A Study Abroad Guide for LGBTQIA Students & Allies

Why Study Abroad?

Studying abroad during your college career allows you to expand your network, add an international perspective, and be knowledgeable of how one’s gender and/or sexual orientation will affect interactions in foreign environments.

Why UCEAP?

UCEAP students are supported by a network of people throughout the world. Your study abroad experience will be guided by trained staff that are there to support you as you prepare to study abroad, when you arrive, throughout the program, and upon your return.

Things To Consider

The LGBTQIA community faces a complex mix of risks anywhere in the world, so many factors must be considered before traveling.

1. Sexual Orientation

While your sexual orientation and gender identity may affect interactions in foreign countries, they are not necessarily illegal. It is important to research the host country's laws regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

2. Health

Understanding the availability of sexual health products and psychological counseling for mental health is important.

3. Access to Transition-Related Care

Can you access transition-related care in the host country or will you need to bring your medication into the host country?

4. Medical Care

Where can you find LGBTQIA-inclusive medical care in the host country?

5. Safety

Are certain relationships or sexual practices illegal in the host country?

6. Support Systems

Have you researched the LGBTQIA community in the host country to ensure there is support available for you?

Resources

- ILGA World Map on Sexual Orientation Laws
- Equaldex
- NAFSA Rainbow Special Interest Group
- Diversity Abroad LGBTQ+ Students Abroad
- Virtual Open Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30am-4:00pm Friday 10:00am-2:00pm

Contact Us!

For additional information, visit eap.ucsb.edu

UCSB Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity

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