

HELPFUL RESOURCES AT OUR ATHENS CAMPUS

The University of Georgia and the Office of International Education are committed to making the study abroad experience as positive and enriching as possible for all students.

This brochure contains information to guide you through specific sociocultural topics and how they may relate to your study abroad experience. Before leaving for an education abroad program, learn as much information as you can about your host country. Consider the cultural, legal, and social norms of your host culture before you travel.

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

1324 S. Lumpkin Street, Athens, GA 30602

706-542-2900

international.uga.edu/oie

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY

210 Holmes-Hunter Academic Building

706-583-8195

diversity.uga.edu

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

114 Clark Howell Hall

706-542-8719

drc.uga.edu

LGBT RESOURCE CENTER

221 Memorial Hall

706-542-4077

lgbtcenter.uga.edu

INSTITUTE OF WOMEN'S STUDIES

Gilbert Hall, 210 Herty Drive

706-542-2846

iws.uga.edu

EDUCATION ABROAD @ UGA®

RESOURCES AVAILABLE 24/7:

GOABROAD.UGA.EDU

EMAIL: GOABROAD@UGA.EDU

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ABOUT UGA® EDUCATION ABROAD

The University of Georgia is dedicated to preparing you to become a global citizen equipped to respond to the changes and challenges that affect our local and global communities. The UGA Education Abroad office is here to support your journey to global citizenship by offering academic opportunities in more than 60 countries in English and other languages.

UGA programs range in duration from 2 to 52 weeks and allow students to earn UGA or transfer credit while studying abroad. Programs are designed to accommodate any student's program of study. Each year, thousands of UGA students study, research, or intern abroad in countries throughout the world.

The Office of International Education supports UGA's academic, research, and outreach missions and strategic directions through the promotion of global learning experiences for students, the sponsorship and support of international students, scholars, faculty and staff, and the development of international research and instructional partnerships and collaborations.

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DIVERSITY AND UGA® EDUCATION ABROAD



University of Georgia Office of
International Education



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RELIGION

Take some time to consider how your spirituality and religious beliefs will be affected by your study abroad experience. How much is religious faith, spirituality, or practice a part of your identity, and how would the religious environment in your host country affect your ability to practice these?

Countries around the world may differ from the U.S. in their religious freedom and diversity. What is the primary religion in your host country? What is their history of religious tolerance? How could your religious views, if different from the primary religion of your host country, influence your interactions with people, and how might your views be perceived?

RACE AND ETHNICITY

You should consider whether race and ethnicity will affect people's interactions with you. Discover whether racial discrimination and prejudice are similar to or different from those issues the U.S., and how your experience abroad may challenge your notions of racism and prejudice. Learn about laws related to racial discrimination, culture-specific stereotypes, and how people may define and respond to racial discrimination and prejudice.

Determine if you will be a part of the majority or minority population in your host country. If a member of the minority, how will you interact with locals? If a member of the majority, how might you connect with minority populations?

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

If you are a student with disabilities, you should learn more about accessibility and accommodations before deciding on a study abroad program. Consult UGA's Disability Resource Center, as well as the Office of International Education, for assistance both in selecting a program and assessing how you



can meet and communicate your needs while abroad. You may experience a different level of independence, and accessibility and accommodations may be provided in different ways; you should research the ways in which your specific needs may or may not be met in the host country.

Another important factor to note is how ability/disability may be viewed in other cultures and what attitudes you may encounter while abroad. With more information about what to expect, you will be better prepared to interact with your host culture.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

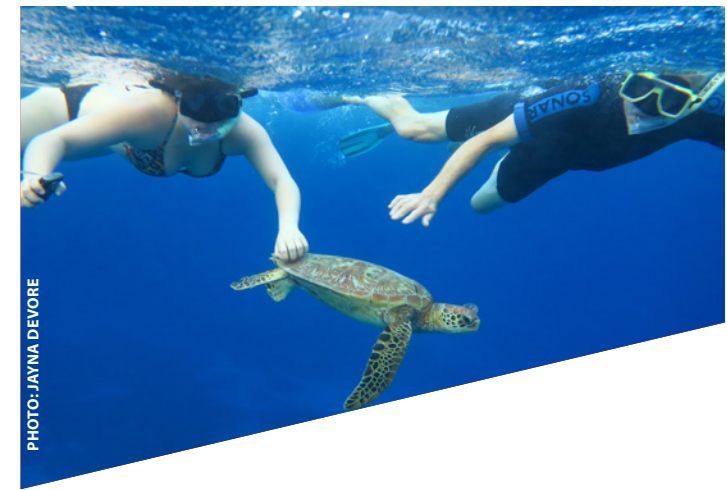
Before you leave the U.S., find out how identification as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered may be viewed in the host culture. A different way of life may allow you to explore your own sexual orientation in another context. How could being "out" affect your interactions in your host country?

Take into account how cultural norms of friendship and dating affect people of all sexual orientations. Additionally, are there any local LGBTQA organizations or support services in your host country? How might you discuss your sexual orientation in your host country's language?

GENDER

Gender relations and interactions may be governed by a different set of cultural norms than those in the U.S. Study abroad can allow you to observe gender identity patterns in your host country. What social norms determine gender interactions and identity in your host country? How are men and women perceived, and what gender-based privileges or disadvantages might affect your interactions with people?

Learn about how women are expected to dress and the



consequences of not following dress codes. You should also find out how the host culture defines and reacts to sexual harassment, and assess if there are any unsafe situations and circumstances for men and women that you should avoid.

FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

There are several benefits to international education programs for first-generation students. You can meet requirements for your degree while abroad, and after graduation, you can market your experience abroad while looking for work.

Many study abroad programs are similar in cost to a semester at UGA; additionally, UGA financial aid is applicable to many of these programs. There are numerous scholarships available to help finance your education abroad program. It may be overwhelming to choose a specific study abroad program, so please discuss your plans with your family. You should also consult your academic advisor and an Education Abroad advisor at the Office of International Education, who can help guide you through the application process.

POST-EXPERIENCE

Upon returning home, you may experience a period of cultural readjustment. You should reflect on what you gained from your experience abroad. How might your experience, and some of your new views or attitudes, affect your relationships with friends and family? What knowledge did you gain, and how might you apply it in the future? Are there any new opportunities you may be able to pursue after studying abroad?

ONLINE RESOURCES

Diversity Abroad: diversityabroad.com

Mobility International USA: miusa.org

State Department: studentsabroad.state.gov

UGA's Education Abroad 101: goabroad.uga.edu/?go=ea101