PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Getting Started

☐ Meet with your academic advisor about course selection and study abroad goals
☐ Review program budget
☐ Consult the Office of Student Financial Aid about applying your financial aid package to your program
☐ Change your status to “committed” in My Study Abroad
☐ Complete required questionnaires/materials in My Study Abroad, including Confirmation of Participation
☐ Attend mandatory pre-departure session(s) for your program
☐ International students: visit ISSS about immigration status and documents needed to re-enter the U.S.
☐ Learn about your host country’s required visas and gather materials, if necessary
☐ Complete your host institution’s application

2-3 Months Prior to Departure

☐ Secure housing through your program (host family, campus housing, apartment, etc.)
☐ Register for courses according to your host institution’s instructions
☐ Complete the Course Approvals Summary Form (refer to the Course Approvals page for instructions)
☐ Apply for a visa, if required, and review your passport and visa for accuracy
☐ Students with visible or non-visible disabilities: meet with your DRES advisor and arrange accommodations
☐ Consult your physician and International Health Insurance about medications for your time abroad
☐ Post on the Study Abroad Housing Board to find a sublessee
☐ Book a flight to your host country and a return flight (refer to your program calendar for exact dates)

1 Month Prior to Departure

☐ Obtain necessary vaccines, if applicable
☐ Create a communication plan with family and friends, both for your arrival date and while abroad
☐ Change/upgrade your cell phone plan and check with your program about options in-country
☐ Make temporary housing arrangements if housing won’t be available upon your arrival
☐ Sign up for the U.S. State Department STEP program

1-2 Weeks Prior to Departure

☐ Create an airport arrival plan, if necessary (some programs will have airport pick-up, others will not)
☐ Alert your bank of your travel and have multiple forms of payment on hand (upon arrival and while abroad)
☐ Review International Safety and Security’s safety and wellness tips
☐ Print and keep a copy of your International Insurance card in your wallet
☐ Stock up on medications, eye contact supplies, etc. that you need while abroad
☐ Know the electrical outlets/voltage in your host country and acquire relevant adapters
☐ Pack (refer to suggested packing list)
☐ Familiarize yourself with TSA rules and customs procedures for your host country
☐ Verify your airline’s baggage restrictions/limits and be prepared for overage charges
☐ Make photocopies of your passport/visa, prescriptions, and flight itineraries

Day of Departure

☐ Label your luggage with your contact info and weigh it to make sure it is within the airline’s parameters
☐ Write down and keep any host country contact numbers with you, in case of travel issues
☐ Disable any data roaming on your cell phone, if needed, to avoid unexpected usage and charges
☐ Check your flight status and arrive at the airport at least 2 hours prior to flight departure

This document may be obtained in alternative formats upon request. Please contact iage@illinois.edu.