

Pre-Departure Health and Safety Discussion with Students

Part of the Faculty Director's role is to prepare the students regarding local health, safety, and cultural information. Below is a list of topics for discussion that we highly recommend that you include in your pre-departure meetings.

- If you are collaborating with a host institution/provider on the logistics for your program, request a copy of their materials to learn what they will cover in the on-site orientation. This can help inform your pre-departure discussions and assist you and the students in being more prepared prior to departure.,
- Basic Cultural Information and Cultural Differences
 - Areas where students might encounter cultural differences for example:
 - ☞ Clothing, what is appropriate and what is not
 - ☞ Noise levels (In the US we tend to talk loudly while people in other countries do not. Loud noise levels bring unnecessary attention to the group.)
- Local Weather Conditions
 - Will you need to build in water breaks and shade time weather is warm?
 - Make sure students bring water bottles to avoid dehydration
 - Sunscreen to avoid burns, warm clothes if it's going to be cold
- Local Laws in the host country
 - [The U.S. Department of State](#) has detailed information on this topic
 - Students were provided this link in orientation, but it does not hurt to reiterate.
- Local norms regarding alcohol in the host country
- Local transportation – what is safe to use and what is not
- Areas in the city(ies) where you will be traveling that should be avoided
- Relevant addresses and phone numbers
 - Faculty
 - Student participants
 - Nearest US embassy
 - [Local 911 Number](#)
 - Local US Embassy
- Discuss how the group will stay in touch and communicate while abroad
 - Choose a platform such as Facebook, Whatsapp, etc. and make sure everyone has downloaded the app and entered all phone numbers.
- Emergency Meeting Point(s) during excursions and at your home base
 - When going on excursions, make sure to establish an emergency meeting point and inform the group in case anyone gets lost or there is an emergency.
- Health Services
 - Where is the nearest English-speaking doctor dentist, and hospital?
- Plot important locations on a map and distribute to students before departure
- Ask students if they are willing to share with you any information that would be relevant in the case of a health-related emergency, so you have a heads up if anything comes up. (i.e. a student needs an EpiPen or has asthma and uses an inhaler).
- Remind students about [STEP registration](#)
 - Students are given information about this in their portal, but it is a helpful reminder just in case and a good habit to start for future travels