



100 Grant Street De Pere, WI 54115-2099 • www.snc.edu/studyabroad

April 8, 2014

Dear Parents:

Greetings from the Study Abroad Office at St. Norbert College! Next semester we will bid a fond farewell to your son or daughter along with 51 other students who will be traveling to 4 continents (Africa, Europe, Oceania and South America), 15 countries and 26 different program sites.

As your son or daughter prepares to study abroad during the Fall 2014 semester, we would like to thank you for your support and encouragement of this life-changing experience. We also would like to share with you some of the information we provided to our outbound students during the mandatory predeparture orientation. Additional topics will be covered during optional workshops to be held later this month.

On March 29th, we met with our outbound students for six hours to discuss topics such as health and safety, course registration, money matters, culture shock, and travel and packing tips. Please be sure to ask your son or daughter to share information with you regarding orientation. In addition, next week an optional workshop entitled *Travel 101* (booking a flight, TSA requirements, essential travel documents, etc.) is being offered. PowerPoint slides for the mandatory orientation and the optional workshop can be found on our website under *Resources & Links*, along with a copy of the most recent *Study Abroad Handbook*.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Program cost sheets for each of our programs can be found on our website. Instructions on how to access this information can be found on the [For Parents](#) link of our website (“Navigating the SNC Study Abroad Website”). Students will be billed by the SNC Finance Department in July. In addition to the program fee, which varies depending upon the program your student is attending, each student will be assessed a \$400 Study Abroad administrative fee. All financial aid will be applied to the amount due, and payment plans can be utilized as usual for **one semester** of off-campus study. Students attending SNC on a tuition waiver are allowed to apply the waiver **only** to a bilateral exchange program; the tuition waiver may not be used for direct enrollment or agency programs. The students must make sure that all financial aid forms and promissory notes for loans are signed before leaving the country. If you have any questions regarding specific program costs, please feel free to contact me by email or phone. For questions regarding financial aid, payment plans or student accounts, please contact the Bursar (920.403.3002) or the Financial Aid Office (920.403.3071).

Attached you will find a *Hot Sheet* with contact names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and mail addresses that will be of importance to you when your son or daughter is abroad. Your

student also has a copy of this form and should take it abroad along with all of the other materials in the predeparture packet.

Another useful resource is a publication by NAFSA Education Abroad entitled *What Parents Need To Know*, which can be ordered directly from their website:

<http://www.nafsa.org/wcm/Product?prodid=47>

In addition, the following documents are available for viewing and downloading from our website (www.snc.edu/studyabroad) by clicking on the *For Parents* link.

- *Parent's Guide*, an extensive document that answers many questions
- Information on tuition refund insurance
- Policy on cancellation or suspension of study abroad programs
- Link to Wisconsin Power of Attorney information and forms

INSURANCE INFORMATION

We will automatically enroll your son or daughter in SNC's Study Abroad insurance program at no additional cost to you. Coverage coincides with the dates of each student's program. If your son or daughter will be traveling before or after the program dates, it is important that you purchase international insurance to cover the period of time not covered by our plan. HTH Worldwide administers the insurance policy, which provides excellent coverage (100% up to \$500,000 with \$0 deductible). Your son or daughter will receive an email from HTH prior to departure with instructions for creating an online account, after which they must download a copy of their insurance card which they should carry at all times. The Parent portion of the website, <http://www.hthparents.com/>, also contains valuable information. In some instances, students are covered by more than one policy when they are abroad, either because the country mandates purchase of in-country insurance or because certain programs also provide international insurance. If your son or daughter's destination country requires additional mandatory insurance, it will be noted on the program cost sheet. You and your student should familiarize yourselves with the benefits provided by each policy so that you can decide which is the better one to utilize in the event of an illness or accident abroad. In addition, we strongly encourage at least one parent to have a valid passport in the event of an emergency abroad.

Although not required, we encourage you to weigh the benefits of purchasing optional travel insurance to cover delayed/cancelled flight, delayed/lost luggage, etc. A comparison of travel insurance plans tailored to suit each student's individual needs can be found at <http://www.insuremytrip.com>.

We also strongly recommend purchasing [tuition refund insurance](#), a plan designed to alleviate if not eliminate financial loss in the case of an accident or illness that renders a student unable to complete the current term.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Students participating in the majority of our study abroad programs are responsible for making their own flight arrangements. Students are encouraged to consult the *Travel 101* PowerPoint slides on our website before booking their flights. We encourage students to check fares on a variety of websites, including www.sta.com and www.studentuniverse.com, two of the most popular student fare websites. A very useful site for comparing fares from a variety of airlines is

<http://www.skyscanner.com>. An expanded list of our favorite travel websites can be found on our website (<http://www.snc.edu/studyabroad>) by clicking on [Resources and Links](#).

VISAS

Not all countries require student visas. Information on entry/exit requirements for each country can be found on the specific consular information sheet that your student received in the predeparture packet. In addition, all students have been informed of visa requirements by their study abroad advisor. Although the Study Abroad staff provides sound guidance with regard to visas, it is each student's responsibility to familiarize himself/herself with the visa requirements for his/her study abroad destination and to apply for the visa if one is required. The Study Abroad Office cannot influence or change visa requirements of other countries, nor can our senators or congress representatives. Just as the United States has stringent entry requirements, so do many of the countries in which we have study abroad programs.

VISITING YOUR STUDENT

Some of you may be fortunate enough to be able to visit your student while abroad. In most cases, the best time for a visit is at the end of the program when your student will be an expert guide with improved language skills and familiarity with his/her surroundings. Students on university programs have a schedule that is similar to a semester on the home campus with some flexibility, but many experiences abroad involve very full schedules as well as significant time traveling as part of the academic program. It may be disruptive and stressful to your student to entertain visitors during the highly structured semester. Please understand that family and friends cannot join in program activities or classes, and host families and roommates cannot accommodate guests.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

We understand that for most students and their families the study abroad experience is at once exciting and somewhat anxiety producing. Please feel free to contact me at 920.403.4068 should you have concerns at any phase of your son's or daughter's study abroad experience. **However, we strongly encourage your student to find out answers on his or her own since they will be called upon to do much problem solving when abroad.** Students have been instructed to resolve any problems abroad by first contacting their on-site support person. They have been told not to call home expecting their parents to fix the problem for them. We ask your support with regard to this matter. It is by confronting difficult issues and by stretching beyond their comfort zone that our students - your sons and daughters - grow and mature. Thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rosemary Sands
Director
Office of Study Abroad

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