

GO GLOBAL

Pitzer College

Parents as Intercultural Co-Educators:
Helping Your Student Before, During and After Study Abroad

A Checklist

Office of Study Abroad and
International Programs



First Year Checklist

First-Year Students

1. Attend the First Year Seminar Presentation on studying abroad offered toward the middle of your first semester at Pitzer.
2. Read the Study Abroad Website: www.pitzer.edu/studyabroad.
3. Talk about your interest in studying abroad with your faculty adviser, resident adviser and mentor.
4. Think about preparation courses for study abroad: Sociocultural anthropology, engaging difference, international/intercultural studies, foreign language, field methods for undergraduate research abroad, country or area specific courses.
5. Read the Website for the Office of Graduate Fellowships for international fellowship opportunities specific to your four years at Pitzer and beyond. Don't miss Gilman, Boren, Rotary, Fulbright, Watson, Rhodes, Mitchell, Marshall, Churchill, JET, Princeton in Asia and Peace Corps.
6. Get to know international students on campus through the Global Friendship Alliance (West Hall, Suite Q100), English Language and Culture Studies (West Hall, Suite Q100) and International Place of the Claremont Colleges (Heggblade Center, CMC).

Parents of First-Year Students

1. Read the Study Abroad Website: www.pitzer.edu/studyabroad.
2. Encourage your student to take advantage of study abroad through semester or year-long study abroad (usually junior year), Pitzer summer programs, and/or research abroad.

Second Year Checklist

Second-Year Students

1. Attend a study abroad information session. Many sessions are offered early in the semester for easy access to information.
2. Make an appointment with a Study Abroad Adviser for an individual counseling session in West Hall, Suite Q100.
3. Talk to your faculty adviser. Talk to students returning from study abroad.
4. Complete and submit the Pitzer College Study Abroad Application by the due dates. This involves selecting program options, filling out a form, writing several essays, getting a faculty recommendation and interviewing a past participant on the program(s). Students may apply for a semester or a year abroad. Summer program applications have different deadlines. The External Studies Committee reviews the applications.
5. You will be notified of program acceptance via your Pitzer email and must return acceptance paperwork to secure a place in your study abroad program(s). Deadlines are noted in acceptance letters.
6. Attend a study abroad orientation session. Read the entire Pre-departure Orientation Handbook for study abroad, which gives information on many important matters, including how to obtain air tickets, insurance and visas.
7. Complete the online culture learning workshop and submit all required study abroad forms (health report, special needs and disabilities form, etc.).
8. Read the Office of Graduate Fellowships Website:
www.pitzer.edu/academics/fellowships. Attend information sessions on the Gilman, Boren, Fulbright, Watson, Rhodes, Mitchell, Marshall, Churchill, JET, Peace Corps, Rotary, Truman and Princeton in Asia fellowships.
9. Get to know international students on campus, particularly those from the country where you will study abroad. Check out the Global Friendship Alliance, English Language and Culture Studies and International Place of the Claremont Colleges.

Second Year Checklist

Parents of Second-Year Students

1. Visit the Study Abroad Website and read Pre-departure Orientation Handbooks from previous semesters. Application for study abroad is competitive and spots in certain programs are limited. All applicants must indicate a viable alternative program. Your student may be denied his/her first choice (by Pitzer's External Studies Committee or by the program provider) if we have too many qualified applicants. All qualified students have the chance to go abroad if they are flexible in their program choice(s).
2. Encourage your student to think beyond his/her major in selecting a study abroad experience. Encourage him/her not to replicate what can be learned in classes in Claremont and to immerse themselves in the host community and culture.
3. Encourage your student to take responsibility for making all arrangements for study abroad and meeting deadlines. He/she needs to take ownership of these processes, including getting a passport, visa, police reports (if needed), health examination, tickets, etc.
4. Encourage your student to read every word of his/her Pre-departure Orientation Handbook, participate actively in orientations, and contact a Study Abroad Adviser if encountering problems.
5. Read the Parent Letter and electronic version of the Pre-departure Orientation Handbook. Determine if your questions are ones your student should be asking. Know what expenses Pitzer does, and does not, cover for study abroad. Do financial planning with your student.
6. Make sure your student has a valid passport at least three months before going abroad. Directions for getting a passport are given in the Pre-departure Orientation Handbook.
7. Discuss the fact that you might not be able to contact your student as often as usual while he/she is abroad.
8. If you are planning to visit your student while abroad, schedule your visit for the end of his/her study abroad program.

Third Year Checklist

Third-Year Students

(This applies to students who are abroad in fall, spring or both semesters.)

1. Get to the program destination on time.
2. Get oriented, settled in and focused on being in that country and culture. Start connecting to the host culture and building a base of friends and support. Let your friends and family know you may not be able to contact them regularly, especially during the first two weeks of the program.
3. After arrival, contact the on-site director or adviser for your study abroad program to discuss any problems. If you don't receive the help you need, contact a Pitzer Study Abroad Adviser.
4. Think about fellowships you would like to apply for during your senior year and start jotting down ideas for proposals.
5. Think about how you can draw connections between what you are learning in your host community abroad and what issues are facing communities back in the US.

Parents of Third-Year Students

1. Know that your student may not be in contact with you as frequently as when he/she is at home. Encourage him/her to make friendships and social ties in the host culture and country. Encourage him/her to involve local staff in resolving problems. If that doesn't work, encourage him/her to use the contact information in the Pre-departure Orientation Handbook to contact the Office of Study Abroad at Pitzer for help.
2. If you feel your student is not receiving effective assistance from the Office of Study Abroad, contact Michael Ballagh, assistant vice president for international programs.
3. If visiting your student abroad, plan the visit for the end of the program when your student's language and cultural skills are strongest and your visit would cause the least disruption to his/her program of study and foreign language learning.
4. Be familiar with the Pitzer Study Abroad Conditions of Participation included in the appendix of the Pre-departure Orientation Handbook. Unless your student has serious medical or psychological difficulties that cannot be adequately addressed abroad, encourage him/her to work through the inevitable adjustment period.

Fourth Year Checklist

Fourth-Year Students

1. Read the Website of the Office of Graduate Fellowships in the summer before your senior year. Identify which fellowships you want to apply for and begin preparing the applications.
2. Enroll in Political Studies 194: International Studies Workshop, 194A: Global Local Research Workshop or 194B: Global Local Teaching Workshop. These courses prepare students for Fulbright, Watson and other international fellowships and builds on the study abroad learning experience.
3. Submit a piece of writing completed while abroad for publication in *Abroadview Magazine*.
4. Consider applying for a CEC Global-Local Senior Thesis Award (\$500 for connecting research done abroad with a local issue).
5. Connect with new international students at Pitzer to help them acculturate to the US through the Office of Study Abroad and International Programs, Modern Language and Culture Studies or International Place of The Claremont Colleges.
6. Conduct joint research projects on American culture in local communities with international exchange students to compare perspectives on global-local issues through the MLLC 166 course: Directed Research in American Culture.
7. Talk with the Pitzer Career Center about graduate school or career opportunities in international work.

Parents of Fourth-Year Students

1. If your student is applying for a Fulbright and/or Watson fellowship, know he/she will be exceptionally busy and perhaps stressed during the first six weeks of senior year. Help read drafts of proposals.
2. Encourage your student to use the new perspectives, problem-solving skills and confidence gained abroad to address social issues at home.
3. Celebrate the transformative learning experience your student has had while studying abroad!
4. Accept our thanks for being co-educators in this important realm of intercultural learning.



Contact Information

Office of Study Abroad and
International Programs
909.621.8104
studyabroad@pitzer.edu
www.pitzer.edu

Study Abroad Advisers

Michael Ballagh
Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo
Mike Donahue
Jamie Francis
Karen Casey

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50th Anniversary



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