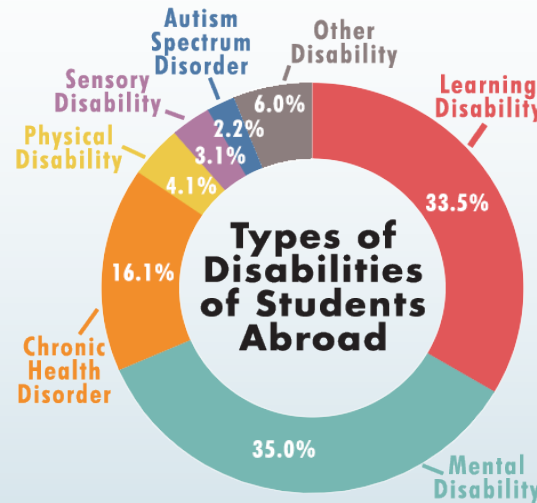


Students with Disabilities Abroad

Over 700 Chapman students per year engage in a semester or year abroad, summer and interterm travel courses, and international internships. Students of all identities and backgrounds are encouraged to participate in a global experience.



9.2% of all students who study abroad report having a physical, sensory, learning, psychological, and/or medical disability (Open Doors, 2017/18)

Why an International Experience?

Studying abroad offers students with disabilities the unique opportunity to gain a new perspective about your identity, share your experience with people in other countries, and learn about the experiences of other people within the global context. Learn new ways to advocate for people with disabilities.

"It is so important that you advocate for yourself. I made sure the program and faculty knew that I was deaf and exactly how I communicate and function. They were able to offer me a transcriber so I could focus on having the experience of a lifetime instead of stressing over accommodations."

Giselle N. '21 (pictured on front cover)
Semester at Sea

Special Considerations

- The way in which individuals with disabilities are perceived vary by country. People with physical, sensory, learning, psychological, and/or medical disabilities may be treated differently than you are accustomed to. Research ahead of time your destination to understand how your disability may affect your experience and what to expect.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act are not enforceable outside of the U.S. Therefore, it is to your advantage to disclose any disabilities that require accommodations to determine if your needs can be met overseas.
- Register with Chapman University's Disability Services to help coordinate accommodations and services while you are abroad.

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

Tips for Students with Disabilities Abroad

- **Disclose your disability needs to program staff early**, so arrangements and reasonable accommodations can be made in advance.
- **Remember that other cultures may provide disability accommodations in a different way**—learn about what is typically provided in your host country, and be flexible and open to different ways of accommodating your disability.
- **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 disability and the new environment.
- **Think about how you will answer questions** about your disability in your host country language—look up key vocabulary words ahead of time.



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Thousands of Courses in Hundreds of Locations Worldwide



“As a young independent woman living with a physical disability, this experience abroad, hardships and obstacles included, showed me just how capable and resilient I am. A disability should never prevent you from enjoying the experience of a lifetime. As long as you are forthcoming about your needs, your study abroad advisors will help you find a program that will be willing to work with your needs and find reasonable accommodations. Have faith in yourself and your abilities, and get excited for a life changing opportunity. Where there is a will, there is a way!”

Makenna S. '18 (pictured left)
Seville, Spain

Questions to ask when selecting a program:

- What support systems will I need in order to be successful? What do my in-country staff, professors, peers, host family, and others need to know?
- Does my program/university abroad have Disability Services and what resources are provided?
- How is the learning environment different? Are class assignments and assessment different?
- Do I prefer a specific type of housing (dorm, homestay, apartment, shared/single room)?
- How accessible are the program facilities, public transportation, and public spaces in my host country?
- Will my disability prevent me from participating in certain excursions because of inaccessibility?
- What are the cultural attitudes toward people with disabilities in my host country?
- Will I need access to medication, counseling, or other medical services? Are they available in my host country? Will I need documentation to travel with my medication or receive services? Do I need refrigeration for my medication in housing and while traveling?
- Does my program have a plan in place to assist students with disabilities in an emergency?

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

More resources and information available at:

Chapman.edu/CGE
DiversityAbroad.org
MIUSA.org

Study Abroad Scholarships

Visit Chapman.edu/CGEScholarships

- DiversityAbroad.com
- Boren Awards
- Gilman Scholarship
- Foundations for Global Scholars
- Fund for Education Abroad

Additional Resources

Visit Chapman.edu/CGEDiversityResources

- Advice from past students abroad with disabilities
- MIUSA: Know Your Rights & Responsibilities
- Accessible Countries Guide
- Travel resources

Travel Social Media

@travelingwithpain @chronictravell
@simplyemmablog @rexyedventures
@thechapmanspoonies

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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