

# Information For Students with Disabilities Studying Abroad

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**CAL POLY**

# Overview

- What to consider when picking a program
- Questions to ask
- Common accommodations
- Medical/ prescription needs
- Next steps
- Additional resources

# What to Consider When Picking a Study Abroad Program

- What are the physical environments like in your host country, and will you be able to independently navigate these environments?
- Is learning mainly from lectures, readings, independent research, etc?
- How are the assignments and grading policies different?
- What housing options exist?
- What are the student's personal responsibilities, such as cooking, laundry, etc.?
- Is transportation available and accessible?

# Must-Ask Questions for Students with Disabilities

- How are people with disabilities viewed in the host country?
- How should I respond if people give me unsolicited help?
- Am I willing to disclose my disability to others?
- How accessible are places in my host country?
- Will my disability deter me from participating in certain excursions because of limited access?

# Common Accommodations While Abroad

- Exam accommodations
- Coursework modifications and accommodations
- Classroom accommodations
- Policy accommodations
- Housing accommodations
- Excursion accommodations

# Medical/ Prescription Needs

- If you take prescriptions, make sure you have enough to last throughout the entire stay
- All medications should be stored in their original containers with their labels attached and visible
- Carry a letter from a physician that describes the medication
- Always carry medication in your carry-on in the event your checked bag is delayed or lost

# Medical/ Prescription Needs Continued

- Confirm your health insurance covers any disability-related medical needs while overseas
- Ensure your medication is legal in your host country by contacting the consulate or embassy
- Consult with your physician before traveling overseas to identify health care needs during your trip
- It may be illegal to have medication sent abroad to you via postal mail, so check with the postal service and customs before you do

# Next Steps

- You may choose to register with the Cal Poly Disability Resource Center for advising on accommodations at Cal Poly and abroad
- You may choose to disclose your disability-related accommodation needs to study abroad staff so that accessibility needs can be addressed
- Learn about your destination's culture, attitudes, laws, etc in regards to your disability
- Prepare to go abroad!



# Additional Resources

- [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#): provides advising on disabilities and accommodations both at Cal Poly and while on study abroad
- [Mobility International USA \(MIUSA\)](#): international exchange information, technical assistance and training to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities.
- [Access Abroad](#): currently the most comprehensive resource for students with disabilities and study abroad.
- U.S. Department of State [Travelers with Disabilities](#): information surrounding local laws, cultural norms, access issues, etc

# Questions?

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