

# UGA GLOBAL EDUCATION: WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### OFFICE OF GLOBAL EDUCATION

- Professional advising for international activities while attending UGA
- Regular information sessions and other outreach events offered
- Works with faculty on program development, including regular risk management training
- Helps your student prepare to go – shared responsibility, your student has homework too!

### WHY STUDY ABROAD?

- Adds to full UGA experience -- can satisfy Experiential Learning requirement!
- Become more comfortable with ambiguity
- Expand global network
- Understand new culture and student's host culture
- Increase cross-cultural competencies
- Fulfill academic, personal, and professional goals

### FINANCING STUDY ABROAD

- Students can use financial aid and scholarships towards credit-bearing experiences
- HOPE/Zell Miller works like regular UGA courses (even on non-UGA programs)
- Out-of-state students pay UGA in-state tuition rate for any UGA-sponsored program (UGA Faculty-Led, UGA International Center, and UGA Exchange)
- Program fees vary by program
- Scholarships available, visit [studyaway.uga.edu](https://studyaway.uga.edu) for more information

### MITIGATING RISK IN GLOBAL EDUCATION

- OGE is advised by the UGA Risk Management Advisory Committee (cross-campus representation)
- Program-specific pre-departure orientation meetings
- All students on UGA programs\* are enrolled into robust insurance policy through CISI
  - *\$500,000 maximum benefits per covered accident or sickness*
  - *Emergency medical reunion*
  - *Medical or security evacuation up to \$100,000*
  - *For more information, visit the "Health & Safety" page on [studyaway.uga.edu](https://studyaway.uga.edu)*
  - *\*All students attending non-UGA programs are required to enroll into CISI or provide proof of equal coverage*
- Regular comprehensive risk management training for all individuals in positions of authority for UGA Global Education programs
- UGA does not sponsor programs or activities in countries with a Travel Warning issued by the U.S. Department of State
- Overseas Emergency Response Team at UGA monitors and responds to incident reports and world events
- Alert UGA to an overseas emergency involving their student through an Online Incident Report: [oge.uga.edu/incidentreport](https://oge.uga.edu/incidentreport)
- In an emergency, call Office of Global Education during business hours at (706) 542-2900 or UGA Police, 24/7/365 at (706) 542-2200

# STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION

## YOUR STUDENT'S PROGRAM

- Course offerings, grades and credits, financial costs, academic and program structure, housing type, requirements, etc. all vary based your student's program type:
  - *UGA Faculty-Led*
  - *UGA International Centers*
  - *Exchange*
  - *UGA Independent Experience*
  - *Non-UGA Program*
- Ask your student what program they are interested in or attending, and work with them to familiarize yourself on the specifics of their experience.

## SUPPORT OF PARENTS/FAMILIES

- Know that your student's safety is UGA's #1 priority with international activities
- Due to Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA), UGA employees may not discuss a student's information – encourage your student to be in contact with us
- In an emergency, UGA will reach out to emergency contacts as allowed by student
- Ask your student about Pre-Departure Orientation and whether parents are invited to attend
- Parents may alert UGA to an overseas emergency involving their student through an Online Incident Report: [oge.uga.edu/incidentreport](http://oge.uga.edu/incidentreport)
- In an emergency, call Office of Global Engagement during business hours at (706) 542-2900 or UGA Police, 24/7/365 at (706) 542-2200
- For additional resources, visit: [www.nafsa.org](http://www.nafsa.org)

## UPON RETURN FROM ABROAD

- Students can be excited to come home, but may have difficulty readjusting
- Listen to their stories and ask to see pictures
- Your student's interests, habits, and world outlook may have changed – and that's okay!
- Encourage them to integrate their new hobbies or interests into their pre-study abroad life
- Take an interest in their new interests, ask questions
- Be patient with them – they are trying to process a meaningful experience, and may experience extreme emotions during this transition period.

## PRE-DEPARTURE

- Students can be excited, anxious, overwhelmed, stressed – talk to them about how they are feeling
- Join them for an advising appointment
- Check-in with them about their requirements – are they fully prepared to go?
- Help them budget
- Determine what your level of communication will be while they are abroad
- Will you be visiting? Discuss expectations
- Research the culture and location to which they are traveling together
- Does your student need a passport or visa?
- Discuss health and safety proactively – what precautions should your student take?
- Ask what their goals are for the experience!

## WHILE ABROAD

- Allow time for them to get settled – travel is exhausting, don't worry if they aren't in communication right away!
- Find a level of communication that works for you both, but give them their space – over communication with home can make it difficult for students to connect to their present situation.
- Send letters or care packages
- Culture shock is an on-going process – listen to their frustrations, but remain positive and supportive, be patient with them, and remind them of their goals
- Remind them to update the travel itinerary in their StudyAway Portal application for any side travel – this will help us to reach out to them in case of emergency!
- Encourage them to engage with their host culture