

LGBTQIA+ Students Abroad



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Center for
Global Education

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Why an International Experience?

For the LGBTQIA+ community, studying abroad can be an opportunity to learn more about yourself and identity within the global context. Experience a different culture, gain new skills, and expand your worldviews. Studying abroad offers LGBTQIA+ individuals the unique opportunity to:

- Understand gender & sexuality in cultural contexts
- Gain a new perspective on identity
- Build transnational solidarity with sexual minorities
- Learn about different social movements advocating for gender and sexual rights
- Challenge the perceptions of LGBTQIA+ people

LGBTQIA+ Friendly Locations:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| • Argentina (Buenos Aires) | • Germany | • South Africa (Cape Town) |
| • Australia | • Hong Kong | • Sweden |
| • Belgium | • Ireland | • Switzerland |
| • Costa Rica | • Italy | • Taiwan |
| • Czech Republic | • Japan | • Thailand |
| • Finland | • New Zealand | • The Netherlands |
| • France | • Norway | • United Kingdom |
| | • Spain | |

“Though being queer abroad presents some challenges, it presents even more opportunities. Being in a new environment abroad gives you a new space to learn about your international identity and experiment with new ways of presentation. Through your abroad experience, you’ll learn more about your identity and what makes you you, and will get to interact with other international students who have unique identities of their own. You’ll get to grow.”



Kate Minzner (pictured on front cover)
Victoria University Wellington, New Zealand

Special Considerations

- Concepts of identity and the way in which LGBTQIA+ individuals are perceived vary from country to country and also within regions of the same country. Research the safety implications in the host country to help mitigate risks and understand how your LGBTQIA+ identity may affect your experience.
- Aspects of your identity may feel highlighted while you’re abroad because of cultural differences in the local community. Some students feel relieved to be free from the cultural norms and expectations of the U.S. Others find it more challenging to confront diversity issues in an unfamiliar culture.

Please note that you are still subject to your host country’s laws even if you feel they are discriminatory.

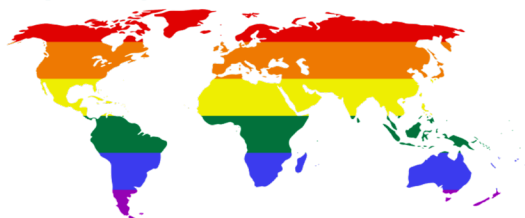
Tips for LGBTQIA+ Students Abroad

- Those you meet in your host country—such as your program director, professors, students, and host families—will be knowledgeable about the country and may be able to assist you with your concerns and needs.
- **Before you go, find out as much as you can about your host culture.** The more you know, the better prepared you will be for the interaction between your identity and new environment.
- **Think about how you will answer questions** about your identity in your host country language - look up key vocabulary words ahead of time.
- **Think ahead** - if you chose to come out while abroad, how will this impact your family and friend relationships? If you choose not to disclose your identity while abroad, how will this impact your experience?



"My time in Cape Town showed me a completely different side of the LGBTQIA+ experience...I also recognized certain aspects that resembled my experiences with the LGBTQIA+ community in the states. Having lived in suburban towns my whole life, experiencing the LGBTQ culture in various countries throughout Africa was an invaluable experience, which granted me knowledge I can't imagine obtaining any other way."

Noah Feinberg (pictured left)
University of Cape Town, South Africa



Questions to ask when selecting a program:

- How open will I be about my sexual orientation and/or gender identity with my in-country staff, professors, peers, host family and others?
- How important is it to me to find other LGBTQIA+ students and friends while abroad? What are my expectations about seeking and finding community?
- What are the cultural attitudes, perceptions, and police attitudes toward sexual orientation and gender identity in my host community? Do local laws protect LGBTQ+ people?
- What are considered typical male and female social behaviors and customary gender relations in the host country?
- Do I prefer a single or shared room, and/or access to gender-neutral restrooms?
- Are equipped/supportive doctors and mental health practitioners available in my host country?
- Will I need access to any medications or supplies? Are they available in my host country? If not, will I need any additional documentation to travel with my medication or supplies?
- If I am transitioning, will I need to update my passport to reflect my gender?

The Center for Global Education can help you find answers to these questions!

More resources and information available at:

Chapman.edu/CGE
DiversityAbroad.org

Study Abroad Scholarships

Visit Chapman.edu/CGEScholarships

- DiversityAbroad.com
- Rainbow Scholarship
- Pride Foundation Scholarships
- IGLTA Foundation Scholarships
- ISEP Community Scholarship

Additional Resources

Visit Chapman.edu/CGEDiversityResources

- Advice from past lgbtqia+ students abroad
- Country-specific guides
- Travel resources

Social Media Accounts

@QueerBlogs

@iglta

@LGBTQTravelers

#TravelingWhileTrans

Locations Hosting Global Pride Events:

www.gaypridecalendar.com

Consider being a resource to future LGBTQIA+ study abroad students through panels, group discussions, and testimonials. Or become a Panther Pal and help international exchange students adjust to life at Chapman!



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