PARENTS & FAMILIES
EDUCATION ABROAD
WEBINAR
Meet the Education Abroad Team

- **Karli Webster**, Director
  - Health & safety policies for study abroad
  - Partnership management

- **Megan Pavlic**, Education Abroad Coordinator
  - Advises students in arts & sciences, communications and education
  - Sibanye Cape Town
  - Spain, Italy, and South Africa visa advising

- **Millie Lor**, Education Abroad Advisor
  - Advises students in business, engineering, health sciences, nursing and law

- **Tia Langnes**, Program Coordinator
  - GeoBlue insurance, study abroad course placeholder & STEP enrollments, Project GO & non-credit programs

- **Tammy Meyers**, International Education Coordinator
  - Provides specific administrative support for outgoing and incoming student/faculty/staff mobility
By the Numbers

- In J Session and Spring 2024, **209** students will be participating in education abroad programs in **22** different countries.
Tonight's Agenda

- Your student’s orientation
- Important documents your student should have
- Flights & arrival
- Communications
- Cultural adjustment & Culture shock
- Academics
- Finances
- Health and safety
- Packing
Overview of your student’s orientation process

- **Online orientation:** modules & quizzes in MUGlobal Portal
  1. Culture
  2. Health & insurance
  3. Safety & emergency procedures
  4. Sexual violence prevention training
  5. Learning outcomes and goal setting

- ‘In-person’ orientation: provided via Teams Meeting
  - Review of important information in online modules
  - Focus on health & safety, and policies (guest from Marquette Counseling Center)
  - Meeting with program-specific alumni and other participants (if applicable)

- Encourage all to view the OIE *Preparing to Depart* website: [https://www.marquette.edu/study-abroad/preparing-to-depart.php](https://www.marquette.edu/study-abroad/preparing-to-depart.php)
Documents and Copies

- **Valid Passport** (general rule: valid for SIX (6) months (1 year for Spain) AFTER return date/program end)
  - Refer to U.S. Department of State website for passport information: [https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/how-apply.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/how-apply.html)
  - Apply or renew ASAP
    - Strongly recommend to expedite process (there is an additional fee (~$60))
    - Marquette nor OIE can guarantee that your student will receive their passport prior to departure for program

- **Visa** (if needed; varies by country)
  - Legal process established by host country government
  - Advising on visas – OIE staff are not visa officials/immigration officers
  - Process in U.S. – depends on the host country entry requirements
  - Process abroad – Host institution will provide additional details prior to arrival or once on-site

- **Make copies of everything!**
  - Credit cards, passport, program details, housing, visa, phone #’s, emails
Flights and Arrival in Host Country

- OIE recommendations on booking flights –
  - AFTER accepted by the host institution (students should be accepted by MU already)
  - Arrive morning or midday, when possible
    - Host institution will provide any recommended arrival date(s)/time(s) – student should check with partner directly
  - Arrival/return dates should be inclusive of any program on-site orientation, final exam schedules, and host country entry requirements (testing, quarantine, etc., if applicable)
    - Dates are provided directly to the student. If unsure, student should reach out to the host institution to confirm.
  - Outside of this, the OIE does not dictate when and how students should return home (unless part of a mandatory group flight)

- Be mindful of your student’s visa status (if applicable)
  - Length of stay: what is the period of eligibility to remain in-country?
Communications While Abroad

- Encourage your student to continue monitoring MU email (primary communication method from MU/OIE)
- Develop a communication plan
  - Arrival (be flexible and allow some time for student adjustment)
- Cell phones
  - International plan or SIM card
- Calling/texting apps (download prior to student’s departure)
  - WhatsApp, Viber, Kakao Talk, Line, Facebook Messenger
Cultural Adjustment

- Respect and open-mindedness

- Resources – *(not limited to this list!)*
  - CultureGram (general attitudes, appearance (clothing), greetings, gestures, dating and marriage)
  - U.S. Department of State's *International Travel website*
  - GoinGlobal Culture Wizard
  - Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions – comparison of cultures on six aspects
  - YouTube
  - Host institution on-site orientation
Cultural Adjustment: Culture Shock

Possible Symptoms:

- Extreme homesickness
- Feelings of helplessness/dependency
- Depression and sadness
- Sleeping and/or eating disturbances (too little or much)
- Critical reactions to host culture
Cultural Adjustment: Managing Culture Shock

Encourage your student to:

- Develop patterns or routines
- Explore the surroundings
- Find people to interact with
- Set and achieve small goals
- Focus on language acquisition
- Express feelings (to friends, in journals, etc.)
- Exercise
- GeoBlue offers virtual counseling (Global Wellness Assist)
Academics

Academic environment overseas
- Professor relationships
  - Limited or no office hours
  - Email or in-class
- Course structure/teaching
  - Students should review syllabi
  - More independent work
- Grading/credit transfer
  - Program-specific grading/credit details on MUGlobal Portal
  - Final grade composed of a few assignments/exam

Registration
- At Host Institution: Course registration process varies by program
- At Marquette: Study abroad placeholder course – done by OIE
  - Classes at MU the following semester – install MU VPN prior to departure

Marquette Policies
- Course approval process (generally done prior to departure)
- Verification of course enrollment (done once abroad and courses are finalized)
- Grades (transfer policy and expectations)
- Maintenance of full-time status (equivalent of 12 credits)
Finances

- Tuition and Other Payments
  - Varies by program – reference program-specific budget sheet on MUGlobal Portal
  - If tuition is included in "billable" items, relevant term MU tuition rates is applicable and billed through CheckMarq
  - GeoBlue insurance is billed through CheckMarq
  - Program fee for MU faculty-led programs is billed through CheckMarq
  - Non-tuition expenses for non-faculty-led programs (accommodations, program fees, etc.) are payable directly to host university or third-party provider

- Financial Aid
  - MU & FAFSA aid eligibility varies depending on term and program type
    - MU tuition scholarships are only applicable to programs where MU tuition is charged
  - NOTE: Aid disbursements may not align with program dates abroad: See MU Timeline for Aid Disbursements website
  - Student should sign up for Direct Deposit
Withdrawal & Refund Policy

If a student decides to withdraw from their program after they have officially committed, they must contact the Office of International Education (OIE) in writing at studyabroad@marquette.edu to officially withdraw.

Students who withdraw will be subject to the following withdrawal and refund policy:

Program Fee, Deposit, and Insurance billed by Marquette

- Withdrawal prior to Commitment Deadline: Nothing is owed—student receives full refund, including his or her $500 Program Deposit if previously paid.
- Withdrawal 30 days or more prior to program start date: Student forfeits the $500 non-refundable Program Deposit and remains responsible for paying the unrecoverable program costs (“Unrecoverable costs”)
- Withdrawal 29 days or less prior to program start date: Student forfeits the $500 non-refundable Program Deposit, insurance, and remains responsible for paying the full cost of the program (“Program Fee”)

Tuition billed by Marquette

- Fees assessed for MU tuition will follow the Bursar’s Office’s policies and regulations which can be found on their website.

The Withdrawal & Refund Policy relates only to expenses billed to students by MU for participation in an education abroad program. MU does not in any instance reimburse for non-billable/out-of-pocket expenses.

Additional Considerations:

Consular issues: Students must acquire the proper immigration documents to enter the destination country and/or secure transit visas and are advised to do so well ahead of departure dates. If a student does not obtain his or her passport prior to departure and/or a student’s visa application to travel to the program location is denied by the embassy or consulate in question, or is not received in time for departure, the student is responsible for program costs according to the refund schedule outlined above.

Compliance with deadlines and/or disciplinary issues: Students that are withdrawn from their program by OIE due to not completing requirements by deadlines and/or students who are placed on probation due to academic or disciplinary issues will all abide by the established deadlines above.
Finances Abroad

- **Debit/Credit Cards**
  - May require a travel notification for use abroad
  - Know how to "lock" a card if lost or stolen
  - Know how to report card lost or stolen

- **Have local currency upon arrival**

- **Cash vs Cards**
  - Cards may not be as widely accepted, or only certain types of cards (Visa or MasterCard)
  - Know bank or card fees (transaction, withdrawal, etc.)
Safety: Marquette Security Measures

Marquette resources:

- GeoBlue International
  (marquette.edu/study-abroad/health-and-safety/insurance)
  - Individual Log In
- International SOS (www.internationalsos.com/)
  - Member Log In: 11BSGC000025
- State Dept S.T.E.P. enrollment
- AlertTraveler app

Encourage your student to:

- Let others know where they are
- Keep emergency contact numbers on them at all times (use Emergency Card)
- Monitor and respond to Marquette email regularly
- Avoid demonstrations
- Make multiple copies of their documents
- Safeguard cash, documents, and valuables
- Be smart, be alert, be safe
Safety: Phone #’s

- **Emergency Card Template**
  - In-country fire, ambulance, police
  - Add Local Numbers:
    - U.S. Consulate/Embassy
    - Reliable Taxi Service
    - Program Contact & Emergency #’s

- Add #’s in phone if taking it abroad
- Marquette University Police Department (24-hrs): 414-288-1911
Insurance Abroad

Marquette’s GeoBlue Insurance:
- Mandatory for all Marquette students going abroad
- No network limitations and no deductibles
- $50/month billed through student’s CheckMarq account

Plan details:
- Students will be automatically enrolled by OIE based on study abroad program dates
- Additional information: [https://www.marquette.edu/study-abroad/health-and-safety/insurance.php](https://www.marquette.edu/study-abroad/health-and-safety/insurance.php)

Additional considerations:
- Medical and Legal Power of Attorney forms
- HIPAA Authorization (GeoBlue form)
- FERPA release

**NOTE:** Students may end up being doubled-insured while abroad (Marquette policy and required through their host institution for visa purposes).
Health: COVID-19

- Have a conversation: expectations vs. reality. Mask wearing may still be common in the location to which they are traveling or required for public transport.
- Follow all guidelines for international travel & in-country
  - Students have/will receive country-specific entry requirements either from the partner or our office
- GeoBlue covers COVID-19 medical expenses incurred after an official positive test result and limited lodging and transportation expenses related to quarantine (a strict isolation imposed by a Government authority or Physician when testing positive for an infectious disease).
- **Marquette's COVID-19 Protocol**: What happens if your student tests positive?
  - Complete MU self-disclosure so students are provided with resources and recommendations.
Health: Immunizations

- All routine vaccines should be current
  - MMR, DTP, Varicella, Polio, flu shot, COVID-19 (2 doses, plus booster)
  - Some are multiple shots, known as a "series" (start early!)

- Refer to [CDC.gov/travel website](https://www.cdc.gov/travel) for additional recommended immunizations

- Talk with regular general practitioner

- **MU Medical Clinic - Travel Clinic**
  - Schroeder Health Complex, Lower Level
Health: Medications

- Pack in carry-on luggage
- Bring enough to last entire program (or more)
- Keep in the original container
- Keep copy of doctor’s Rx
- Confirm it’s legal in the host country
- Discuss with doctor:
  - Time change adjustment
  - Alternative medications if not available/legal
  - Consultation while abroad

*Students should **not** stop taking a medication abroad without a doctor’s permission!*
Emergency Procedures

Your student’s program will provide program-specific on-site emergency contact information.

1. **Seek medical attention if necessary**
   - Faculty-led: Marquette faculty program leader(s)/director(s)
   - On-site program/host institution staff
   - GeoBlue Global Assistance (Direct: 1-610-254-8771)

2. **Contact Marquette University**
   - MU Police, 1-414-288-1911 (outside of business hours; monitored 24/7)
   - OIE at 1-414-288-7289 (during business hours)

3. **File claim with GeoBlue for medical expenses**
Packing

- Over-packing
- What is functional and appropriate
- Seasons and average temperatures