



The University of Georgia

Office of International Education

Dear Parents, Spouses and Guardians of Study Abroad Participants:

Your student is about to embark upon what will likely be one of the most significant experiences of his or her college career. The Office of International Education is providing health and safety information to you now so that you and your student can be better prepared to avoid problems wherever possible and make educated decisions about health and safety. It is our hope to provide as much information as possible in order for students to have a positive experience.

The Office of International Education has prepared a web site to assist you and your student in preparing for study abroad: <http://www.uga.edu/oie/orientation/>. This web site has important information, including:

- General pre-departure advice and links to useful web sites
- Responsibilities of participants (from NAFSA: Association of International Educators)
- Link to U.S. State Department Consular Information Sheets and Travel Warnings
- Link to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Traveler's Health web page
- Appropriate foreign equivalent of 911 or emergency telephone numbers for the nearest police, fire, and ambulance services
- Daytime telephone and fax numbers and e-mails of OIE staff in the U.S.
- Number for Public Safety to reach OIE staff during non-office hours
- Daytime and emergency telephone and fax numbers and e-mail of the in-country program director(s)
- Daytime and emergency telephone and fax numbers of the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate
- Address and telephone number of the nearest hospital or clinic
- Names, address and telephone number of an English-speaking physician

We also include the following recommendations from the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Responsible Study Abroad: Good Practices for Health and Safety.

In study abroad, as in other settings, parents, guardians, and families can play an important role in the health and safety of participants by helping them make decisions and by influencing their behavior overseas.

Parents/guardians/families should:

- Be informed about and involved in the decision of the participant to enroll in a particular program.
- Obtain and carefully evaluate participant program materials, as well as related health, safety and security information.
- Discuss with the participant any of his/her travel plans and activities that may be independent of the study abroad program.
- Engage the participant in a thorough discussion of safety and behavior issues, insurance needs, and emergency procedures related to living abroad.
- Be responsive to requests from the program sponsor for information regarding the participant.
- Keep in touch with the participant.
- Be aware that the participant rather than the program may most appropriately provide some information.

If you have any questions or concerns about the program that cannot be answered by the program directors, we encourage you to call and speak with a Study Abroad Advisor in the Office of International Education (706) 542-7903 or e-mail: goabroad@uga.edu.

Sincerely,

Judith D. Shaw

Associate Provost for International Affairs