

Why Study Abroad?

Studying abroad during your college career allows you to experience new cultures, add an international perspective to your academics, and further understand your identity within a global context. There are many great reasons why you should study abroad, and a variety of factors you should consider as you prepare to take your pride worldwide.

The UCSD PAO office and the UCSD LGBT Resource Center encourage LGBTQ students to study abroad. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices for more information!



Things to Consider

Before you go abroad, be aware that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer (LGBTQ) identified people experience oppression everywhere in the world, though there are different levels of acceptance in different countries. Visit the UCEAP site for a list of resources: eap.ucop.edu/Diversity/Pages/LGBTQ.aspx

Finding Community

- How open will you be about your sexual orientation and gender identity with your teachers, peers, friends, host family, and others?
- What are the general attitudes toward LGBTQ people in the host culture?
- How important is it to you to find other LGBTQ students and friends while abroad?

Laws

- Are there specific laws regarding sexual orientation and gender identity in the host country?
- Is it safe to express your sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the country and/or region?
- Remember: Be sensitive to cultural differences. You are subject to your host country's laws even if you feel they are discriminatory.

Health

- Are sexual health products, e.g. condoms, readily available in my host country?
- Is psychological counseling for mental health available at my host campus?
- Where can I find LGBTQ-inclusive medical care in my host country?

Student Voices



"Studying abroad at Sussex University in Brighton, UK was an unforgettable experience. It was as if I had a slice of California in Europe. With beautiful sites and a lively LGBTQ community, Brighton felt like a second home to me. Since I am a first-generation college student from a small, rural town, I never imagined that I would have the chance to study overseas. Every day abroad was filled with academic and personal growth that is only possible by studying in another country."

- Nick, United Kingdom



"Studying abroad in Ghana was the most challenging, but also the most extraordinary thing I've ever done. During my trip I had to go back into the closet and only tell my closest friends that I was queer. Although it was difficult at times, it really made me realize how blessed I am to have certain rights, but also how far we still have to go as a society."

- Raquel, Ghana

Additional Information

Transgender Students Abroad

For trans-identified or gender non-conforming students traveling abroad, identification can be very important. The federal government has policies in place that allows for trans-identified Americans to travel with identification (i.e. passports) congruent to their identities. It is possible to apply for name changes, as well as gender marker changes.

Visit the Department of State website for additional information:

travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/information/gender.html

Pride Events Around the World

Amsterdam Gay Pride

AmsterdamGayPride.nl

Australia Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras

MardiGras.org.au

Brazil Sao Paulo

GayPrideBrazil.org/rio-de-janeiro

Cape Town Pride

capetownpride.org

Delhi Pride (India)

delhipride.org

Madrid Gay Pride

madriddorgullo.com

Mexico City

marchaorgullomexico.com.mx

Pink Dot (Singapore)

pinkdot.sg

Shanghai Pride

shanghaipride.com

Tokyo Pride Parade

tokyoinbowpride.com/en