all required pre-departure forms. Forms found online at <http://www.willamette.edu/dept/intl-education/forms/index.htm>. **These forms are due October 12th, 2007.**
- ❑ Complete any other applications or forms provided by The Office of International Education or your program provider.
- ❑ Make sure that your health insurance will cover you while you are abroad. If your health insurance will not cover you, you will need to find a plan that will. The Willamette University Student Health Plan covers you while abroad.
- ❑ Be sure to notify the WU Mail Center that you will be going abroad. They will need to know how long you will be gone and where you want your mail forwarded. They are unable to forward mail outside of the U.S.
- ❑ Discuss your proposed study-abroad-class-schedule and your proposed returning-to-Willamette-schedule with your academic advisor.

Before you leave the country

- ❑ Send the Office of International Education a copy of your flight itinerary.
- ❑ **READ the Study Abroad Handbook cover to cover.** Share the handbook with your parent or guardian.
- ❑ Read and carefully consider all materials issued or recommended by the program that relate to safety, health, legal, environmental, political, cultural, and religious conditions in the host country.
- ❑ Provide your parents, or anyone else who needs to know, with emergency contact information.
- ❑ Make copies of all relevant information, especially your passport and visa. Leave one set of copies in the U.S. and take one set with you.

Once you arrive at your host site

- ❑ Send your contact information to your parents, family and friends.
- ❑ Keep your parents, or anyone else who needs to know, informed about your experiences abroad.
- ❑ Double check that you are getting the credits you need while abroad.
- ❑ Accept the consequences of your own decisions and actions.
- ❑ Enjoy yourself and learn!