Studying Abroad

Guiding questions when considering studying abroad as a student with disabilities

The following are key questions you should ask yourself before traveling:

The Country's Culture

- What do you know about the country and its culture?
- What campus or community offices are available and how receptive are they to working with U.S. students with disabilities?
- What is the on-site staff's sense of overall cultural attitudes about people with disabilities? Are some disabilities recognized while others are not?
- What disability laws (if any) does the country have? (English-speaking countries are more likely to have disability laws similar to the ADA).
- Is the program affiliated with Trinity?
- What is the physical layout of the school's campus (urban/rural, large/small, etc.)? How far must students travel between classrooms, housing, food services, and the library?
- What type of housing is provided or available? Will it meet your needs?
- What means of transportation are available? Will you be able to access and utilize it?
- Will you be able to access everything you need or want (grocery stores, entertainment, etc.)?

Programmatic Access

- How will your disability impact you while you are abroad?
- Will you need accommodations?
- Will you need your documentation to request the accommodations?
- What academic accommodations might be provided (e.g., extra time for tests, notetakers, using a laptop in class, flexible attendance policy, etc.)?
- Are there any types of assistive technology (e.g., screen-reading software, tape recorders, assistive listening devices, etc.) that can be provided to students in the program?
Healthcare and Medication

- What types of healthcare facilities are available for students? Are services available in English?
- Could your condition be significantly impacted by changes to the country's temperature or weather?
- Could you access psychological counseling if needed?
- Do you have any dietary restrictions you need to consider?
- Will you need medication while you are abroad?
- Will your medication be allowed into the country?
- Will your insurance company provide you with enough medication to last the entire time you are there?
- Will you need to pay for all of your medication at once, or are there other payment options?

Physical Accessibility

- Are classrooms, housing, food services and the library wheelchair accessible?
- Could classes be relocated to the ground floor if necessary?
- Are there accessible entrances, doorways, and bathrooms in key areas?
- Are there gradually sloping ramps for wheelchair users to circumvent steps and uneven ground?