

## Site Visit Guide to Evaluating Potential Study Abroad Sites and Providers

(This is adapted from a document authored by Tracy Harrington. Some questions are appropriate only for faculty-led programs as opposed to semester direct enrollment or exchange programs.)

### **General Concerns**

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4. Do student facilities have spaces for social gatherings, evening entertainment, etc? Is there a campus bar or pub; if so, what is its standard and what amenities (pool, music, television, etc.) does it offer?
5. Is the student facility in pleasant, safe surroundings? Are there outdoor gathering areas for students?
6. Are facilities likely to be comfortable in temperature extremes? Is a/c available? If not, are fans available or economical to purchase?
7. Do facilities include students from the host country or other countries or are American students likely to encounter only other Americans while in residence?
8. How convenient to residence halls are dining facilities? Are there 24-hour or late night resources for getting food or drink?
9. What is the quality of food and efficiency of service in dining facilities? Are menus negotiable; for example, can we choose continental or full, cooked breakfasts, hot meals or packed lunches? What about vegetarian options?
10. How would faculty be housed? Are faculty resid

4. Are there library holdings of English language books and videos available for our students and faculty? How large are these holdings?
5. Is there a faculty office available or can one be arranged that can accommodate faculty for planning, faculty meetings, etc.? Can such an office include at least two computers with word processing and internet access for faculty members? Can a telephone be provided in the office for use in planning field trips and excursions?
6. How would photocopying needs be met?
7. Can a small fridge as well as tea and coffee services be arranged in the faculty office?
8. Is there a program assistant or other local person available to assist faculty with field trip planning, troubleshoot problems with facilities, and assist in times of emergency or crisis? Is a program assistant available to arrange airport transfers at arrival and departure?

### **Resources for Field Trips, Excursions, and Entertainment**

1. How plentiful and varied are resources for academic field trips in history, literature, the arts and architecture, social sciences (anthropology, sociology, psychology), business, education, and natural sciences?
2. Are there sufficient significant field trip destinations within the city for the day-long field trip visits over the course of the program?
3. Are field trip sites easy to reach, so that one-way transit time would be less than an hour and a half on public transport?
4. What sites are within easy distance of the city for longer, group excursions or weekend explorations? Can personnel on site assist in arranging group excursions (hiring buses, arranging group admission)?
5. At most museums, historical sites, etc., are English-language commentaries or printed materials available?
6. What resources are available for faculty and students for entertainment, beyond the academic or cultural resources? (Clubs, theatre, sporting facilities, cultural events, nightlife, etc.)

### **Budgetary Considerations**

1. What would per-person costs be for a basic package (residence, meals, teaching rooms, academic support facilities and personnel)? How negotiable are these