

OVERSEAS & OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL RESOURCES

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INTRODUCTION

This guide provides travel resources and tips for booking flights, packing, acquiring a passport, and more! Keep in mind that more specific and detailed information will be shared with program participants, and that the following information is meant to be a general guide. When booking your flights and finalizing travel plans, please refer to your program's Google Classroom page for specific instructions.

Please contact overseas@lclark.edu if you have any questions!





Flight & Arrival Procedures

Lewis & Clark students are responsible for coordinating and purchasing their own flights to and from the program location. Program dates are usually finalized 5 months prior to the start of the program. The Overseas Office will post official program dates and detailed travel instructions to your individual program page on Google Classroom.

In order to avoid unnecessary change fees, it is strongly advised to wait until the final program dates have been posted before booking your fights.

Student-Friendly Travel Sites

Students may book their flights using any travel site, airline, or service they choose! Below are a few sites that tend to offer affordable options, especially for students:

STA: http://www.statravel.com/solutions/lewis-clarkcollege.htm

STA offers many deals that are especially useful for study abroad students. Some flights are eligible for a "Book Now, Pay Later" deal, where you can hold a spot on a flight with a deposit and pay the remainder later on. They also have a flexible booking option on some flights, which allows you to pay a fee of $49+ for the ability to change your return date later on.

NOTE: STA charges a $30 booking fee.

Student Universe: https://www.studentuniverse.com/

Kayak: https://www.kayak.com/

Cheap Tickets: https://www.cheaptickets.com/

One Travel: https://www.onetravel.com/

Sky Scanner: https://www.skyscanner.com/



Things to keep in mind:

- Look into baggage fees, change fees, and other hidden charges before finalizing your flight.
- Many international flights are either overnight flights, or cross multiple time zones. Be sure to double check that your flight actually arrives no later than the required time in the local time zone.
- Round-trip tickets tend to be cheaper than purchasing two separate one-way tickets. While the specific laws and regulations vary by country, it is always wise to travel with proof of a return ticket. When you pass through immigration at the airport upon arrival, immigration officers will ask about your travel plans, how long you intend to stay, why you are visiting, etc. In order to avoid any complications at this checkpoint, it is highly recommended to travel with a return flight already booked.
- Think about how you will meet up with your group upon arrival. In many cases, airport pick-up will be arranged for your group if you arrive within the designated window of time. If you are arriving earlier than the program start date or are on a program that does not provide airport pick-up, you'll want to research in-country transportation before you go. There is likely a shuttle bus, subway, or train that you can take directly from the airport - these are typically the most cost effective options. You could also look into how far away your housing is from the airport - it may be worth catching a taxi instead of using public transportation if it's not too far away.
- Once you've booked your flight, print out your complete itinerary to keep with you as you travel. You should also print out or keep a handwritten note of your local contact's phone number and address (this information will be provided to you before you go). If you miss a flight during transit, or miss the group pick-up time, you'll want to have this information available to arrange your own transportation to meet up with the rest of the group once you arrive. Don't rely on your cell phone or internet to access this information while traveling.



Passport & Visa

Once you are accepted to an LC Overseas program, you will be asked to submit a scan of your passport. Before doing so, you'll want to check two things:

1. **Do you already have a passport? If so, when does your passport expire?** If it expires within 6 months of the *end* of your overseas program, you'll need to renew it! Follow this link to see guidelines for passport renewals/applications- you'll notice that the renewal process varies depending on how old you were when you first applied for your passport. We recommend applying/renewing as soon as possible. Many students will need to apply for a visa prior to the start of the program, and will need to have their up to date passport before this process. It is possible to pay an additional fee to expedite the processing later on, but it is best to get started early to avoid that extra cost.

2. **Have you signed the "signature of bearer" line (if you hold a US passport)?** The passport isn't considered an official document until it has been signed.

3. **Do you hold an international passport? If you hold multiple passports, have you determined which one is best to travel with for your program?** Since regulations on visa and travel vary widely by country, the Overseas Office meets with every student who has concerns or questions regarding their travel documents. Please contact **overseas@lclark.edu** if you intend to travel using a non-US passport.

Visa regulations often change year to year, and require extremely careful attention throughout the applicaiton process. Some students will be required to apply for a visa prior to departing the US, while others won't need to apply for a special visa at all. Sometimes our office is able to help facilitate the visa process, and will make explicit the resources you'll need to access and timeline you should follow during the semester before your program begins. Once accepted to a program, students should check on their visa timeline and regulations before planning any international travel. **Here is a link to some more visa information our our webpage.**

It is ultimately the student's responsibility to apply for and acquire a visa. While the Overseas Office is able to act as a resource in preparing visa applications, students are required to meet requirements and regulations set by the consulate. The Overseas Office is not able to make special arrangements or exceptions with the consulate if students do not follow the expected guidelines.



Scholarships

There are many study abroad scholarships that offer funding for travel expenses. There are tons of others out there as well, so make sure to do some research as soon as you are accepted so you don't miss any deadlines!

Fund for Education Abroad: http://fundforeducationabroad.org/applicants/

CIEE Scholarships (Must be a participant on a program run by CIEE): https://www.ciee.org/study-abroad/scholarships-grants/

Boren Scholarship: https://www.borenawards.org/

Gilman International Scholarship: https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/

Diversity Abroad: http://www.diversityabroad.com/scholarships

Freeman ASIA Scholarship (China, Japan, South Korea): https://www.iie.org/programs/Freeman-ASIA/

Check out the Scholarship Opportunities page on our website for some more links and resources!

Travel Links

Medical Checklist - We recommend making an appointment with Student Health Services on campus the semester prior to your program to get an updated list of immunizations that are recommended or mandatory for this program. You may also be required to submit various test results (HIV, chest x-rays, etc.) as a part of your visa application.

Information on traveling with prescription medications - Some countries have strict regulations on what medications can be brought in or refilled. Please review this information if you plan on traveling with prescription medications, or may require access to a prescription medication while on your program.

Suggested Packing List

Enroll in STEP - The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Country Specific Information - Learn more about your program location - visa requirements, travel advisories, local laws and regulations, embassy contact information, etc.

Travel warnings, consular information sheets, and passport information - The United States Department of State's website provides information on US passports and visas, travel warnings for specific regions, and other information specific to students studying abroad.

Travisa - Quickly process your passport application, renewal, or replacement using Travisa's website. Travisa also processes visa applications.

Currency converter: Make yourself familiar with the exchange rate in your program location

Eurail - If you intend to travel in Europe beyond your program location, you may want to look into travel packages and train passes before you go

Hostelling International - Hostels are affordable options for students traveling independently before or after a program!

Center for Disease Control - Search the website under "Travelers' Health" to find country-specific recommendations for pre-departure vaccines and medicines, healthy packing lists, and information for your return. The CDC also has an app!

Banks & Money Management - Don't forget to tell your bank when are where you will be traveling so that they don't cancel your card due to suspected fraud. Look into the specific international fees, ATM charges, and other costs associated with using your debit or credit card abroad. It may be worth looking into another bank/company if the fees are extremely high.