Every year, UF students with disabilities participate in study abroad programs all over the world. Some students seek to learn about different cultures and traditions while others like to travel and see new places. We want you to know that the UF Disability Resource Center (DRC) and the UF International Center (IC) are here to assist you in making study abroad a positive experience.

The essential components to a positive study abroad experience are exploring what options are available and planning in advance. The IC will work with you individually to make sure you are well suited for your study abroad program and address any concerns you may have. Some students may worry about physical access concerns while others may wonder how they can get their prescriptions filled. Rest assured the IC has worked with students with a variety of different disabilities and can help you begin preparing for everything you will need.

The DRC is also here to assist you with any reasonable academic accommodations that may be needed during your travels. We will meet with you individually and prepare a specific study abroad accommodation letter and explain the next steps in the process.

It is important to remember that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not apply to your study abroad host country. There are varying degrees of disability rights acknowledgement around the world and it is not guaranteed that you will receive the same rights you have here in the United States. Thorough informational gathering, meeting with study abroad advisors, and accessing all available resources will help ensure you pick the right program for you.
**NEXT STEPS**

**Step 1**
Attend one of the many IC information sessions. During these information sessions, you will learn what types of programs are available, how to choose a program, how credits transfer, the application procedure, financial aid, and scholarships.

**Step 2**
Make an appointment to meet with a study abroad advisor to discuss accessibility needs or concerns (if any) and decide on what program is going to be the best fit for you.

**Step 3**
Make sure to indicate on your study abroad application that you are registered as a DRC student and would like to access academics accommodations (if applicable).

**Step 4**
Make an appointment with your DRC Staff Member to discuss what academic accommodations you need and a specific accommodation letter will be prepared.

**Step 5**
Review your accommodation letter with your study abroad advisor.
Prepare as far in advance as possible, up to one year if possible.

Discuss your disability/medical needs with your study abroad advisor to make sure you find a program that is well suited for you. Be sure to do this early in the process and provide them thorough information about your needs and concerns.

Be flexible. You will find the program that is the right fit for you.

Keep open communication with the DRC and the IC regarding your study abroad experience. Make sure you are keeping all parties up-to-date with new developments.

Meet with IC peer advisors. Find out first-hand what their experience was like, what they enjoyed the most, what they encountered that was unexpected, etc. These peer advisors are a wealth of information and can provide inside tips and advice on how to make your journey as smooth as possible.
ONLINE RESOURCES

Mobility International USA (MIUSA)
MIUSA is a disability-led non-profit organization headquartered in Eugene, Oregon, working to advance the rights of people with disabilities globally

a. Disability Resources A-Z: Find preparation tip sheets for students with medical, sensory, psychological, physical, and learning disabilities
b. Disability Disclosure and Accommodations: Learn tips on disclosing your disability, arranging academic accommodations, and planning for success
c. International Disability Culture: Learn aspects of global disability culture to help make your adjustment into a new environment go smoothly

Transitions Abroad

a. Articles on Disability Travel
b. International programs for disabled travelers
c. Tourism resources for people with disabilities
d. Organizations for disabled travelers
e. Disabled Travel websites

Funding source for students with disabilities studying abroad

a. Vocational Rehabilitation
b. Additional UFIC scholarships
c. Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program

Information for people traveling with disabilities

a. USA Passports & International Travel
   1. Embassy information for finding out service animal and assistive equipment information
   2. Air Carrier Access Act
   3. TSA Cares- know what to expect in the screening process and security checkpoints
b. Additional travel websites
   1. Air Travel Service Complaints & People with Disabilities
   2. Common Questions Regarding Travel for People with Disabilities
   3. Safe Travel for People with Autism or Intellectual Disabilities
   4. Disabled Cruising Resources
   5. Disabled Travelers
   6. Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality

Health and Safety Tips for studying abroad

a. CIS Abroad