Multicultural Students Abroad

Things to Consider

• What is the history and cultural climate in your host destination, especially as it relates to your racial identity or ethnicity?
• Are there any current immigration issues in the host destination that may influence the local perception of your race or ethnicity?
• Will locals make assumptions based on your physical appearance or any attire associated with cultural identity?
• Is there a community or support network for your racial or ethnic identity in the host country? If not, you might plan to identify an outlet, such as a blog, for sharing your experiences.

Resources

• Texas A&M Department of Multicultural Services - provides resources and support for students from underrepresented and underserved racial and ethnic populations at Texas A&M.
• Diversity Abroad - education abroad tips, scholarship opportunites, and resources for racial and ethnic minority students abroad - including articles and comprehensive guides with country specific information.
• Black & Abroad – provides travel guides, tips and information written for Black world travelers.
• Go Abroad – education abroad travel guides for various identities, including Asian-American, Arab-American, Latinx, and African-American students.

Funding

$ Must be credit-bearing to be eligible for scholarships and financial aid
$ Apply for Texas A&M Scholarships at uwide.tamu.edu
$ Review the cost and program budget in the Education Abroad Portal or on the provider’s website
$ Combine Texas A&M scholarships, outside resources, and personal funds to pay for your experience abroad
$ Learn more about funding at abroad.tamu.edu/funding

In some countries, racial and ethnic identities may play an important role in social interaction.
LGBTQIA+ Abroad

Legal rights and cultural attitudes towards the LGBTQIA+ community may differ between your host destination and the U.S.

Things to Consider

- What are the cultural norms for friendship and dating relationships in your host destination?
- Is it safe to openly display affection for your same-sex partner?
- What kinds of LGBTQIA+ resources are available in your host destination?
- What is the LGBTQIA+ population like in your host destination? How visible is it?
- Are there in-country support networks to support you during your program abroad?

Resources

- Texas A&M GLBT Resource Center - a resource and referral center for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Aggies and their straight supporters.
- Diversity Abroad - education abroad tips and resources for LGBTQ+ students - including articles and a comprehensive guide with country specific information.
- International LGBTQ Association - has a world map with information about laws specific to LGBTQ communities.
- U.S. Department of State LGBTQ Travel Information - provides recommendations for LGBTQ+ travelers.
- NAFSA Rainbow SIG - this organization provides a study abroad scholarship for students who identify as LGBTQ+.
- International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association - provides resources and information to promote equality and safety for LGBTQ+ international travel.
- National Center for Transgender Equality: Airport Security - information on your rights and what to expect for transgender travelers at airport security.
- Equaldex - knowledge base that lists the current laws and policies regarding LGBTQ rights and protections in each country.

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Advising

View our walk-in advising schedule below or call 979-845-0544 to set up an appointment.
abroad.tamu.edu/Getting-Started/Meet-with-an-Advisor

abroad.tamu.edu
Gender Abroad

Things to Consider

- What are cultural norms regarding gender roles and equality in your host destination?
- Is the typical attire for women and men in your host destination more conservative than in the U.S.?
- Is it safe for women to travel alone in your host destination, especially at night?
- What are the host culture’s attitudes towards PDA, romantic relationships, and sexual relations?

In some countries, traditional gender roles may inform how people are expected to act, dress, and interact with others. Some mainstream behaviors in the U.S. may be misinterpreted in other countries.

Resources

- Texas A&M Women’s Resource Center - provides resources and support for female students.
- Diversity Abroad - education abroad tips, scholarship opportunities, and resources for female students and LGBTQIA+ students - including articles and comprehensive guides with country specific information.
- U.S. Department of State – provides information for female travelers.
- Center for Global Education – provides information about sexual harassment and prevention for students studying abroad.

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For more information go to abroad.tamu.edu/diversity

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abroad.tamu.edu
Spirituality and Religion Abroad

Things to Consider

- What is the primary religion in your host destination? What are local attitudes towards other religions or spiritual practices?
- Is it safe to practice your religion or wear spiritual/religious symbols or clothing in your host country?
- Is there a spiritual community that can support you in your host destination?
- Are there foods available to accommodate your spiritual or religious needs?

Views on religious freedom may be different in your host destination than in the U.S.

Resources

- Texas A&M Campus Ministry Association - a volunteer organization of clergy who provide pastoral care for students.
- Diversity Abroad - education abroad tips and resources for students - including articles and a comprehensive guide to religious diversity abroad and country-specific information.
- BBC Religion and Ethics - provides resources on different world religions and news on current events.
- The Pluralism Project – this site is managed by Harvard University, which is known for its interfaith research and engaging students studying religious diversity.
- PEW – Templeton Global Religious Futures Project – this site offers religious demography and survey results for most countries worldwide.

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First Generation Students Abroad

As a first-generation college student, making the decision to study abroad can be intimidating - especially if no one that you know has done it.

Things to Consider

• What are your professional, academic, and personal goals for your experience abroad?
• What courses align with your degree plan? Work with your academic advisor to find courses that meet requirements.
• How will you fund your experience? The earlier you start thinking about program cost, the better. Look into multiple sources of funding.
• Who supports your decision to go abroad? Identify a support network who will encourage you throughout the education abroad process.

Advising

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abroad.tamu.edu/Getting-Started/Meet-with-an-Advisor

Resources

• Texas A&M L.A.U.N.C.H - provides academic support and resources for first generation college students.
• Texas A&M Money Education Center – provides resources and information regarding finances and budgeting for students.
• Diversity Abroad - education abroad tips and resources for first-generation students - including articles and a comprehensive guide with country specific information.
• I'm First! – provides blog posts by first generation students about their education abroad experiences.
• GoAbroad Meaningful Travel Tips and Tales – provides ebooks that address specific topics: first-time study abroad and career-minded students

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STAND OUT • GO ABROAD

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# Students with Disabilities Abroad

**Things to Consider**

- What are the program requirements, cultural norms, and resources available for students with disabilities on your program and in your host destination?
- Are reasonable accommodations available? To find out, disclose your disability and medical condition early in the planning process and work closely with your program coordinator.
- If you use prescription medications, are they legal and available in the host country? Can you procure enough to supply you for the duration of your stay abroad?

**Accommodations and resources** may vary from country to country. Do your research and prepare before you go.

**Funding**

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**Resources**

- **Texas A&M Disability Services** – campus office provides academic accommodation coordination, evaluation referral, and disability-related information for students.
- **Diversity Abroad** – education abroad tips and resources for students with disabilities - including articles and a comprehensive guide with country specific information.
- **Mobility International USA** – global non-profit committed to advancing disability rights and leadership. Its website and staff provide guidance related to international exchanges, travel preparations, and program development.
- **U.S. Department of State Traveling with Disabilities** – provides recommendations for travelers with disabilities.
- **Transportation Security Administration** – provides details on available airport assistance and guidelines on traveling for those with disabilities, service dogs and animals, or medical conditions.
- **Abroad with Disabilities** – a nonprofit organization committed to supporting individuals with disabilities to travel abroad. Its website provides scholarship opportunities and preparation resources.
- **International Narcotics Control Board** – provides country specific guidelines on medications and drug regulations.

**Advising**

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