

Resources

Educational Systems Abroad

Regardless of where your studies are taking you, it's a good idea to know something about the educational system in which you'll find yourself. You can get an idea of how your host country's system works by pointing your browser to the following sites:

Australia: Australian Education Office

<http://www.aeo.us/>

Canada: Canadian Education on the Web

<http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/~mpress/eduweb/eduweb.html>

Finland: EDU.FI, the Finnish University Directory

<http://www.edu.fi/english/Koulut/ykk.html>

France: Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale

<http://www.education.fr/>

Germany: the German Higher Education System

http://www.rwth-aachen.de/zentral/aguid_TH_allg_guide4.htm

Ireland: Higher Education Authority

<http://www.hea.ie>

Korea: Korean Ministry of Education

<http://www.moe.go.kr/en/>

Mexico: The Mexico Channel

http://mexicochannel.net/menu3_en.htm

Scotland: ScotFind, the Scottish Search Engine

<http://www.scotfind.com/links/Education>

Spain: Spanish Embassy Education Office

<http://www.spci.mec.es/usa/>

Switzerland: Swiss Education and Research site map

<http://www.switch.ch./edu/edu-map.html>

United Kingdom: British Council's Education Information Service

<http://www.EducationUK.org/>

Regardless of where your studies take you, teaching and learning methods may be different from what you've experienced in the United States:

- classes may be lecture-only, with the expectation that you will take verbatim notes;

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- attendance may be required at tutorials but not at lectures;
- you may have long reading lists from which you will need to determine what to read, skim, or just be aware of;
- attendance may be required for some classes but not for others;
- you may be required to work more in groups or make more presentations;
- you may have more homework, or none at all;
- essay style may be more research-based or more opinion-based; or
- you may need to learn more on your own, outside of class, than you are accustomed to doing.

Strategies for dealing with these differences in style can include:

- borrowing lecture notes from other students;
- introducing yourself to your instructors and asking what to do if you have questions;
- seeking out academic assistance (e.g., tutors or help with writing skills) on campus;
- organizing or joining study groups with other students in your classes;
- studying more than the local students;
- meeting with your instructors periodically, to determine how you're doing in the class;
- budgeting your time so that you're learning throughout the semester, in case the end of the term is harder than you'd anticipated.

Student support services may vary, too:

- You may not have an academic advisor and will need to seek out help when you need it;
- student counseling and other supports may not exist on campus or in that culture;
- there may be fewer on-campus activities, so be prepared to create your own social life;
- dorms may not have staff in residence, so you may need to resolve housing issues on your own.

When in doubt, be persistent in asking your study abroad advisor or exchange coordinator abroad for assistance.

Bibliography

Travel Series

Berkeley Guides, published by Fodor's Travel Publications, New York, and written by students, for students, with very specific tourist information

Culture Shock!, published by Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company, Oregon, usually written by U.S. citizens living abroad; the books discuss deeper cultural issues rather than travel

Eyewitness Travel Guides, published by Dorling Kindersley, London, are glossy guides with a mix of photos, graphics, history, and tourist information

Fielding's, published by Fielding Worldwide, California, are designed for the older traveler and are updated every year

Frommer's Complete Travel Guides, published by Macmillan Travel, New York, cover much the same tourist information of the other series listed here

Insight Guides, published by APA Publications, Singapore, are primarily photo-journalism, with good background information and without the tourist information

Knopf Guides, published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York, have wonderful photos, graphics, and information for those wanting more than an overview

Let's Go, published by St. Martin's Press, New York, is a series written by students, for students, as a classic tourist guide with very specific and very accurate information

Lonely Planet, published by Lonely Planet Publications, Australia, has an eye for the local culture and mixes cultural background with practical tourist tips

The Rough Guide, published by Penguin Books, is primarily text; don't look here for photos, but do consider this as a primary source for in-depth information

General Travel / Adjustment

Do's and Taboos Around the World by Roger Axtell, Parker Pen Company, 1985

Do's and Taboos of Using English Abroad by Roger Axtell, John Wiley & Sons, 1995

WeEuropeans by Richard Hill, Europublications, 1997

Survival Kit for Overseas Living by L. Robert Kohls, Intercultural Press, 1979

Europe on 84 Cents a Day by Gil White, Bestsellers, 1995

Europe Through the Back Door by Rick Steves, John Muir Publications, 1998

First-Time Europe by Louis CasaBianca, Rough Guides, 1997

The Real Guide: Mexico by John Fisher

Living in Mexico: A Complete Guide by Michael Zamba

For Diverse Populations

A World of Options: A Guide to International Exchange, Community Service, and Travel for Persons with Disabilities, edited by Christa Bucks, Mobility International USA, 1997

New Manual for Inclusions of Persons with Disabilities in International Exchange Programs, Mobility International USA, 1996

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Able to Travel: True Stories by and for People with Disabilities
Able to Travel: True Stories by and for People with Disabilities, edited by Alison Walsh, The Rough Guides, 1994

Gutsy Women: Travel Tips and Wisdom for the Road by Marybeth Bond, Travelers' Tales, Inc., 1996

Traveling Solo by Eleanor Berman, Globe Pequot Press, 1997

Are You Two... Together? A Gay and Lesbian Travel Guide to Europe by Lindsay Van Gelder and Pamela Robin Brandt, Random House, 1991

Detour's London: An Alternative Guide by Jonathan Nicholson and Jonathan Williams, Detour Publications, 1993

Handbook for Women Abroad, edited by Jane Wemhoener, 1991, available from Kenyon College, Office of International Education, Gambier OH 43022

Web Resources

General Travel

Centers for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/index.htm>

CultureGrams

<http://www.culturegrams.com/>

Frommer's

<http://www.frommers.com/>

Let's Go

<http://www.letsgo.com/>

Lonely Planet

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/>

Rough Guides

<http://www.roughguides.com/>

Tourism Offices Worldwide Directory

<http://www.towd.com>

Travlang's Foreign Language for Travelers

<http://www.travlang.com>

U.S. State Department Background Notes

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/>

U.S. State Department Travel Warnings and Public Announcements

<http://travel.state.gov/>

Diverse Populations**Mobility International USA**

<http://www.miusa.org/>

Disability Travel and Recreation Resources

<http://www.makoa.org/travel.htm>

Emerging Horizons Accessible Travel News

<http://emerginghorizons.com/>

Journeywoman

<http://www.journeywoman.com>

Woman Abroad

http://www.umich.edu/~icenter/overseas/study/women_abroad.html

Americans of Color Abroad

http://www.umich.edu/~icenter/overseas/work/americans_of_color.html

NAFSA: Association of International Educators Rainbow SIG

<http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/lesbigay>

Indiana University Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Student Support Services

<http://www.iub.edu/%7eglbt/>

NGLTF: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

<http://www.nglhf.org>

Ferrari Guides

<http://www.gay.com/intro.html>