

Developing a good sense of your personal, academic, and career goals for your education abroad experience before you leave the US is important. Think about what you want to learn, experience, and discover. Do you want to improve your language ability? Do you want to learn more about your host culture by staying with a host family and living in a residence hall? Are you participating in an internship or volunteer or service learning experience—if so, what will your learning goals be? How will you meet host nationals and make friends? How will you get to know your host city and host country? What other travel are you planning? How will you reflect on your experiences and learn from them?

Before you go abroad, write down some tentative goals and how you will achieve them.

PERSONAL GOALS (i.e. strategies to make friends from host culture, learn host culture customs/values, dealing with culture shock/homesickness, travel)

ACADEMIC GOALS (learning foreign language, strategies for choosing courses, study habits on host country, library system, grading system)

CAREER GOALS (volunteering/interning while abroad, research opportunities, re-entry, graduate school)

Suggestion: Take this sheet with you, revise your goals while abroad, note the ones you achieve, and further reflect on your goals and achievements once you are back in the US.

What will your next steps be toward achieving your goals once you are back in the US?