



TRAVEL/STUDY ABROAD ORIENTATION CHECKLIST

(The Following are general suggestions to be reviewed prior to traveling abroad. Specific requirements and expectations may be different for different destination countries.)

PASSPORTS, VISAS, IDENTIFICATION MATERIALS

1. All participants are encouraged to photocopy the data page of their passport and leave the passport number, date, and place of issuance with a relative or friend in the United States for reference in case the passport is lost or stolen.
2. A second photocopy should be kept separate from your passport while traveling.
3. Passports should be carefully safe guarded at all times and not left in an empty hotel room or packed in luggage.
4. One person should not carry all of the passports for the group.
5. At least one close relative of each participant should have his/her own valid passport to be available to travel in the event a participant is seriously injured, ill or has some other emergency.
6. All participants should take with them adequate documentation to prove U.S. citizenship and identity for reentering the United States. A valid passport is always "adequate documentation" of U.S. Citizenship.
7. Prior to traveling, any participant with the possibility of dual citizenship should check on his/her status with the embassy or consulate of the country that might claim him/her as a citizen.

FOREIGN LAWS AND CUSTOMS

1. Participants should be aware of foreign laws that differ from those in the United States.
2. Participants should know currency and customs regulations. Local regulations regarding the sale of personal effects, such as clothing, cameras and jewelry should be known.
3. Photographing police and military installations and personnel, industrial structures including harbors, rail, and airport facilities, border areas, and scenes of civil disorder or other public disturbance should be done only with appropriate permission.
4. All drivers in foreign countries must be properly licensed in those foreign countries. When traveling by car to Mexico or Canada, a copy of the vehicle registration must be carried for proving ownership when returning to the United States.
5. Not all countries have laws similar to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Special accommodations or needs should be investigated and arrangements made to accommodate.
6. If the travel plans include staying as guests in private residences, participants should be aware of the local customs regarding hygiene customs, energy conservation, hot water usage, room temperature, etc. Participants should be aware of the local customs regarding drinking alcohol, hand gestures, what is offensive versus neutral and appropriate subjects for social conversation.
7. Participants should be aware of the voltage and plug sizes for portable appliances in the countries being visited.
8. Participants should be aware that they may be arrested for mistakenly exceeding their credit card limit.
9. Some destination countries may charge a departure tax. Adequate funds must be set aside to pay this tax.
10. Wildlife or wildlife products should not be purchased unless it is certain they are legal for import into the United States. To avoid lead poisoning, ceramics (unless they are made by a firm with a good international reputation) should not be purchased.
11. Participants should be aware of fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, potted plants, pet birds, and other items that are prohibited or restricted from entry into the United States. Receipts should be kept of all purchases for U.S. Customs declaration.
12. Students will not be permitted to drive a motor vehicle in any foreign country while studying abroad unless approval is given by the office of the Vice President for Administration & Finance and the individual has met the requirements of the host country.
13. Shenandoah University reserves the right for the study-travel leader to send any participant back to the U.S. at their own expense if the participant does not follow the rules and regulations of the University and/or directions of the study-travel leader.

I have read, understand and agree to comply with the above information.

Print name _____

Sign name _____

Date _____