

Parents and Family Guide

Parents and family are important supporters of students' educational experience. It is our goal at the Center for Career and Community-Engaged Learning that the journey your student takes will transform him or her to serve and lead in the global culture of the 21st century and carry out APU's mission of advancing God's work in the world.

The CCEL staff work with each student to ensure that their individual needs and concerns are addressed before, during, and after their learning away experience. While federal law ([FERPA](#)) prevents the center from disclosing a student's education records, please feel free to contact us if you have questions about our programs.

We encourage you to browse the resources available on this site to help understand how to best support your student and maximize their study away experience. We hope this adventure proves itself enriching!

Pre-Departure Information

- ❑ Help your student identify and clarify values and goals for their study away experience.
- ❑ Become familiar with the various study away programs and options.
- ❑ Determine how well individual programs, services, and environments fit into, and benefit, your student's academic needs, personal goals, linguistic preparation, expectations, and interests.
- ❑ Consider how a study away experience in a less traditional destination might fulfill your student's academic, cultural, linguistic, personal, and professional goals more effectively.
- ❑ Understand the requirements your student must meet to participate, including academic performance, social standing, and behavioral expectations.
- ❑ Assess program costs and what they cover; anticipated personal expenses associated with participation; and the availability and process for financial assistance and scholarships.
- ❑ Prepare for your student's experience away through University of Pacific's [What's Up with Culture?](#) website. This is a resource that can be consulted at any stage of the intercultural transition process, beginning with selecting where to study away, and continuing through orientation, overseas residency, and after returning home.
- ❑ Learn something about your student's destination culture. Knowledge about history, politics, economics, language(s), and current events are all important.
- ❑ Understand that study away involves risk and volatility regardless of where your student studies, though some destinations may be more likely to present specific types of risks, such as health precautions, strikes, political turmoil, natural disasters, or crime. Gather information about such concerns and evaluate them carefully. Learn more about local conditions and travel precautions through the [U.S. Department of State - Bureau of Consular Affairs](#) and the [Center for Disease Control](#).
- ❑ Be sure to have your student fill out and turn in a [Mail Forwarding Form](#) for the Student Post Office before they leave campus to let mail services know where to send their mail while they are studying away for the semester.

While They're Away

- Maintain communication with reasonable frequency.

- Keep the program calendar in mind; if you haven't heard from your student, it may be because he or she is on a program excursion or traveling during a break.
- Monitor online information and advisories from the [U.S. Department of State - Bureau of Consular Affairs](#).
- Contact the Center for Career and Community- Engaged Learning should you or your student need assistance with any aspect of the program away or on campus.
- Keep a journal of events and celebrations that occur during the semester or year to share with your student when he or she returns home.
- Consider a visit during the program break (but not while classes are in session).

When They Return

- It's important that parents understand that re-entry shock is normal and that it is often more powerful than the culture shock they experienced when they arrived in the foreign country in which they studied. Expect your student to have a period of transition upon return, sometimes as long as the period he or she was away. Read: [Culture Shock \(PDF\)](#).
- Consult the [What's Up with Culture?](#) (Module 2) for information on the re-entry process.
- Continue your enthusiasm for your student's experience in the months after he or she returns home — show interest in the photos, stories, and memories to help keep the experience, and the reflection and learning, alive.

Additional Resources

- [CIEE Article: Parent's: Pointers to Prepare for the Transformation](#)
- [Study Abroad: A Parent's Guide: For Parents of College and University Students](#)
- [Contemplating a Study Abroad Experience](#) by William Hoffa
- [Surviving Re-entry: A Readjustment Manual for Parents \(PDF\)](#) School for International Training.
- [Key Strategies for Avoiding an Emergency While Studying Abroad \(PDF\)](#)

Additional Websites

General Information

- [World Factbook](#) – Find more information about different countries
- [US State Department](#) – International travel information
- [Center for Disease Control](#) – Recommendations for travel precautions
- [Embassies and Consulates](#) – Locate “in-country” resources
- [How to Get a Passport](#) – Get information on obtaining a passport
- [IIE Passport Focus: Country Guides](#) – Offers study guides for many different countries
- [Institute of International Education Passport Study Abroad Funding](#) – A searchable index of available scholarships for undergraduate and graduate study away opportunities
- [Worldwide Classroom](#)

Keeping in Touch

- [Whatsapp](#)
- [Facebook Messenger](#)
- [Skype](#)
- [International Dialing Codes](#)
- [Cell Phones Abroad](#)
- [Mobal](#)

Other Useful Resources

- [Equip International](#)
- [Café Abroad](#) – Network, city guide, and magazine for students abroad

- [Fulbright Grants](#) – Teach English or conduct research abroad
- [Gilman Scholarships for Underrepresented Students](#) – Find scholarships to study abroad
- [Skyscanner](#) – Discount airlines
- [Map](#) - A Travel Lifestyle Magazine

Student Travel Resources

- [Students Abroad](#)

Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge the University of Minnesota, University of the Pacific, George Washington, CIEE, and School for International Training, whose materials we refer to on this site.