

# INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & AIRFARE TIPS

## AIRFARE & PURCHASING FLIGHTS

YOU SHOULD **NOT** PURCHASE AIRFARE UNTIL YOU RECEIVE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS from the Office of Study Abroad or your external program provider. However, once you receive the instructions, you may find the following recommendations helpful:

1

### Things to double check within 24hrs of purchasing ticket:

- Start and end dates of your program; be sure to factor in orientation and exam dates.
- Are you flying into the correct airport?
- Is your FULL NAME AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT spelled correctly on the ticket?

2

**Nervous about purchasing your first international flight?** If you are inexperienced in making international travel plans you may want to consider using a **travel agent**. It may cost a little more, but agents can minimize layovers and offer assistance if you experience problems before/during travel. Travel agents are often experienced at finding bargain fares. Be sure to relay that you are a student participating in study abroad.

**Recommended resource:** The Office of Study Abroad usually books travel through Ms. Daun Flynn at the [Travel Depot](#) in Fayetteville. You can contact Ms. Flynn at [dlflynn@gmail.com](mailto:dlflynn@gmail.com) or 479-444-3366.

3

**Finding the best fare:** To find the best price on airfare purchase your ticket approximately 4-12 weeks prior to your departure. Prices are highest more than 90 days from departure because bargain fares have not yet been determined, but if you wait too long, the bargain fares sell out.

4

**You can also purchase tickets from internet travel sites**, direct from the airline company, or from student travel companies. There are sometimes great deals out there, but be sure to read the fine print and know exactly what you are purchasing. Click [here](#) for more info on our website. In the meantime, here are a handful of airfare search engines you may want to explore:

[www.studentuniverse.com](http://www.studentuniverse.com)  
[www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com)  
[www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com)  
[www.KAYAK.com](http://www.KAYAK.com)  
[www.vayama.com](http://www.vayama.com)  
[www.getaway.com](http://www.getaway.com)  
[www.cheapoair.com](http://www.cheapoair.com)

[www.cheaptickets.com](http://www.cheaptickets.com)  
[www.travlang.com/trav](http://www.travlang.com/trav)  
[www.lowestfare.com](http://www.lowestfare.com)  
[www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com)  
[www.priceline.com](http://www.priceline.com)  
[www.cheapflights.com](http://www.cheapflights.com)  
[www.airfarewatchdog.com](http://www.airfarewatchdog.com)

## TRAVEL TIPS:

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- Is your name spelled the same on your flight itinerary as it is in your passport? If it is incorrect you may not be allowed to board the plane. Some discount tickets do not allow name changes if you notice the error later. Remember that passports often include middle names with first names, and that the order of first, middle, and last names on your itinerary does matter.
- Check to see if there is a frequent flyer mileage program offered by your airline and sign up before purchasing so you can add your frequent flyer number to the ticket to earn "miles".

- See if there's an app for your smart phone to help you keep track of your flights. As long as you keep your phone charged, you'll always have a copy of your travel info with you.
- How many pieces of luggage are you allowed to have during your flights, what are the maximum weight restrictions, and what are the charges for any extra luggage? Be sure you are familiar with international baggage policies for all of the airlines you will use.
- Can you change the return date on your ticket? How much is the fee for changing the date? Do you want to have an open-ended return?
- If you're not using a travel agent, are there support services from the company if your flight is cancelled or you miss your flight?
- Make sure your seat is confirmed! If it is not confirmed and you are late checking in you could get bumped off the flight.
- Bargain fares: look at length of layovers and total travel time (you also need enough time for transit when switching planes). Sometimes excessive travel time is not a bargain.
- If booking independently, use a credit card to purchase your ticket. Most credit cards offer consumer protection if you have reason to dispute the charge later.
- Call/check online to confirm your flight 24-48 hours prior to departure AND return. Flight numbers and departure/connecting flight times can change. Arrive at the airport at least 2 hours prior to your scheduled departure.

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## ON ARRIVAL

- After you have deplaned at your final destination, you will go through immigration. At this point, immigration officers will check your passport and visa (if applicable), and ask you some questions about your trip and why you're there.
- You'll then proceed to baggage claim and pick up your bags to take to customs for checking. Remember that some countries are very strict about what you can bring into their country, so do your research. In general, it is not possible to bring fresh foodstuffs, plants or plant products, animal products, etc. into a country.
- You'll then head to arrivals and...[insert here the amazing adventure of study abroad!]

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## ON YOUR WAY HOME

- Many student travelers accumulate lots of souvenirs and gifts while abroad. Remember to leave space in your luggage/bring an extra collapsible bag before heading overseas in order to bring back gifts. Second bag charges may apply on the return flight. Some students choose to donate clothes/items while overseas to make extra room in their luggage for purchases.
- When returning to the U.S., you will have your bags screened by the U.S. Customs Agency. Follow U.S. regulations and laws carefully. You could face criminal charges if you attempt to bring illegal materials back home, such as narcotics, animal skins, plants, or produce. There are additional regulations and limits on alcohol. During your flight, you will be given a form to fill out to declare items you purchased abroad and are bringing home.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

We highly recommend that you check out additional resources on our website at <http://studyabroad.uark.edu/prepare>.