

## **STUDY ABROAD ACCESSIBILITY**

### **Preparation for Studying Abroad**

Studying abroad is a valuable and exciting opportunity available to Ashland University students. The Student Accessibility Center (SAC) works closely with the Study Abroad Office to support students with disabilities in exploring study abroad options and providing information about accessibility within various programs. Please note that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other U.S. disability laws do not extend beyond the United States. As a result, accommodation cannot be guaranteed while abroad.

Your conversation with the SAC regarding accommodations may cover a range of topics, including academic support, housing, physical accessibility, transportation, communication access (such as interpreters or captioning), and assistive technology. The responsibility for implementing accommodations will vary depending on your program—it may fall under the direction of Ashland University faculty or a partner institution in your host country.

We encourage you to reach out to the SAC early in your study abroad planning process to begin discussing your needs. If you are already registered with the SAC, please contact their office directly. If not, you can find information on how to get started by visiting their [website](#).

We strongly recommend researching other key aspects of studying abroad, such as disability laws in your host country, guidelines for traveling with medications, availability of medical care, accessible transportation, regulations concerning service animals or guide dogs, and airline accessibility policies. Please review the resources below for more information.

If you have questions about any of the above, please contact the [Student Accessibility Center](#) and the [Study Abroad](#) office.

### **Accommodations Abroad**

Be sure to indicate on your study abroad application if you are eligible for accommodations or if you're interested in exploring accommodation options while abroad. Once noted, the Student Accessibility Center (SAC) will follow up with you to discuss the next steps specific to your program.

Accommodation planning must take into account the legal context of your host country, as disability laws, available accommodations, and cultural attitudes toward disability can differ significantly. Flexibility and clear communication with program staff and relevant departments are essential for a successful experience abroad. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with both the SAC and the Study Abroad Office to address any questions or concerns.

Students who have not yet affiliated with the SAC, but would like to explore accommodations while abroad, will need to visit the SAC [website](#) to learn more.

## Questions to Consider

- How long do you feel comfortable studying abroad for? Have you traveled to another country before?
- What laws and infrastructure are in place for disabled people?
- How is the physical accessibility of the host country?
- Are there countries where your required accommodations are not available?
- Are your prescribed medications legal in your host country?
- What types of classes might you be taking? Will you need to request academic accommodations?
- What housing options are provided for this program?
- Will you need to do your own cleaning, cooking, and laundry?
- Will there be day trips, or solo travel opportunities?
- Will you need to organize and schedule your own airfare or other forms of public transportation?
- Is transportation accessible and available?
- What strategies do you use on campus to manage your disability-related symptoms and accessibility? How might you need to modify these while abroad?

## Tips for Students

- **Discuss your accommodations and access needs** with SAC and the Study Abroad office early.
- **Accommodations may be provided in a different way** than at Ashland University. Learn about what kinds of accommodations are provided in your host country and ways your disability may be accommodated.
- **Research the disability laws and infrastructure of your host country** – expectations around accessibility and legal protections will be different in every country, we recommend you research this information and experiences of disabled travelers and citizens of your host country.
- **There may be cultural differences with how disability is viewed and treated** in other countries. Before you leave for your study abroad program, research your host culture.
- **You may need to discuss your disability and health while abroad** – look up key phrases and translations in your host country's language. If you know you may need access to medical care while abroad, please notify SAC and the Study Abroad office.

## Health & Safety Abroad

We recommend informing your primary care provider, as well as any specialists or other medical professionals you work with, about your plans to study abroad. It's important to discuss how you will access medical care and continue any prescribed treatments while overseas.

Keep in mind that medication laws differ by country. Be sure to research any regulations or restrictions related to your prescribed medications, along with guidelines for traveling with them. If you plan to bring

medical equipment or use a mobility device, we also advise checking with your airline(s) in advance to understand their specific policies and requirements.

### **Additional Resources**

- [\*\*Mobility International USA & National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange\*\*](#): excellent resource center for disability-related questions about going abroad
- [\*\*CDC Traveler Advice\*\*](#): provides general recommendations for preparing to travel internationally, as well as information for disabled and chronically ill individuals, and for individuals with weakened immune systems or mental health diagnoses.
- [\*\*US Department of State – Traveling with Disabilities\*\*](#): offers wealth of valuable information regarding traveling abroad with a disability
- [\*\*Access Abroad\*\*](#): Comprehensive guide from the University of Minnesota for students with disabilities who want to study abroad. They also provide a checklist for disabled students, and pre-departure preparation tips.
- [\*\*Abroad with Disabilities Facebook Community:\(link is external\)\*\*](#) discuss topics relevant to study abroad and learn about resources and tips to prepare for your trip
- [\*\*National Deaf Center\*\*](#): Information specific for Deaf students on studying abroad
- [\*\*National Deaf Center Study Abroad Planning Guide\*\*](#): a guide for Deaf students preparing to study abroad
- [\*\*U.S. Embassies and Consulates\*\*](#): information about locations of all U.S. Embassies and Consulates by Country
- [\*\*International Narcotics Board\*\*](#): Travelling Internationally with Medicines Containing Controlled Substances.
- [\*\*CDC Traveling Abroad with Medication\*\*](#): Recommendations and helpful information about traveling abroad with medications
- [\*\*Service Animals Abroad\*\*](#): Information from MIUSA about traveling abroad with service animals or a guide dog.

Disability Laws internationally:

- [\*\*United Nations\*\*](#): Disability Law by Country
- [\*\*MIUSA Tip Sheet\*\*](#): Disability Rights & Laws
- [\*\*Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund \(DREDF\)\*\*](#): International Disability Rights

\*Adapted from Disability Resource Center at The University of Arizona