



- **Australia**

- Student blog: [“Embracing My Sexuality in Melbourne”](#)
 - “It’s safe to say that I’ve gained as much knowledge and inspiration from Australia’s people as I have from my university lectures. In Melbourne, rather than hide my identity, I’ve been able to explore it.”
- “Although Australia is a popular study abroad destination for American students, LGBTQ students should be aware that there is still much discrimination against the LGBTQ community. Attitudes to LGBTQ people are becoming more progressive, especially among younger Australians in urban areas. Unfortunately, the legislation to support the rights of the LGBTQ community have lagged behind. The Australian government has outlawed discrimination on basis of sexual identity, but has not yet recognized same-sex unions or marriages. Despite the challenges you will find communities of other LGBTQ people and enjoy a safe time and robust social life.” ([“Diversity and Multicultural Travel Guide to Australia,” n.d.](#))
- “Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights in Australia have advanced since the late 20th century to the point where LGBT people in Australia are protected from discrimination and enjoy the same rights and responsibilities as others....The country legalised same-sex marriage on 9 December 2017.” ([“Wikipedia - LGBT rights in Australia,” February 15, 2018](#))

- **China**

- “China doesn’t have organizations directly and actively opposed to LGBTQ rights, but the country remain deeply prejudiced against LGBTQ people and relationships. A major challenge that LGBTQ people have is the concern that their identity might be exposed and harm educational and job opportunities. You may not find support for a homosexual or bisexual lifestyle in many study abroad locations outside of more liberal enclaves like Hong Kong, Shanghai, or other coastal cities and may not meet many (openly) gay peers.” ([“Diversity and Multicultural Travel Guide to China,” n.d.](#))
- Same-sex marriage is not legal. ([“Wikipedia - LGBT rights in China,” February 9, 2018](#))
- “In a survey by the organization WorkForLGBT of 18,650 lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, 3% of the males surveyed and 6% of the female surveyed described themselves as ‘completely out’. A third of the men surveyed, as well as 9% of the women surveyed said they were in the closet about their sexuality. 18% of men surveyed answered they had come out to their families, while around 80% were reluctant due to family pressure.”
- “Gay identities and communities have expanded in China since the 1980s as a result of resurfacing dialogue about and engagement with queer identities in the public domain. Since the 1990s, the preferred term for people of diverse sexuality, sex and gender is *tongzhi* (同志). While lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) culture remains largely underground, there are a plethora of gay cruising zones and often unadvertised gay bars, restaurants and discos spread across the

country. The recent and escalating proliferation of gay identity in Mainland China is most significantly signaled by its recognition in mainstream media despite China's media censorship. There are also many gay websites and LGBT organisations which help organise gay rights' campaigns, AIDS prevention efforts, film festivals and pride parades. Yet public discourse on the issue remains fraught - a product of competing ideologies surrounding the body; the morality of its agency in the public and private arena.^[37]” ([source](#); also Jeffreys, Elaine; Yu, Haiqing (2015). *Sex in China*. Polity. ISBN 978-0-7456-5613-7)

HOMOSEXUALITY			MARRIAGE		
 ✓ Legal			 ✗ Not legal		
CHANGING GENDER	✓ Legal, but requires surgery	ADOPTION	✗ Illegal	DISCRIMINATION	✗ No protections
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION	✗ No protections	HOUSING DISCRIMINATION	✗ No protections	MILITARY	✗ Illegal
AGE OF CONSENT	✓ Equal	DONATING BLOOD	✗ Banned (indefinite deferral)	CONVERSION THERAPY	✓ Banned

Public Opinion

"Should Society Accept Homosexuality?"

China ranks **#24** out of 39 countries surveyed. (Source: *Pew Research Center*, June 4, 2013)





(EqualDex)

Note: United States ranks **#13** out of 39 countries surveyed.

- **Costa Rica**

- “Costa Rica has a traditional Roman Catholic, conservative, society in which public displays of same-sex affection are rare. In the recent past, public figures, politicians, and religious leaders have denounced homosexuality. However, gay and lesbian travelers are generally treated with respect and you should not experience harassment. Many Costa Ricans, especially in more urban centers support legislation granting recognition and rights to same-sex couples.” ([“Diversity and Multicultural Travel Guide to Costa Rica,” n.d.](#))

- “LGBT rights in Costa Rica have made significant cultural, social and legal progress since the 1970s. While certain politicians, such as President [Óscar Arias](#), have expressed some support for LGBT rights, Costa Ricans tend to be socially [conservative](#) when it comes to [sexual orientation](#) and [gender identity](#) issues, in large part due to the strong influences of the Roman [Catholic Church](#) and cultural traditions about [machismo](#)....Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons in Costa Rica may face legal challenges not experienced by non-LGBT residents. Same-sex sexual relations have been legal since 1971.^[1] Since 2013, households headed by a same-sex couples can obtain some domestic partnership benefits....The Constitution does not explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.” (["Wikipedia - LGBT rights in Costa Rica," January 12, 2018](#))

HOMOSEXUALITY				MARRIAGE	
					
✓ Legal				✗ Unrecognized	
CHANGING GENDER	Ambiguous	ADOPTION	✓ Legal	DISCRIMINATION	Illegal in some contexts
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	HOUSING DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	MILITARY	N/A
AGE OF CONSENT	✓ Equal	DONATING BLOOD	✓ Legal	CONVERSION THERAPY	Ambiguous



(EqualDex)

Czech Republic



- “Czech Republic is one of the more liberal European nations with regards to sexuality, as same-sex partnerships have been legally recognized since 2006. It is considered one of the most gay-friendly European countries, and many establishments - mostly in Prague - cater to gay audiences.” ([“Diversity and Multicultural Travel Guide to Czech Republic,” n.d.](#))
- Same-sex marriage is not legal. “Czech society, especially in Prague, is tolerant and very laid-back towards LGBT culture. Registered partnership for gays and lesbians was introduced in 2006. Although there is not full equality and there are still many areas of LGBT life to improve, acceptance by society is quite high; I would say higher than is reflected by the current law. About 75 percent of Czechs are atheists and therefore there is very little opposition against LGBT rights from the religious perspective.” ([“An Insider's Guide to LGBT Prague,” August 5, 2015](#))

- **Denmark**

- “The rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender (LGBT) persons in Denmark are some of the most extensive in the world.” (["Wikipedia - LGBT rights in Denmark," January 2, 2018](#))

HOMOSEXUALITY		MARRIAGE			
					
✓ Legal		✓ Legal			
CHANGING GENDER	✓ Legal, surgery not required	ADOPTION	✓ Legal	DISCRIMINATION	Illegal in some contexts
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION	Sexual orientation only	HOUSING DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	MILITARY	✓ Legal
AGE OF CONSENT	✓ Equal	DONATING BLOOD	✓ Legal	CONVERSION THERAPY	✓ Banned

(EqualDex)

HOMOSEXUALITY		MARRIAGE			
 ✓ Legal		 ✓ Civil unions			
CHANGING GENDER	✓ Legal, but requires surgery	ADOPTION	✖ Single only	DISCRIMINATION	✓ Illegal
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	HOUSING DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	MILITARY	✓ Legal
AGE OF CONSENT	✓ Equal	DONATING BLOOD	✖ Banned (1-year deferral)	CONVERSION THERAPY	✖ Not banned

Public Opinion

"Should Society Accept Homosexuality?"

Czech Republic ranks #4 out of 39 countries surveyed. (Source: *Pew Research Center*, June 4, 2013)



(16%) No | Yes (80%)



- (EqualDex)
- Note: United States ranks **#13** out of 39 countries surveyed.

- **France**

- “France is very accepting of LGBT communities, and same-sex civil unions have been legally recognized since 1999. Across the country are a variety of gay establishments like bars, businesses, and clubs that exist, especially in Paris. You will, of course, occasionally come across prejudiced people, but generally, you will enjoy a trouble-free environment.” ([“Diversity and Multicultural Travel Guide to France,” n.d.](#))
- “In May 2013, France legalized same-sex marriage amidst a veritable media storm. That same year, the number of homophobic acts increased by a shocking 78 percent, according to a report by French watchdog group SOS Homophobia published in May 2014. This source reported that there was a homophobic physical attack...every two days in France in 2013.” ([“France has always been seen as a sexually-liberated country. Here’s what the LGBT community has to say about it,” August 12, 2015](#))

HOMOSEXUALITY		MARRIAGE			
					
✓ Legal		✓ Legal			
CHANGING GENDER	✓ Legal, but requires surgery	ADOPTION	✓ Legal	DISCRIMINATION	✓ Illegal
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	HOUSING DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	MILITARY	✓ Legal
AGE OF CONSENT	✓ Equal	DONATING BLOOD	✖ Banned (1-year deferral)	CONVERSION THERAPY	✖ Not banned

Public Opinion

"Should Society Accept Homosexuality?"

France ranks **#8** out of 39 countries surveyed. (Source: *Pew Research Center*, June 4, 2013)





(EqualDex)

- Note: United States ranks **#13** out of 39 countries surveyed.

- **Israel and Palestine**

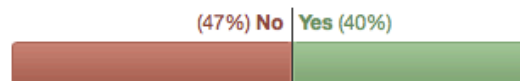
- “Israel is known to be one of the most LGBTQ friendly countries in the Middle East, despite the many religious sects represented in the country opposing homosexuality. There are laws that protect the LGBTQ community as well as community specific events, such as the gay pride parade in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Although locals are seeing a shift towards acceptance, social discrimination may occur as acceptance may vary depending on the area you are visiting.” ([“Diversity and Multicultural Travel Guide to Israel,” n.d.](#))
- “Although in recent years there has been a growing recognition of gay and lesbian rights in the public and legal arenas in Israel, the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered) community still faces various forms of discrimination by government authorities and in the private sector. LGBT men and women, and particularly transgendered persons, also experience discrimination in employment and health services, and are often the target of verbal and physical violence.” ([“ACRI - LGBT Rights,” n.d.](#))
- “The Palestinian territories have no specific, stand alone civil rights legislation that protects LGBT people from discrimination or harassment. While hundreds of gay Palestinians are reported to have fled to Israel because of the hostility they face in the Palestinian territories, they have also been subject to house arrest or deportation by Israeli authorities, on account of the inapplicability of the law of asylum to areas or nations in which Israel is in conflict.^[1] According to a 2010 compendium of laws against homosexuality produced by the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Intersex Association (ILGA), the decriminalization of homosexuality in the Palestinian territories is patchwork. On the one hand, same-sex acts were decriminalized in the Jordanian-controlled West Bank in 1951 and remain so to this day. On the other hand, in the Gaza Strip, the British Mandate Criminal Code Ordinance, No. 74 of 1936 remains in force and continues to outlaw same-sex acts between men, although lesbian women are not subjects of the code and their relations are thus, technically, not unlawful.^[2] The Palestinian Authority has not legislated either for or against homosexuality, though “on the legal level, the President of the Palestinian Authority issued his first decision on 20 May 1994 which provided that legislation and laws that were effective before 5 June 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would remain effective” – and, in line with almost all other Palestinian laws, the confused legal legacy of foreign occupation – Ottoman, British, Jordanian, Egyptian and Israeli – continues to determine the erratic application or non-application of the criminal law of homosexuality in each of the territories.^{[3][4]}” ([“Wikipedia - LGBT rights in the Palestinian Territories,” January 16, 2018](#))

HOMOSEXUALITY			MARRIAGE		
 ✓ Legal			 ✗ Foreign same-sex marriages recognized only		
CHANGING GENDER	✓ Legal, surgery not required	ADOPTION	✓ Legal	DISCRIMINATION	✓ Illegal
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION	Sexual orientation only	HOUSING DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	MILITARY	✓ Legal
AGE OF CONSENT	✓ Equal	DONATING BLOOD	✗ Banned (indefinite deferral)	CONVERSION THERAPY	Ambiguous

Public Opinion


"Should Society Accept Homosexuality?"

Israel ranks #20 out of 39 countries surveyed. (Source: *Pew Research Center*, June 4, 2013)



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- Note: United States ranks #13 out of 39 countries surveyed.
- **South Africa**
 - “South Africa is ahead of the majority of African countries when it comes to the rights of the LGBTQ community. Despite this, there are still significant issues that the country has to deal with. Same sex marriages have been legal since 2006, but the country still suffers from homophobia, prejudices, and occasional hate crimes. As an LGBTQ student, you should be aware of this and be sure to seek communities of people in more urban and liberal areas to connect with.” ([“Diversity and Multicultural Travel Guide to South Africa,” n.d.](#))
 - “South Africa has a complex and diverse history regarding the [human rights](#) of [LGBT](#) people....South Africa's post-apartheid [Constitution](#) was the first in the world to outlaw discrimination based on [sexual orientation](#), and South Africa was the fifth country in the world, and the first—and, to date, only—in Africa, to legalise [same-sex marriage](#). Same-sex couples can also adopt children jointly, and also arrange IVF and surrogacy treatments. LGBT people enjoy constitutional and statutory protections from discrimination in employment, provision of goods and services and many other areas. Nevertheless, LGBT South Africans, particularly those outside of the major cities, continue to face some challenges, including

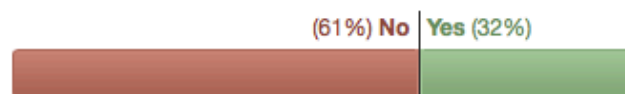
homophobic violence (particularly [corrective rape](#)), and high rates of [HIV/AIDS](#) infection.” (["Wikipedia - LGBT rights in South Africa," February 7, 2018](#))

HOMOSEXUALITY		MARRIAGE			
					
✓ Legal		✓ Legal			
CHANGING GENDER	✓ Legal, but requires surgery	ADOPTION	✓ Legal	DISCRIMINATION	✓ Illegal
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	HOUSING DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	MILITARY	✓ Legal
AGE OF CONSENT	✓ Equal	DONATING BLOOD	✗ Banned (6-month deferral)	CONVERSION THERAPY	✓ Banned

Public Opinion

"Should Society Accept Homosexuality?"

South Africa ranks **#23** out of 39 countries surveyed. (Source: *Pew Research Center*, June 4, 2013)





(EqualDex)

- Note: United States ranks **#13** out of 39 countries surveyed.

Spain

- “Although Spain has a very religious and Roman Catholic history, it is considered one of the most LGBTQ-friendly countries in the world. Same-sex couples have had the right to marry and adopt for over a decade. There are still some challenges, particularly with rights and acceptance of transgender people, but as a whole LGBTQ students will generally have a good experience in Spain.” ([“Diversity and Multicultural Travel Guide to Spain,” n.d.](#))
- “The rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered persons in Spain have undergone several drastic changes in recent decades. Today Spain provides one of the highest degrees of liberty in the world for its LGBT community.” ([“LGBT rights in Spain,” n.d.](#))

HOMOSEXUALITY			MARRIAGE		
 ✓ Legal			 ✓ Legal		
CHANGING GENDER	✓ Legal, surgery not required	ADOPTION	✓ Legal	DISCRIMINATION	✓ Illegal
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION	Sexual orientation only	HOUSING DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	MILITARY	✓ Legal
AGE OF CONSENT	✓ Equal	DONATING BLOOD	✓ Legal	CONVERSION THERAPY	✗ Not banned

Public Opinion

"Should Society Accept Homosexuality?"

Spain ranks #1 out of 39 countries surveyed. (Source: Pew Research Center, June 4, 2013)

(11%) No | Yes (88%)





(EqualDex)

- Note: United States ranks **#13** out of 39 countries surveyed.

● Tanzania

- “[Homosexuality](#) in [Tanzania](#) is a [socially taboo](#) topic, and same-sex sexual acts are crimes punishable by the state. According to the 2007 [Pew Global Attitudes Project](#), 95 percent^[2] of Tanzanian residents believe that homosexuality is a way of life that society should not accept, which was the seventh-highest rate of non-acceptance in the 45 countries surveyed.” (["Wikipedia - LGBT rights in Tanzania," December 14, 2017](#))



HOMOSEXUALITY			MARRIAGE		
 ✗ Illegal (imprisonment as punishment)			 ✗ Unrecognized		
CHANGING GENDER	✓ Legal, but requires surgery	ADOPTION	Married couples only	DISCRIMINATION	✗ No protections
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION	✗ No protections	HOUSING DISCRIMINATION	✗ No protections	MILITARY	✗ Illegal
AGE OF CONSENT	Ambiguous	DONATING BLOOD	✓ Legal	CONVERSION THERAPY	Ambiguous

(EqualDex)

● United Kingdom

- Student blog: [“What’s it Like Being Queer in London?”](#)

- “I was curious to know what Julianna’s experience has been like coming out to her friends and flatmates as queer. She told me that she’s very open with her sexual identity, and that her flatmates had a few questions for her but were very accepting. She said that with her friends on the football (soccer) team coming out wasn’t even an issue because most of the girls on the team are not straight either. She said her experiences coming out in London were very similar to those in the United States.”
- Student blog: [“Coming Out: The Abroad Edition”](#)
 - “I felt that I had been in a liminal space, transitioning from one Rachel to another. I felt the need to explain myself and to validate my experience. I received a lot of questions from friends and family members who I had spoken to about my bisexuality, many about how I “was straight just a few months ago.” However, I realized soon enough that responding wasn’t actually necessary. Some days, I had enough energy to talk about my feelings and decision to be more expressive in London, and some days I didn’t. It is okay to not answer questions about your sexuality if they are being hurled your way, and also okay if you feel like you don’t have everything “figured out” yet. Each individual’s journey, no matter the pace, journey or destination, is valid and important.”
- “The United Kingdom is considered one of the most progressive countries in Europe when it comes to LGBTQ rights, with the government making strong efforts to protect the rights of the LGBTQ community. There are still some shortcomings, however. For example, same-sex marriage is still not legal in Northern Ireland. Also, there are still sporadic crimes against LGBTQ motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity. With this in mind, LGBTQ students should take any usual precautions about their social circle and activities, but should not have major problems while in the U.K. Additionally, with new movements of the intersectionality of religion and the LGBTQIA community, the UK at the forefront of these human rights.” ([“Diversity and Multicultural Travel Guide to United Kingdom,” n.d.](#))
- “LGBT citizens have most of the same legal rights as non-LGBT citizens and the UK provides one of the highest degrees of liberty in the world for its LGBT communities. In ILGA-Europe's 2015 review of LGBTI rights, the UK received the highest score in Europe, with 86% progress toward "respect of human rights and full equality" for LGBT people and 92% in Scotland alone.” ([“LGBT rights in the United Kingdom,” February 15, 2018](#))

HOMOSEXUALITY		MARRIAGE			
					
✓ Legal		✓ Legal			
CHANGING GENDER	✓ Legal, surgery not required	ADOPTION	✓ Legal	DISCRIMINATION	✓ Illegal
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	HOUSING DISCRIMINATION	✓ Sexual orientation and gender identity	MILITARY	✓ Legal
AGE OF CONSENT	✓ Equal	DONATING BLOOD	✗ Banned (1-year deferral)	CONVERSION THERAPY	Ambiguous

Public Opinion

"Should Society Accept Homosexuality?"

United Kingdom ranks **#6** out of 39 countries surveyed. (Source: *Pew Research Center*, June 4, 2013)



(EqualDex)

- Note: United States ranks **#13** out of 39 countries surveyed.