

What's the best advice you can give future students to maximize their experience abroad?

“Prepare yourself mentally before leaving on the trip and also before returning from the trip. It will take a while to adjust to the new culture and will be exhausting to come home as well. Be sure that you bring little things from home to help you be comfortable in your new environment. For example, I brought vanilla wafers and my favorite big t shirt, so that after a long day of working, I could relax when I got back to the hotel.”

“Don't worry about Instagram, Twitter and people back home. Be in tune with the emotions and life around you.”

“Try everything. Do as much as possible. Get plenty of sleep and drink lots of water. Ask lots of questions, and learn as much as you can. Keep a journal, and try to write every day.”

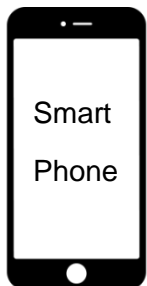
What items did you not bring that you wish you had?

- Notebook paper
- Binoculars
- Warmer clothes for Safari
- Rice seasoning
- Lots of snacks!!
- BUG SPRAY

What items did you pack and NOT need while abroad?

- Jewelry
- Make-up
- Too many clothes
- Spandex for under maxi skirts (girls)

Which devices would you recommend others take in the future?



Most common ways to communicate with family and friends back home:

#1. Through WiFi-enabled smart phones apps

- Skype
- Whatsapp
- iMessage

#2. Email/ Facebook

Mozambique Community

Development

“Everyone should participate in a service learning project in a developing community. It results in a deeper understanding of the culture, yourself, your abilities, and the importance of working hard in school to learn your skill set and apply it in the world.”

Approximately how much did you spend out of pocket during the program (in USD)?

	Max Value	Average Value
Communication (cell phone, Internet charges, etc.):	100.00	9.25
Food:	200.00	71.00
Going out/free time:	200.00	26.00
Lodging:	0.00	0.00
Other:	0.00	0.00
Personal travel/excursions:	50.00	2.50
Program related travel/excursions:	200.00	32.00
Required books/supplies:	0.00	0.00
Souvenirs/gifts:	500.00	121.75

What advice do you have for students to budget and spend money wisely?

“Most days we didn't spend money, so the best advice is to save your money until you arrive in South Africa.”

“Ask a local who you trust how much they would pay for an item so you have an idea of what you should be paying when you barter at markets.”

“Spend only what you want to. 100 dollars is a good amount but I spent 200 because of souvenirs for family members.”

“Set a limit on the amount of money you plan to spend ahead of time, in order to keep from being carried away with buying too many souvenirs.”

What do you wish you had known more about before you left?

“I wish I knew more Spanish (which allowed me to communicate with the people that spoke Portuguese) so I could talk to the people more.”

“I wish I had known to bring more snacks. We ate a lot of rice.”

“Wifi was rarely available!”

Did this program deepen your interest in your academic field of study?

“I am a senior and I already felt passionate about my field of study before the trip but after the trip I have a different outlook on the industry as it relates to the international growth and competition of the industry itself.”

“I've been a part of other study abroad programs and there is nothing like working in discipline-specific projects that are changing lives to deepen one's academic experience. I have a better grasp of my discipline, opportunities, and the needs of the world. I know now how I can use my skills to advance and contribute to the global society...this doesn't happen in the classroom.”

“The academic enrichment of this program is incredible, and I can't express in words how much I learned about my discipline while in Mozambique.”

“I also got to meet with an agriculturalist and one of the head guys at the chicken farm. He wanted my advice on nutrition and I got to learn about agriculture and seasonality from them. It was a wonderful experience, and the agriculturalist gave me lots of great documents that will assist me in the future.”

How might students best get to know the people and culture of your host country?

“Get out of your comfort zone. Leave the inner circle of friends of your group and strike up a conversation with someone local. It was helpful to know a few greetings and basic questions in their language!”

“My group was given some advice to wear the traditional capulana (African skirt) while going out to the village and we picked up some main Portuguese phrases along the way. If you have a positive and open attitude that helps open many doors.”

“All you can do is be open to new experiences outside of your comfort zone and embrace the culture of your host country and the people in it.”

How did you pay for things on a daily basis?

1. Cash (exchanged from US currency)
2. Cash (withdrawn from local ATM/bank from US bank account)
3. Credit Cards/Debit Cards
4. Barter

What credit cards were most accepted?

