Student Responsibilities

Study abroad will be one of the most life changing experiences for those who choose to participate. There are many reasons why it has such a significant effect on students, but one is that the student learns to be responsible for themselves. This begins before they leave the country. Below is everything the student is responsible for before, during, and after their program:

* **Chosen Program:** The Office of Study Abroad will provide many suggestions for their study abroad programs, but the decision is ultimately up to the student. The Office of Study Abroad can help the student make the decision by discussing cultural differences, unforeseen costs, and academic programs. The student must decide and financially commit to the chosen program. Once deposits are paid, the student may not receive a refund and could be held accountable for the full cost of the program.
* **Financial Aid**: Students are responsible for contacting financial aid to find out what their financial aid package would be while studying abroad. They are also responsible for taking advantage of outside scholarship opportunities. Many scholarship opportunities can be found at [www.studyabroadfunding.org](http://www.studyabroadfunding.org).
* **Paperwork and Deadlines**: Students are responsible for submitting all paperwork to the Office of Study Abroad and their program provider by the deadlines. The deadlines for all paperwork needed by the Office of Study Abroad, please refer to our Pre-Departure page. Students should avoid allowing parents to take care of paperwork for them. Once the student is overseas, they will be responsible for all decision-making and paperwork involved with the study abroad program.
* **Be pro-active:** The Office of Study Abroad encourages students to seek out information on their own. If the student is still deciding where to study abroad, they may explore programs online as much as possible. Ultimately, the student should clear all programs through the Director of Study Abroad. All programs on our website have been vetted as legitimate programs.

If the student has already chosen a program, they are encouraged to discover more about their chosen location. Students who educate themselves about the country and culture they are going to experience are more likely to have a smooth and successful study abroad program. Some popular travel sites they may reference are as follows:

 [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)

 [www.fodors.com](http://www.fodors.com)

 [www.ricksteves.com](http://www.ricksteves.com)

 [www.frommers.com](http://www.frommers.com)

 [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com)

* **Finances:** It is the student’s responsibility to properly budget for their study abroad program. The Office of Study Abroad will not provide extra funding if a student runs out of money in the middle of the program.
* **Health and Safety:** Although every effort will be taken to ensure students’ safety while abroad, WTAMU cannot plan or take responsibility for circumstances beyond its control. Ultimately, it is the student’s responsibility to ensure their own personal safety and make choices that will not put themselves in danger while they are abroad.
* **Grades:** Students are responsible for passing their courses. Teaching styles may vary based on the region they will be studying. If a student does not pass their course, the will be required to refund part of their International Education Fee Scholarship. The failing grades will not show up on their WTAMU transcript.
* **Foreign Transcript:** Many of the programs students participate in through WT automatically forward their transcript on to our office. However, it is the responsibility of the student to verify if their provider does this automatically or if they need to request the transcript be sent.
* **Post-Program:** When the students return, they will need to complete an Affidavit of Participation and an Evaluation of their program. This will be done at a Returning Student Meeting scheduled by the Office of Study Abroad. If a student fails to complete these forms, a hold will be placed on their account preventing them from registering for classes.