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CONGRATULATIONS on being accepted to EducatorsAbroad Student Teaching (EAST)!

Living and working in a foreign culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international student teaching include:

- Gaining new perspectives on teaching and education
- Increasing understanding of different cultures
- Enhancing personal development
- Developing different perspectives on U.S. culture
- Gaining self-confidence and independence
- Setting yourself apart in a competitive teaching job market

It is up to you to determine how you can best benefit from these possible advantages. This is your adventure!

This program guide is to be used together with the general Study Abroad Handbook. The Handbook has information that is valid for all study abroad programs. This guide will provide you with specific information for the EAST program. It is designed to complement the Handbook, study abroad orientation and your individual pre-departure preparations. Please realize that although this guide contains all of the information available at the time of printing, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. CIE staff will e-mail additional information throughout the semester; please contact us with your specific questions.

Basic questions only you can answer include:

1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Common goals of student teachers abroad include advancement in a future profession, desire to expand personal and academic horizons, need for a change, and wish to challenge oneself with immersion in a new culture.

2) Given the way the program is set up, how can you best prepare to meet your goals? For example, if one of your goals is truly being immersed in the culture abroad, what strategies will you employ to integrate yourself into the school community? How are you going to get out and meet the locals outside the classroom?

The information in this guide was current at the time of printing, though changes may occur at any time.
**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**The Program**
UW-Eau Claire student teachers have the option of completing half of their student teaching abroad through a unique collaboration with the EducatorsAbroad Student Teaching (EAST) program. You can find details at [http://www.educatorsabroad.org](http://www.educatorsabroad.org). Once there, click on the "Student Teaching" link.

To fulfill UW-Eau Claire and State of Wisconsin certification requirements, you will complete 8 weeks of your student teaching semester in Wisconsin and 10 weeks abroad. Your placement abroad will be arranged and supervised by EAST.

**Academic Calendar**
If you are student teaching in the fall, you will most likely complete the first half of your student teaching abroad and the second half of your student teaching in Wisconsin. You may begin your placement in early to mid-August, depending on the school calendar in your host country. In fall, you must end your placement by early November so that you can return home in time to begin the Wisconsin portion of student teaching, which will run from late November to mid-January.

If you are student teaching in the spring, you will most likely complete the first half of your student teaching in Wisconsin from mid-January to late March. Dates for your assignment abroad will depend upon the country where you are placed. However, your placement will most likely run late March to late June/early July.

You should have listed the following dates on your EducatorsAbroad application profile for spring 2017 if you are pursuing a single block of student teaching abroad:

**One Block**
Earliest Date That You Can Start
Monday, April 10, 2017

Last Day That You Can Stay
Sunday, June 18, 2017

These dates were developed in coordination with the Eau Claire School District Calendar. You may be required to alter these dates if the Eau Claire school district calendar changes. **Finally, please note that you cannot have more than two weeks break between your first block of student teaching and your second block. Any changes to the dates above must be approved by Leslie Klay, Field Experience Coordinator.**

You will receive details about your placement dates directly from your EAST placement officer and your host school. **Do not make travel arrangements until your placement dates have been confirmed by your host school.**

**ACADEMICS**
There is additional information on academic topics such as credits and course load, grades, transcripts, and accessing the UW-Eau Claire library while abroad in your Study Abroad Handbook.
**Program Prerequisites**
To participate in the EA ST program, you must have at least a 3.0 GPA, pass your Praxis exam, be in good academic standing, and be admitted to the UW-Eau Claire student teaching semester. Failure to maintain any of these requirements until departure may result in cancellation of your participation.

**Registration**

**Wisconsin Block of Student Teaching:** You will register for your Wisconsin student teaching block during your normal registration time. You will register for ES 497 and one ES student teaching class (441 or 445 or 470) for a total of eight credits. Please contact Donna Anders <ANDERSDM@uwec.edu> or (715) 836-5984 in the Field Experience Office if you have any questions about your registration for the Wisconsin portion of your student teaching.

**International Block of Student Teaching:**
The semester before your program departs, the CIE staff will work with the Registrar’s Office to enroll you for the EducatorsAbroad Student Teaching program under a temporary course number (INTA 306) for seven credits.

Once your grade report comes in from EAST and is posted to your UW-Eau Claire transcript, 7 credits of student teaching abroad (ES 493 International Experience in Education) will be posted along with your grade. The INTA 306 registration code will remain on your transcript so that the university can maintain historical records regarding who has studied abroad. However, the INTA credit units will be removed and the INTA course will not be graded.

**Grading and Grade Reporting**
Students are graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. At the end of your placement, EducatorsAbroad Student Teaching will post the final report to your EducatorsAbroad account. Send the grade and final evaluation to Leslie Klay in the Field Experience Office. Some placements (most often spring placements) may end after the normal UW-Eau Claire semester, which could affect your ability to graduate on time. If your EAST placement ends after the UW-Eau Claire semester, please contact the Field Experience Office to see whether your graduation would be delayed.

**edTPA**
Starting in September 2016, a passing score on the edTPA assessment will be required in Wisconsin. There are still many unknowns regarding how the edTPA will work for UWEC students who elect an out-of-area placement. For that reason, you will need to be resourceful and independent to successfully complete your edTPA in a timely manner as you may not have the same level of access to your seminar leader and peer support. Fall EAST participants are encouraged to complete most of their edTPA when they return for their 2 quarter placement. Spring EAST participants are encouraged to complete their edTPA in the first block of their student teaching experience (3rd quarter) prior to their departure their experience abroad.

**Prior to student teaching:** You should have watched and listened to the “edTPA in a Nutshell,” narrated PowerPoint and signed he “edTPA Full Disclosure Acceptance for Out-of-area Placements.” The goal of PowerPoint (PPT) is to formally and systematically help you
understand the edTPA process, what is expected for completion, and potential out of area challenges. The disclosure form is the written documentation acknowledging that you have viewed the PPT and acknowledge potential challenges.

**While abroad:** You are encouraged to stay in touch with your seminar leader during the seminar sessions (e.g., Skype or FaceTime). Obviously, your ability to stay in contact may be hindered by time-zone differences and your teaching schedule in the host country. We encourage you to discuss with your seminar leaders strategies for staying connected. If you plan to complete your edTPA while abroad, you will need to do the following:

- obtain copies of the appropriate edTPA handbook (e.g., Special Education, Elementary Literacy, etc.) and the corresponding commentary prompts from seminar’s D2L site and familiarize yourselves with the edTPA tasks
- obtain legal permission (forms on student teaching seminar D2L) to video record their students
- use the Context for Learning prompts to find out more about their pupil’s backgrounds
- begin to plan a 3-5 lesson unit
- implement and video record the lessons
- reflect on the impact of their lessons
- begin their edTPA write up
- register and submit to Pearson

**When must the edTPA be submitted?**
Completed edTPAs are best submitted by the 2nd or 3rd week of quarters 2 or 4, depending on your fall of spring placement. Note: Fall EAST students will be in Wisconsin for the second quarter (e.g. block 2); whereas spring EASTS students will be abroad for quarter 4 (second block). This submission will allow your portfolios to be scored prior to your final week of student teaching. Then you can be licensed at the same time you receive your degree. The risk of delaying your submission is that you will be licensable until you receive your (presumably passing) score.

**Questions about edTPA and teaching abroad.**
The edTPA Coordinator (Joe Morin at morinje@uwec.edu) will be your initial contact for edTPA-related questions, especially prior to the start of your seminar. However, once you begin the edTPA process, you will need to contact your student teaching seminar leader for updated information.

**YOUR PLACEMENT**
**Overview**
EAST offers qualified students the opportunity to student teach in approximately 70 countries located in every region of the world. Historically, EAST has placed the most students in Australia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, England, Ireland, New Zealand, and Spain. Student teaching placements are available for elementary teachers and in most high school disciplines. UW-Eau Claire does not allow SPED students to complete their special education placement abroad.

All EAST classroom placements are 10 weeks long. However, your actual time in country may be longer if your school has a break while you are there. After a short period of orientation at your school, you’ll jump right into your teaching experience. Cooperating schools assign you to classrooms and supervising teachers consistent with your proposed teaching area.
Types of schools vary; you may be at a public, private, international, American, or boarding school.

The key person at your placement is your cooperating teacher in the school. This individual will share their expertise, observe activities you have planned and introduced, offer advice regarding effectiveness of teaching and management techniques, and provide support as you make the transition from student to professional educator.

**The Placement Process**
The placement process begins with your EAST application, which you completed through the EducatorsAbroad website after your acceptance from UW-Eau Claire. On your application, you listed three countries where you would like to student teach. EAST uses this information in conjunction with your proposed teaching area, required grade level, and the academic calendars of the host country to make the final placement.

EducatorsAbroad will assign you a placement officer. Your placement officer will work with you in finding a suitable placement. When EAST is seeking placements, they send your application materials to the prospective host school. Each host school then decides whether or not to accept you.

After being accepted by a host school, you will receive details about your placement. According to EAST, fall students typically hear about their placement in May. **Spring students typically hear about their placement in December.** Once you receive your placement information, you will contact your host school directly to begin planning your teaching and to arrange your exact teaching dates, your arrival, and accommodation.

**Country Preference and Placement**
Students occasionally worry whether EAST will be able to place them in their first-choice country. Although the primary emphasis is on grade level and teaching area, EAST does try to accommodate your geographic interest. Most often, students are placed in their first-choice country. Since UW-Eau Claire began sending students on the EAST program in spring 2007, we have only had one student that EAST was unable to place in her first-choice country.

You can use the filtering tools on the EAST website to find a location that meets your requirements: [https://educatorsabroad.org/](https://educatorsabroad.org/). After reaching the main page, follow the links below:

1. Student Teaching - Link below main image, then select
2. Program Overview
3. Placement Location - from the menu bar at the top of the page.

**Roles and Responsibilities**
Participants in the EducatorsAbroad Student Teaching program are expected to act as professionals and fulfill all program expectations. EAST participants are expected to model appropriate behavior while learning from and with teachers and students in host schools. To this end, your roles and responsibilities, as well as those of the cooperative teacher, EAST faculty, and EAST administration, are clearly stated in the on-line EAST "Internship Handbook," at [https://educatorsabroad.org/home/programmaterials.php](https://educatorsabroad.org/home/programmaterials.php). This link will take you to the "Program Materials" page. To locate the
handbook, scroll down to the category titled "Materials Common to All Internships." Under this category, you will find a PDF version of the "Internship Handbook." You should read this handbook as it outlines in detail your role and responsibility as a student teacher on the EAST program. You will receive a copy of this handbook with your placement materials from EducatorsAbroad.

EAST stresses that your primary role in the program is student teaching and serving the students, teachers, and schools to which you have been assigned. EAST discourages students from taking on extracurricular activities that distract from their primary role as a student teacher. EAST stresses that extra-curricular activities, which include personal travel, are not an excuse for missing teaching days or poor performance in the classroom.

You can learn more about your roles and responsibilities by researching what past participants have to say about the program: https://educatorsabroad.org/home/. After reaching the main page, select the following links below:

1. Student Teaching - Link below main image, then select
2. Program Overview
3. What Others Say - from the menu bar at the top of the page.

This section of the webpage has videos and written observations from past students and cooperating schools.

Videos are also available on YouTube by search for “EducatorsAbroad.”

**Teaching Materials**

You should ask your placement officer and host school contact for suggestions about what teaching materials you should bring.

EAST also offers the following advice regarding teaching materials: "You may find that textbooks and other teaching materials are not as readily available as might be expected in Canada, England or the U.S.A. The teacher is often considered the source of knowledge in foreign schools, so you may not have books and other references at your disposal. Be prepared for this possibility by taking materials such as photos, cassette tapes, CD’s, and small books with you to introduce students to places and ideas that are of interest to you. Be inventive!"

**Prior to leaving for your student teaching assignment** you may want to prepare a unit plan in detail which you could use in your host school. This unit may present information on your home area or a specialty within your subject area. A general textbook or papers covering your content area may be useful to have and helpful in your teaching. You might consider preparing games, maps, and learning aides before you travel to your host school."

**Observation/Assessment**

EAST faculty visit the school to observe and assess your performance. In cases where it is not possible for an EAST faculty member to personally visit a school, a qualified educator near or within the school will serve in the role of college supervisor. A school head or teacher educator from a neighboring college may fill this role. Placements will not be made where adequate supervision cannot be assured.
Cooperating teacher(s) prepare at least three formal written reports of observations of the student teacher. Both cooperating teachers and EAST faculty prepare final recommendations which are submitted for inclusion in the student’s credential file at the conclusion of student teaching.

**MONEY MATTERS**
*Information about how payments are made, when they are due, the UW-Eau Claire withdrawal/refund deadlines, financial aid, scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring money abroad is in your Study Abroad Handbook.*

**Cost Estimate**
You can find the most current Cost Estimate for your program, in easily printable format, on the CIE EAST webpage. Be sure you are looking at the correct term. Remember that the cost estimate includes what you pay to UW-Eau Claire, what you pay to EAST, and what you pay directly to other vendors.

**CampS Billing Constraints**
As previously stated, you will need to pay eight credits of UW-Eau Claire tuition to cover the Wisconsin block of your student teaching. Due to a limitation in the computerized billing system, your UWEC tuition will calculate as 12 credits. When you initially look at your bill, you will see charges for 12 credits of UWEC tuition and 7 credits of EAST tuition. After the drop/add period for your semester, the Business Office will apply a waiver for 4 credits of UWEC tuition so that you are actually paying for 8 credits. You should make sure to check your account after that date to ensure that the waiver has been applied to your account.

**Personal Travel**
Personal travel depends on your budget and your priorities. Students who want to be involved in their host community generally spend less time (and money) traveling. Others travel every weekend with correspondingly high costs and fewer close connections in their new home. As student teachers, you will be working 5 days a week, which will limit your opportunity to travel. However, it is wise to budget some money for personal travel. Past study abroad participants who responded to our money survey spent between $500 and $3,000 on personal travel.

**Currency Exchange**
Your living costs will change with the exchange rate in your country of placement. You can find current exchange rates at [http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/]. United States dollars can be exchanged for foreign currency at international airports, railroad stations, and banks. Cash or traveler’s checks can be exchanged at banks. You pay a commission every time you exchange money, so budget wisely!

**Travelers Checks**
Many people no longer find traveler’s checks useful in many parts of the world, especially Western Europe and Australia/New Zealand, due to the convenience of ATMs and the service fees (1-4%) associated with cashing your traveler’s checks. Also, you will need to go to a bank or a money exchange office (e.g. “bureaux de change”) in order to cash traveler’s checks, which can be inconvenient. However, traveler’s checks are useful in an emergency situation such as when your credit or debit cards are lost.
or stolen, damaged, de-activated due to fraud concerns, etc.

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

Additional information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the Health Issues and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.

**Insurance**

You will be enrolled in two different CISI health and security policies and charged for both of them via UWEC program charges- UW System CISI policy and the EducatorsAbroad CISI policy.

**UW System CISI Insurance:** Your UW System policy will be the primary policy. You can learn more about the coverage by visiting the Insurance page of the study abroad website.

**EducatorsAbroad CISI Insurance:** EAST mandates that all student teachers have CISI insurance. You will get forms and details directly from EAST. You can also find details online at https://educatorsabroad.org/home/programmaterials.php. This link will take you to the "Program Materials" page. On the "Program Materials" page, you will find a link to the CISI Insurance Policy under the heading "Materials Common to All Internships."

**NOTE:** EAST cannot issue your insurance card until you e-mail them the dates that you will be abroad. Please email the coordinator at contact@educatorsabroad.org or Pat Marinac at patm@educatorsabroad.org.

**Vaccinations and Travel Immunizations**

The Centers for Disease Control recommends that you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before your study abroad or any trip. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.

You can search for country-specific travel recommendations on the CDC page: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/. Please discuss the recommendation immunizations with your doctor.

**Safety Abroad**

Information on crime, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity for all countries can be found on the U.S. State Department site: http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country.html. Just type in the country name to find the country-specific information.

**Emergency Contacts**

General emergency procedures are described in the Study Abroad Handbook and EducatorsAbroad Internship Handbook. You will receive an emergency contact card at orientation; be sure to keep it in your wallet at all times. The information is also on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

At the time you receive this guide, you will not have emergency contact information for your host school. You should ask this of your cooperating teacher when you are placed.

**911 Equivalent**

If you are in an emergency situation, you will need to know how to reach the local police, fire, or ambulance services. In some countries, there are different numbers for police, fire, and ambulance. The U.S. State Department...
provides a list of 911 numbers abroad. Once you know your country of placement, we suggest you save the emergency number(s) in your cell phone in case you need it to use them quickly.

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

*Passport and additional visa information is included in your Study Abroad Handbook.*

**Visa**

A visa is official permission to temporarily reside in another country and is granted by the government of that country. The CIE will post basic information about the current visa options for U.S. citizens to the Learning Content section of your online study abroad account during the semester prior to departure. **However, it is your responsibility to keep up to-date about student visa requirements, and if required, to apply for and receive a visa from a consulate or embassy in a timely manner.** Please read the “Visa” section of your Study Abroad Handbook for more information about what you should do to keep up to-date on visa requirements.

**Visa by Country**

Visa requirements vary for all of the countries involved in the EducatorsAbroad Student Teaching program. For most countries, EA*:ST* refers students to a visa processing service to obtain help with getting a visa. However, EA*:ST* does maintain some specific instructions on their website for Australia. You are responsible for arranging the appropriate visa once your placement has been confirmed.

If you are unsure whether you need a visa or how to apply, please email contact@educatorsabroad.org to reach the EA*:ST* program coordinator.

**ARRIVING IN COUNTRY**

*Travel Arrangements*

You will make your own travel arrangements to your host site. A list of student-oriented travel agencies and instructions on booking a flight can be found in your Study Abroad Handbook. Remember that you should not book your flight until your host school confirms your placement dates. However, this does not mean that you cannot call travel agencies/look online and begin price comparisons.

Once you have your travel dates, please turn in the arrival information material found in your online study abroad account to the CIE and email EA*:ST* (contact@educatorsabroad.org) so that they can issue your insurance card.

**SETTLING IN**

*Housing*

Many forms of housing exist, including homestays. While cooperating schools advise and assist students in finding housing, you are ultimately responsible for making arrangements for your own room and board. EA*:ST* indicates that students typically finalize their housing arrangements a few weeks before their placement begins. Although this process may sound intimidating, EA*:ST* has indicated that past students have not had problems locating housing. A past participant offers the following advice:

"The living situation was a little difficult to figure out since I was not living in Prague and..."
didn’t know anybody in Prague. I found some useful websites and found a really nice place/location to live. I think this was by far the biggest stress I had before arriving in Prague but looking back now, I could have changed my living situation rather easily if needed. I also could have lived in a temporary place for a week or so until I found a flat I was interested in." (Czech Republic)

Past students have reported on their post program evaluation survey that they found housing prior to departure and were typically about 15 minutes from their schools.

**Concerns Regarding Placement**
On occasion, students have experienced concerns with their placements upon arrival. For example, they were asked to teach a different grade level than expected or asked to substitute for an absent teacher. If you have concerns about your placement upon arrival, please contact Leslie Klay (klayla@uwec.edu) in the Field Experience Office with a copy to Colleen Marchwick (marchwcc@uwec.edu) in the Center for International Education. We can work with EducatorsAbroad staff in the U.S. to address your concerns.

**Blogging about Your Placement**
Many students who study abroad are interested in creating a blog about their experience as a way to keep friends and family at home updated. Please remember student teaching is a professional experience; you should be aware that any "venting" or derogatory comments, whether about the school or the country, could have a negative impact on your relationships with your host country colleagues and on future recommendations. If you are having a challenging day in the classroom or adapting to the local culture, a private email or phone call is probably a better option than detailing your frustrations on a public blog or social media. Contact your study abroad coordinator or the Field Experience Office if you need help.

**Challenges to Student Teaching Abroad**
In his article entitled "Beyond Educational Tourism: Lessons Learned While Student Teaching Abroad," Reyes Quezada (2004) noted three main challenges experienced by student teachers abroad: 1) adapting to a national curriculum, 2) lack of contact with peers, and 3) language barrier.

**Adapting to the Curriculum**
Reyes found that adapting and planning lessons to meet an unfamiliar curriculum can be a very challenging task. Given that you will only have about a week of on-site orientation, you can minimize the daunting nature of this task by following Reyes' recommendation of learning as much as you can about the national curriculum before you leave.

**Lack of Contact with Peers**
Most study abroad students can take comfort in knowing that they will be studying abroad with other UW-Eau Claire students and/or other U.S. Americans. However, Reyes found that student teachers may lack this support since they are typically not placed in groups and other teachers at the host school may be much older. You may want to consider the following ways to combat this feeling of isolation:

- Participate in/organize extra-curricular activities
- Volunteer at a community organization
Contact EAST to see if you can have the names of other students teaching in the host country during the same time period

Language Barrier
Reyes also found that some students were frustrated when they were placed in countries where they had no or limited knowledge of the native language. Although students were able to perform their teaching duties and communicate with the teaching staff, the language barrier limited their interaction with the larger community.

You can minimize this frustration by trying to learn or improve your understanding of the host language before you leave. You may also want to see if the local teacher or a university student would be interested in a language exchange, wherein you help them with their English and they help you with the host country language.

COMMUNICATION
Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address is in your Study Abroad Handbook.

E-mail
You will most likely have e-mail access at your school. Your computer access at your housing will vary. In order to receive official university information while abroad, you must be checking your UW-Eau Claire e-mail account, so you will need to find an Internet cafe (which is usually easily done).

CHECKLIST
If you are unsure about what to do, please refer to this checklist to keep you on track. It organizes follow-up actions based on milestones in the EAST placement process.

Once you find out your country of placement:
1. Read over the material provided by EAST.
2. Compare the EAST cost estimate to the costs in the guide. If the EAST estimate is higher, discuss the situation with Financial Aid.
3. Research the Visa Information for your host country or contact visa servicing company for more information.
4. Read the U.S. State Department Country-Specific Information: http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country.html.
5. Visit the Centers for Disease Control to research the health and safety consideration for your host country: http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel.

Once you know your school placement and dates:
1. Complete the “EAST Placement: Location, Dates, and Grade Level” questionnaire on your UWEC study abroad account.
2. Email Colleen (marchwcc@uwec.edu) when the questionnaire is complete so that she can register you with the U.S. State Department.
3. Email the program coordinator at EAST (contact@educatorsabroad.org) so that they can enroll you in CISI health insurance.
4. Purchase your plane ticket and fill out the arrival information questionnaire on your online study abroad account.
5. Apply for a visa if required by the host country.
We suggest that you copy this page and leave it with your emergency contact and/or parents.

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Center for International Education
Colleen Marchwick
Interim Lead
and Study Abroad Coordinator
marchwcc@uwec.edu

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Find the U.S. Embassy in your country of placement by visiting:
http://usembassy.state.gov
The U.S. Department of State provides the following travel notice for U.S. citizens traveling abroad:

When planning your trip abroad, take steps to protect yourself from crime or theft. Crimes against travelers are a growing problem worldwide. Tourists are particularly targeted by criminals because they are usually carrying cash and are often easy to distract. Any traveler can become a victim of crimes such as pick-pocketing, robbery, sexual assault, and mugging. To keep yourself safe while traveling, follow the same common-sense precautions you would exercise at home:

— Do not take valuable items on your trip. Carry traveler’s checks and major credit cards, not large amounts of cash.
— Hide your valuables on your person. Wrapping rubber bands around your wallet makes it more difficult for a pick-pocket to remove. Do not carry money or identification in a handbag; all too often, thieves simply take the bag, sometimes breaking arms in the process. If possible, do not carry a handbag at all.
— Before leaving, make a copy of the identification page of your passport. Take the copy with you on your trip, keeping it separate from the passport itself. While traveling, leave your passport and any money you do not expect to need that day locked in a hotel safety deposit box. If local law does not require you to keep your passport with you, carry only the photocopy of your passport when you leave your hotel.
— Find out which parts of town local inhabitants consider risky. If you are out alone at night, stay in well-lit areas and do not use short cuts or narrow alleys.
— Be especially alert in crowds. The most common sites for purse, bag, or camera snatching are places heavily frequented by tourists, such as the central train stations, crowded shopping areas, public buses, trains, and subways.
— Thieves often strike when travelers are distracted. A bag casually left at one’s feet or on a cart while checking a train schedule or using a telephone is an easy target. Money belts or pouches worn on the outside of clothing or loosely hung around the neck are easily cut or ripped off. Wearing them on the outside highlights where you keep all your valuables.
— Travel with several passport size photos. It can be difficult to get replacement photos on short notice if your passport is lost or stolen. Keep a record of your passport number, and the date and place of issuance separate from the passport itself.
— If driving, keep your car doors locked and suitcases out of sight.
— Do not leave valuables in parked cars. Thieves particularly target rental cars and cars with out-of-town or foreign license plates.

If you should fall victim to crime, remember that the U.S. Embassy is there to help you. Every embassy and consulate has a duty officer on-call around the clock to assist in an emergency. If you need emergency medical care, the duty officer will try to help you get in touch with a doctor or clinic. If you lose your passport, report the loss to the local police and go to the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the next business day to apply for a new one. If you have a police report, photos, and proof of identification (or are accompanied by someone who can identify you), a new passport can often be issued the same day.

The following pamphlets are published by the Department of State to assist Americans traveling abroad. Single copies or these publications are available for $1.00 each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Please send checks or money orders. You can also check out the State Department’s website for travel tips: http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/go/checklist.html

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WHAT PAST PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID ABOUT
STUDENT TEACHING ABROAD

"I recommend the EAST program for all student teachers. I have grown more in the last 3 months than I ever would have imagined. I am coming home not only a better teacher, but a better person. I have a deeper understanding of a new country, a new culture, and a new school." - Brenna S., Australia, Spring 2013

"Student teaching abroad in Italy has made my life more exciting and complete. Not only did I become a better teacher in my time here, but I have also grown as a person. I was able to open up more to different people and make life-long connections and relationships. I was put in situations that made me be more assertive and it taught me to stand up for what I believe in. I learned about different viewpoints from all around the world from my students and I have realized that even though we all come from different backgrounds, there are a lot of things we still have in common. Along with my time in Italy, I was able to travel all over Europe. I would definitely recommend student teaching abroad because you are able to find joy and a little bit of yourself that you might not have known existed before you go out into the real world!" - Katie S., Italy, Spring 2013

"My experience in Ireland was simply lovely. Every person affiliated was genuine and supportive. The country was stunning, and I will always remember my students. Leaving Ireland, all I can think about is getting a job and involving my future classroom in conversations with my past students. I recommend this experience to anyone with a sense of adventure who wants to make lifelong connections abroad." - Erin, Ireland, Fall 2010

"My experience student teaching abroad was something that has changed my life. I have been challenged in ways that I would have never been challenged back home. In the short two months I was here, I have grown immensely as a professional and also have learned a lot about myself as an individual preparing to enter the real world." - Adam, Czech Republic, Spring 2009

"I found my student teaching abroad experience to be the most beneficial and enjoyable professional development that I've ever been a part of. It was a great opportunity for me to further my teaching practice while becoming engrossed in a culture other than my own. I feel that my time spent inside of the school along with the surrounding community has been an opportunity of a lifetime which I will never forget." - Jeremy, New Zealand, Fall 2008

"Teaching in Prague has helped me to compare two very different educational systems and combine the strengths of both systems in order to improve my instructional strategies." - Josiah, Czech Republic, Spring 2007

"Student teaching abroad gave me a valuable insider's perspective on being an ESL learner in a new culture, and enhanced my ability to be sympathetic towards those needs for my future students." - Matthew, Thailand, Spring 2007

"Student teaching in Bangkok, Thailand has been one of the best experiences of my life. My students taught me just as much, if not more, than I taught them. I will be able to apply what I have learned to teaching students from a variety of cultural backgrounds in the United States." - Sarah, Thailand, Spring 2007