Why Study Abroad as a Queer Student?

Studying abroad can enhance your university experience, inter-cultural awareness, and can help you develop in critical skill areas that will benefit your future academically, intellectually, professionally, personally.

Top 10 Reasons...

1. Understand sexuality in different cultural contexts.
2. Gain perspective on identities.
4. Learn to be more conscious of your sexuality.
5. Connect with different social movements fighting for sexual rights.
6. Challenge the language of GLBTQI.
7. Dispel stereotypes (both others’ and your own) about sexual minorities.
8. View sexuality in the U.S. from a different perspective.
9. Bring together different identities and interest for future activities.
10. Educate your peers about other forms of queer world making.

Adapted from Carlton College: http://apps.carlton.edu/curricular/ocs/diversity/LGBT/10_reasons/

What should I know before going abroad?

As a Queer student you may want to consider these questions when selecting your study abroad program and preparing for your departure, & learning more about your destination:

- How open should I be about my sexual orientation and gender identity with my teachers, peers, friends, host family and others?
- How important is it to me to find other sexual minority students and friends while abroad? How will I make connections with other sexual minority students, local residents, or community organizations and gathering places?
- What resources are available in my host country for sexual minority people?
- Are there any Queer-friendly establishments nearby? How can I find them?
- What are police attitudes towards queer local residents, tourists, & visitors?
- What are the norms and behavioral expectations within the Queer communities in my host country?
- What is the social perception of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in my host country? How are LBGQTQI people socially defined? What is the social perception of transgender people?
- What are my safety needs and expectations, and how can they best be met? Is the program able to make special accommodations for students who request single rooms, private baths, or certain roommates?

For more information check out: http://studyabroad.isp.msu.edu/whocanstudyabroad/glbt/
Legal Info & Current Events

You are subject to the laws in your host country. Once outside the United States you are no longer protected by U.S. laws. If same-sex acts are illegal in your host country and you are caught engaging in them (or presumed to have engaged in them), you could be arrested and imprisoned in that country. In some countries, the penalties are very severe and can even include deportation, corporal punishments, and execution.

Be familiar with local laws and customs so you can make informed and safe choices about destinations and programs that will be a good fit for you and your needs. Use these links to find out more information:

International Lesbian & Gay Association  
www.ilga.org

US Department of State Travel Information  
http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/go/lgbt.html

Rainbow Special Interest Group of NAFSA  
www.indiana.edu/~overseas/lesbigay/

International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission  
www.iglhrc.org (includes legal survey)

Sodomy Laws  
www.sodomylaws.org

Amnesty International – USA  
www.aiusa.org/outfront

The Advocate  
www.advocate.com

LGBT Rights by Country or Territory  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_by_country_or_territory

Top News Stories, Gay Marriage, Travel  
http://www.gay.com/lifestyle

European Specific LBGTQ Information  
http://www.ilga-europe.org/

Gay & Lesbian Resources in Asia  
http://www.utopia-asia.com/

Rainbow Special Interest Group  
http://www.rainbowsig.org/

Global Gay Guide Network  
www.gayguide.net

National Center for Transgender Equality (travel tips)  
www.tranequality.org/Issues/travel.html

Culture Crossing  
www.culturecrossing.net

Global Gayz  
www.globalgayz.com

GLBT Homestays  
www.glhei.org/

Overseas Study Living Abroad Resources  
http://overseas.iu.edu/living/glbts.html

CIEE: Identity: Sexual & Gender Expression Abroad  

Travel Guides

The Damron Mens Travel Guide & Damron Women's Traveller are guide books published for GLBTQI travelers highlighting Queer friendly hotels, businesses and tourist attractions. Much of the information can be found online at http://damron.com/ but it never hurts to take a guidebook!

Gay Travel A to Z: The World of Gay and Lesbian Travel Options at your Fingertips 2001 The most complete gay and lesbian travel options available anywhere are detailed in this comprehensive guide produced by a gay publisher who has exclusively specialized in gay and lesbian travel since 1980.


Both Frommer's and Lonely Planet have webpages to help you choose and both publish travel guides aimed at Queer travelers.

Scholarships

eQuality Scholarship  
www.equalityscholarship.org/

Point Foundation  
www.thepointfoundation.org/scholarships.html

Queer Asian & Pacific Islander Pride Scholarship Fund  
www.apiwellness.org/scholarship.html

Human Rights Campaign Scholarship Database  
www.hrc.org/issues/youth_and_campus_activism/8644.htm

Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund  
www.davisputter.org

HRC Foundation Generation Equality Scholarships  
www.hrc.org/geneqscholarship

The Pride Foundation  
http://www.pridefoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/scholarship-funds/

Fund for Education Abroad  
http://www.fundforeducationabroad.org/applicants/scholarships/

Financial Aid for LGBT Students  
http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/gay.php.html

For more links check out:  
USC LGBT Scholarship & Resource Center  