A STUDENT’S GUIDE TO STUDY ABROAD IN AMMAN JORDAN
Prepared by the Center for Global Education

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SECTION 1: Nuts and Bolts

1.1 CONTACT INFORMATION

In the U.S

CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

EMERGENCY NUMBER AFTER HOURS/WEEKENDS at HWS: 315-781-3333

Thomas D’Agostino, Director
Trinity Hall, 3rd Floor
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Geneva, New York 14456
315-781-3307 (tel)
315-781-3023 (fax)
e-mail: tdagostino@hws.edu
Contact for: Emergencies and other critical issues

Amy S. Teel, Programs Operations Manager
(same address, tel, fax)
e-mail: teel@hws.edu
Contact for: Program details, flight information, etc.

Doug Reilly, Programming Coordinator
(same address, phone and fax)
e-mail: dreilly@hws.edu
Contact for: Orientation questions, return issues, SIIF grants, the Aleph, etc.

Sharon Walsh, Office Support Specialist
(same address, phone and fax)
e-mail: walsh@hws.edu
Contact for: Paperwork, general inquiries

ADDRESS, PHONES AND FAX OF AFFILIATE HOST INSTITUTION IN JORDAN:

The Professor/Staff member who is responsible for the HWS student group and all other students at the SIT Jordan center throughout your stay is:

Dr Raed Al -Tabini
60 Damascus Street
P.O. Box 840062
Amman 11181, JORDAN

You will be given an office phone and a cell phone number for Dr. Raed immediately upon your arrival. He is intended as a resource for YOU whenever you need him on site. If you have a question prior to departure and/or if your parents have a concern they would like to share, we ask that you start the conversation first with the HWS or SIT staff here in the U.S. They will bring in Dr. Raed if they cannot help you and/or feel it needs his direct attention. The SIT contact info in the U.S. is:
1.2 PROGRAM PARTICIPANT LIST

Fall 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hafalia, Gabrielle</td>
<td><a href="mailto:GH9373@hws.edu">GH9373@hws.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that there are about 20-25 students from all over the U.S. who participate in each of the two Jordan based programs and you will receive a complete list of all participants in your chosen program track and their home schools closer to departure.

1.3 TERM CALENDAR

Fall 2014

The semester in Jordan is “fluid” by U.S. standards with things happening somewhat ad hoc. You will have a set class schedule and an ‘ideal’ schedule for excursions and expeditions. You will begin the program with your intensive Arabic language class. Other classes will be layered onto this. Your final weeks will be spent pursuing your field projects. However, both the class schedule and the excursion schedule are subject to change at any time and we ask that you be prepared to be flexible. Changes may come about because a featured guest speaker is delayed or unavailable on the day previously arranged or due to political issues, or a host of other reasons. You will always be informed if a change is made and we ask that you be patient and flexible. SIT will send all of you a detailed pre-departure packet (via a link to their website for admitted students). The packet will include much more specific information about dates of orientation, any long weekends or holidays, and the proposed class schedule. We are confirming the start and end dates below and will let SIT send you all the other program information.

Departure from U.S.: August 30 or 31, 2014 (depending on your flight)
Arrival in Amman: September 1
Departure from Amman: December 14

There will be a number of escorted excursions ranging from day trips to longer expeditions over the course of the semester to points of historic or cultural interest. Dates and destination of these excursions will be announced once you are in Jordan. Please note that political and security concerns in the region will help dictate the timing and destination of the excursions (for instance Turkey or Oman could be substituted for Egypt).
1.4 PROGRAM SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Our program provider or partner in Jordan is the School for International Training and they do an outstanding job in preparing students for study in the countries in which they are based. We will not replicate the information that they provide to you but ask you to carefully read through all their pre-departure materials. You can find this information on their website at: http://www.sit.edu/studyabroad/935.htm#.UFzA4q5bDyw

Please check the website frequently for updates. SIT will also email you with information as/if things change. Below is some information that is specific to HWS students only and/or tips we have learned and wish to share above/beyond what SIT will tell you.

1.5 POWER OF ATTORNEY/MEDICAL RELEASE

Sometimes, after students have departed the U.S., important issues arise that require legal signatures or procedures. An example is a student loan or financial aid document that requires a student signature – but you will be gone and generally a fax or photocopy is not considered ‘legal’ in lieu of an original signature. We recommend that you consider signing Power of Attorney over to your parent(s) to cover such eventuality. Since the form and process varies from state to state, we cannot cover all options here but you can easily find Power of Attorney information on the internet.

In a similar vein, we encourage you to prepare and sign a general release giving permission for insurance companies and medical practitioners to speak with your parents in the case of emergencies and so that they can help you make medical decisions and/or file claims on your behalf. You can bring a copy of this with you and leave one with your parent(s). If you are uncomfortable with signing a general release, you can also sign more limited or specific releases to control or release specific sorts of information. Keep in mind that if you are over 18, medical providers may refuse to share any information at all about your condition without such written consent which will limit your parents’ ability to assist you.

1.6 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IDENTITY CARD (ISIC)

You may want to purchase the $25.00 International Student Identity Card (ISIC). This card provides coverage for a lost passport, baggage delay or loss and other traveler services like cell phone plans etc. and entitles you to student discounts in most countries. The ISIC card is also a pre-paid Mastercard so you can add money to it if you’d like to and use it up to the value on the card. Order the card online at http://www.myisic.com/.

Finally, if your passport is lost or stolen, you will be eligible for special replacement services which will expedite the process and pay for a new passport. Be sure to make a photocopy of the card in case you lose it; the cost of replacing it will be covered by ISIC as long as you have the ID number and issue date from the card, although you will need to pay for the new card up front and put in a claim for reimbursement. Some students have reported that they were able to change currency with no fee when they showed their ISIC card, so do ask about this when changing money.
SECTION 2: Studying and Living Abroad

2.1 ACADEMICS ABROAD

There is much to learn outside of the classroom. Nevertheless, study abroad is also fundamentally an academic endeavor. No matter what your goals and expectations might be, the Colleges also have expectations of you. These include the expectation that you will take all of your academics abroad seriously and that you will come prepared, meet deadlines, read assignments, write papers or exams with care, etc. Having said that, as study abroad programs are uniquely well-suited to non-traditional learning (i.e. experiential learning such as field-trips, internships, or field research), you will likely find that you have never had so much “fun” working so hard. The key, however, is to realize that if the fun comes at the expense of learning, you will likely be very dissatisfied with the final results. The sections that follow are designed to answer the most commonly asked questions about academics and study abroad.

COURSES

In Jordan, you will all take four courses. One will be your Arabic language course, a second is your independent study project, then the modernization course or social justice course and the field methods training course comprise the final components of the program. You will receive 4.0 HWS course credits for these four classes in Jordan and should have already discussed with your academic department and/or department chair how courses might apply to your HWS major, minor, and/or academic goals.

GRADES AND CREDITS

If you are studying on any HWS program at any destination, you will be required to carry a full course-load and you will receive letter grades for your work which WILL be computed into your HWS grade point average and will be posted on your permanent transcript. You will be VERY busy in Jordan and you will find the program to be challenging both academically and culturally. For this reason we will not support students who wish to undertake a fifth course credit (such as an independent study) while in Jordan except under extraordinary circumstances and only if the arrangements are made in collaboration with your advisor, dean and the CGE well in advance of your semester abroad.

We encourage you to undertake coursework abroad that would be unavailable to you here on campus. However, if you have any concerns that this could unduly affect your GPA, be aware that you may select any course outside your major on a credit/no credit basis, simply by notifying the Registrar at HWS during the first eight weeks of class. Send us an email if you choose to use this option and we will see that you are placed in the desired course on a CR/NC basis.

WITHDRAWAL FROM A PROGRAM

A student participating in an HWS off-campus program who withdraws from that program after arrival at the program site may not return to campus to take classes that semester except under extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the student’s dean’s office, the Center for Global Education and the Vice President for Student Affairs.

ACADEMIC CULTURE AND STANDARDS

As is the case on campus, there is no single “standard” or classroom culture abroad; each professor will run his/her own classroom his/her own way and your job, as the student, is to adapt to his/her expectations and teaching style. This having been said, there are some general statements that can be applied to most classroom settings outside the United States. Here are some of the most prevalent and most pressing that are likely to affect the classroom “culture” you will experience and to which you must adapt if you will have any professors from the host country.
1) Learning is YOUR responsibility, not your professor’s. It is much less common abroad for a faculty member to seek you out if your work is deficient, your attendance is unsatisfactory or your understanding of content inadequate. Faculty abroad expect that you will ask for help if you need it – and if you don’t then you should be prepared for the consequences.

2) Assessment (i.e. graded papers or exams) is less frequent and therefore each grade counts – a lot. In the U.S., we’re accustomed to frequent assessment and feedback. You normally receive a paper back with lots of comments. A first exam is usually returned before the second exam is given. This is NOT always true abroad. If you feel uncertain about how you are doing, make a point of sitting down with the professor to ask where you stand. For some classes the ONLY assessment may be in the form of a final paper or exam. Be sure you are prepared!

3) Unlike here where assigned readings are often discussed in class, faculty abroad frequently provide students with a list of required readings and also some supplemental “recommended” readings to further illuminate some of the themes emerging in class. However, these readings may never be discussed explicitly nor are you assigned homework designed to demonstrate your understanding of the readings. Be forewarned: whether or not readings are discussed, if they are assigned they are fair game for exams. You are expected to do the readings, to understand them and to incorporate them into your thinking about a particular topic. If you feel that you’re not “getting” something, ask questions.

4) Grading standards may vary from those you’ve experienced in the U.S.. In some countries, an “A” is reserved for only the most outstanding or original work with “B”s or “C”s being more of the norm for students who have clearly learned the material but aren’t going the extra mile. Similarly, you may find that you are rewarded or penalized for different skills than are normally measured here. Some cultures place a higher premium than others on rote memorization, others want you to think independently, and in others you might be expected to draw upon a basic factual foundation that is assumed rather than explicitly taught. If you aren’t certain what a professor expects of you or what you can expect from him or her, ask for clarification. The Center for Global Education and its staff CANNOT change a grade once its been assigned nor intervene in its determination.

5) In most societies, classrooms are run more formally than in the U.S. (there are a handful of exceptions) and the division between student and professor is more marked. Unless/until you are told otherwise, here are a few basic “don’ts” about classroom etiquette:

- Don’t eat or drink in class.
- Don’t dress more casually than is acceptable for the culture.
- Don’t shout out an answer without being called upon.
- Do not interrupt another student while s/he is talking, even if you disagree.
- Don’t put your feet up on desks or other chairs.
- Don’t address your professors by their first names without being invited to do so.
- Don’t enter a faculty member’s classroom or office (other than for the scheduled class time) without knocking first.
- Don’t challenge a professor’s grade or assignment. (You can and should ask for an explanation of how a grade was determined and what you can do to improve your performance.)
- Don’t assume that “dissenting” or original opinions are equally rewarded on exams and papers. Find out whether you are free to develop your own ideas or if you must demonstrate understanding and ability to apply the faculty member’s own ideas or themes.

Keep in mind that in the SIT classrooms, you’ll be in class only with other American students (or international students coming from American colleges and universities). Thus, many aspects of classroom culture will be similar to the U.S. However, while the students will be American, the instructors are primarily Jordanian. Jordanian classroom culture tends to be more formal than American culture and instructors are less accustomed to students who challenge their statements or openly disagree. You should seek help from Dr. Raed in understanding the contexts when it is okay to challenge and when you need to just listen and observe. It is ALWAYS appropriate to ask for clarification or additional information but you should be sensitive to norms on how to express confusion or disagreement.
STUDENTS WITH LEARNING OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Both the law and the custom abroad with regard to accommodation for special student needs are different than the law and custom here. If you have a physical or learning difference that requires accommodation, you should: 1) disclose this prior to embarking on the program abroad to find out about the accommodation that is available and how to gain access and 2) be prepared to find arrangements more ad hoc than they would be here on campus. If you are attending a program led by an HWS or Union faculty member, you can normally expect to receive similar accommodations as you would here for his/her particular class(es) (such as extended time on exams or access to a note-taker, etc.) but may not receive the same accommodation from host country faculty unless this is arranged and agreed to well in advance.

2.2 EMAIL IN JORDAN

In some cases you may have email access at your homestay but you shouldn’t expect this. Everyone will have email access at the SIT academic center, however, and this is where you can expect to do much of your day to day email correspondence.

Be sure to check your HWS email when you can because that is how we will be in touch with you. Make sure you clean out your mailbox before you go – otherwise it could fill up and you could be unable to receive any new mail. Since we are aware of limitations on internet access, if something is truly urgent we will find an alternate means of communication with you (usually calling your cell phone and/or leaving a message with Dr. Raed to come find you).

2.3 HOUSING IN JORDAN

You will all be assigned to a host family in Amman with whom you will stay for the duration of the program. Our students consistently report that this is an absolute highlight of their experience. Please be prepared to take time to adjust to your living situation. Don’t expect to understand household routines immediately or to feel at home right away. But if you are open, respectful and flexible, you will soon feel very much a part of your host family’s household. SIT places students in middle class to upper class families who are genuinely interested in the cross-cultural exchange. They will take your dietary or medical needs into account so long as you have honestly disclosed these in advance.

Expect to offer to help with the dishes or meal preparation, to keep your own bedroom clean, and to generally contribute to the life and chores of the household. If you will be away for the evening or a weekend, whether for personal exploration or on an SIT sponsored excursion, please let your host family know simply so they won’t expect you for dinner or worry about your safety. Jordanian parents feel personally responsible for your safety and well-being so it is important to communicate about your plans.

We recommend that you bring a small gift for each member of the household as a token of thanks for their hospitality. You should choose inexpensive items that are representative of your own interests, or that tell something about your home state or town. For instance maple cookies if you are from Vermont, or a (small) picture book of a location of interest near your home. Also popular are U.S. baseball caps and tshirts whether of your local major league team or HWS athletic shirts and paraphernalia.

The SIT website has a lot of information about what to expect from your homestay. Please read it! Should you have difficulty adjusting once you arrive, understand that this is pretty normal, but also ask for help! Pretty soon we expect you will feel your host family is your refuge.
2.4 FINANCING TUITION, ROOM AND BOARD

We have already advised you of this but when you receive your HWS tuition bill you will see that you are charged the standard rate for HWS tuition and fees (plus a $550 study abroad fee) but you are not charged for HWS room and board. Instead, you will be invoiced by SIT directly for your housing fees. Expect to pay about $3,000 for room and board. If you usually receive HWS scholarships and loans that exceed tuition costs and go towards the cost of your housing and meal plan, you will have a credit to your HWS account from which you may request a refund and then use to pay SIT. Similarly, if you finance HWS with a monthly tuition, room and board payment plan that includes financing for the spring semester, talk with the HWS business office. If we owe you money, they'll see it is disbursed to you so that you can meet your financial obligations to SIT. Note that since the SIT room and board rate is cheaper than the comparable HWS rate, this should somewhat offset the extra costs of your airfare and passport and visa fees.

SECTION 3: Safety and Health

3.1 SAFETY ABROAD: A FRAMEWORK

If you look at any culture-shock or experiential education model you will see an emphasis on risk-taking. Notice that there’s “social discomfort”, and there’s danger. Taking social risks doesn’t mean putting yourself in harm’s way. What you “risk” should only be embarrassment and a wounded ego, temporary feelings that wear off. You can rely on your good judgment to tell the difference between risk and danger much of the time: for instance, there’s talking to the newspaper seller, and there’s wandering through a seedy part of town alone in the middle of the night. One poses the kind of social risk we’re encouraging, and one poses danger to your well-being.

Recognize, however, that there are instances when you can’t sense the line between social risk and danger simply because you don’t understand the culture. Sellers in the open market place follow you around. They seem aggressive. Are you in danger, or is this simply the normal way of doing things in your host country? Is there some kind of body language you can use to communicate that you’re not interested? You can’t know this unless you know the culture well. And to know the culture well, you need to get out there, learn, ask questions, and take social risks!

The best way to stay safe abroad is to be more aware and learn as much as you can about your host-country.

Statistically the crime rate in most overseas locations where we send students is lower than the typical US city. This is certainly true of Amman. However, because there is often a large student or expatriate population in many of the locations, students can be lulled into a false sense of security. Remember that with your American accent you will stand out and could be a target. Given that you will be in unfamiliar surroundings while you are abroad it is particularly important that you use your best judgment. Above all, be street smart: if you are going out at night try to go in groups and be aware of your surroundings. Look out for one another. You will be spending a lot of time in an urban environment so act accordingly. If something doesn’t feel right, listen to your instincts.

Regarding your personal belongings, be sure to secure your important items (passports, traveler’s checks, valuables) and to lock the door to your flats at all times.

DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR

The following is behavior you should avoid while abroad:

1.) Don’t give out the names, numbers, and addresses of other program participants.
2.) Don’t invite new friends back to your quarters; meet in a public place until you know them better.
3.) Do not meet members of the opposite sex in private, only in public spaces.
4.) Don’t do drugs abroad
5.) Follow instructions about alcohol consumption and cultural mores very carefully.
6.) Don’t wander alone in an unfamiliar city where you don’t know the good areas from the bad.

If things go wrong

Despite all preparations and precautions that you might take, sometimes things just go wrong. You could become ill while abroad, get hurt in an accident, be the victim of an assault or other crime, or become overwhelmed by a personal or academic problem. Should this happen to you, please ask for help!

The first page of this handbook provides emergency contact information. Your program director and/or 24-hour on call number that you are given during orientation on your arrival should be the first call that you make in an emergency situation. Keep that phone number in your wallet or on your person at all times. In small programs, the director may be the only person to provide support. In larger programs, usually those based at a foreign university, you may be given multiple phone numbers (i.e. call this number for a medical emergency, that one for the police or a security issue, and a third for academic issues).

But whatever the case, please use the staff on site when you are ill, vulnerable or upset. Your emergency contact will either be able to help you directly or can and will connect you to outside local services (such as the police, a therapist or medical provider, a legal advisor, etc) and will deal with the matter competently, professionally and with discretion. We also encourage you to reach out via phone or email to the staff at CGE. Amy Teel is the point person for semester or year-long programs and Sharon Walsh for short-term programs. While CGE staff cannot deliver services immediately when an incident happens (i.e. we cannot accompany you to the hospital or police abroad), we can be helpful in coordinating services between you, the host institution, your parents (with your permission) and various HWS offices.

3.2 GENDER ISSUES ABROAD

American girls are easy. A special word to women going abroad: the sad truth is that some foreign men believe this stereotype to be true. How they may have arrived at this conclusion is not hard to surmise if you watch a little TV. What this means for you is that certain behaviors in public (drunkenness being a big one) may get you unwanted attention from the worst kinds of people. In Jordan, a single woman simply will not be alone with a man in any private space (a car, someone’s room or home, etc). So if you choose to be alone with a man he may read that as your willingness to engage in a sexual relationship with him and really may not get it if you say you are unwilling. Avoid such situations by meeting people in public places, by bringing along a friend of either gender when you go out for a meal or to listen to music, etc. Again, blend in by watching the behavior of those around you and adopting it as your way. You may NOT bring a male friend back to your home-stay if you are a woman under any circumstances. Neither male nor female students should ever come home drunk. Both men and women will socialize with people of the opposite gender in group spaces, social centers on campus, restaurants or other public venues.

Female students in this program have sometimes experienced sexual harassment, and such incidents are upsetting and troubling at many levels. You will spend quite a bit of time during orientation talking about gender roles, gender norms, and sexual harassment. LISTEN. Follow the advice you are given. Ask for clarification if anything is unclear. Should you be a victim of harassment or if you just feel uncomfortable or unsafe in any situation, please report the situation to the SIT staff (there are both men and women on staff so choose someone with whom you feel comfortable) at once. They will help you.

Male students need to understand that they have unique privilege as men in the Middle East and we expect our male students to provide support (including an escort when needed) for our female students. Male
students should also be aware that your own behavior should also be more circumspect in regard to use of alcohol and that you should observe cultural mores about socializing with women. If you overstep boundaries, this could cause tension (or downright hostility) between you and the male family members of the woman you befriend. So, again, meet in public places and engage only in activities that are appropriate for any given context.

3.3 POLITICS

Don’t read the newspaper? Unfamiliar with what’s happening in Washington or New York, let alone the events shaking Paris or Moscow or Delhi? You’re in the minority. People around the world, by and large, know a lot about politics and spend a lot of time talking about it. Not just their politics, our politics. So it is very important to read up on what’s going on in the country you’re going to, and what’s going on here, too. We can pretty much guarantee you that people will press you for your opinion of the current U.S. administration or the next stop on the globe-trotting war on terror.

You can learn a lot from talking politics with surprisingly well-informed foreigners. Some of you might, however, be on the receiving end of angry talk against the United States. Second to the surprise over how knowledgeable people around the world are about politics is how angry many of them are over U.S. policies. In general people are very good at distinguishing between U.S. Americans and the U.S. government, but in some cases you might feel the need to remind them of this distinction and to diffuse some of the anger by saying that you might not necessarily agree with the policy either. It’s an instance where you’ll have to use your judgment. As you re-examine some of your values over time, you might also find yourself questioning some of your political beliefs. And you might change other’s minds as well. Eventually people all around the world will have to come to the table and talk out their differences…you might as well be in on it early. Be aware that among the hot button issues in Jordan are Israeli-Arab conflict and the war in Iraq (and to some extent Afghanistan). We strongly encourage that you LISTEN first, before you wade into the water on offering your own opinions. At the very least, learn how to phrase such opinions in ways that are least offensive. Ask Dr. Raed and your host family for advice on these matters.

3.4 HEALTH INSURANCE AND IMMUNIZATIONS

Medical insurance

All students are provided with a medical insurance policy through SIT as part of the program fees. Details of the policy can be found here: [http://www.sit.edu/SSA_Other_documents/2014-Desc-of-coverage.pdf](http://www.sit.edu/SSA_Other_documents/2014-Desc-of-coverage.pdf) In additional to medical expenses, the policy also covers emergency evacuation and repatriation. This means that you do not have to purchase medical insurance through HWS Since the SIT insurance is primary, FIRST claims should be made through SIT per their instructions.

HWS students also will be sent information from the HWS student accounts office about the year-long Gallagher school plan this summer. Since you will already have insurance through SIT, you do not need to purchase a policy through HWS. If you do not purchase the year-long HWS policy through Gallagher, then you need to waive this coverage on the Gallagher website at: [https://www.gallagherstudent.com/students/student-home.php?idField=1192](https://www.gallagherstudent.com/students/student-home.php?idField=1192) and click on “student waive/enroll”. If you do not waive the coverage, then the year-long policy will be purchased for you automatically and will appear on your tuition bill. Students who are abroad during the fall semester who waive the general student policy during their term abroad WILL be given the opportunity to purchase it later for the spring term only.
Immunizations

Please check out this link on the SIT website that goes over the required and recommended immunizations for Jordan: [http://www.sit.edu/sitstudyabroad/health/2013SSP-jor-health.pdf](http://www.sit.edu/sitstudyabroad/health/2013SSP-jor-health.pdf)

SECTION 4: Coming Back

4.1 REGISTRATION & HOUSING

HWS Registration for the spring semester

The Office of the Registrar will email instructions to you on how to register when you’re abroad. You will be directed to the Registrar’s webpage for the registration dates and course catalog, which is available online. You should not be at any registration disadvantage due to your off-campus status. Be aware of time differences and remember that there may only be a small window of time for you to register, so plan accordingly. If you will be on a required excursion or break during your registration dates and will not have access to email, you may contact Chris Fitzgerald fitzgerald@hws.edu in the Registrar’s office in advance and she can register for you but this option is ONLY for those who will not have internet access. Keep in mind that you can only register you for classes for which you have met the pre-requisite(s), are open to students in your class year, and do not require special permission of instructor. If special permissions are required, you can email the instructor BEFORE registration day, tell him/her you are abroad, state your case and ask him/her to issue the permit. **Also, be sure to check before you leave HWS that you do not have a financial or administrative hold on your account or you may be unable to register.**

HWS Housing Preferences

Fall students

Students who will be abroad for Fall do not participate in the general room selection process. They do not pre-select a space. Instead, they have two options:

- **Co-sign with a student who will be abroad for the following Spring:** This is a formal contract allowing them to swap spaces when the other goes/returns from abroad.
- **Participate in the online selection process in November of the semester they will be away:** For students returning to the colleges for the following Spring, an online room selection process takes place in November. Students abroad participate in this process.

There are some exceptions where Fall abroad students are allowed to participate:

- If the student wishes to live off-campus for the Spring semester, they should participate in the off-campus approval process which occurs in the semester before they leave.
- If the student wishes to be considered for a theme house opening when they return, they may participate in the theme house selection process. If they are accepted into the house, they will automatically be waitlisted and invited into the house if a space becomes available. They may also attend the house’s room selection meeting and try to identify someone to co-sign with at the meeting.

Spring students

Students who will be abroad for the Spring will be sent, electronically, all pertinent information about opportunities and procedures for the following Fall. Before you depart for your term abroad, you will be sent
an email from Residential Education spelling out the housing selection process for rooms on campus (or off-campus approvals) for the fall. Room selection will be done online and you will be able to participate in the process exactly at the same time and through the same medium as everyone else on campus. Please note that only rising seniors will be considered for off-campus housing status and you must apply for off-campus approval by the same process as students on campus. DO NOT SIGN A LEASE UNTIL YOU RECEIVE WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION

4.2 REENTRY AND READJUSTMENT

This information is designed to help you prepare for the transition back “home”. It is organized into two themes: Closing the Circle looks at a few things you can do now to prepare for the next phase of your international experience, coming home (or reentry). Opening New Doors suggests ways you can keep your international experience alive and relevant, including information about some of the programs the CGE offers for returning students.

CLOSING THE CIRCLE
Are you ready to leave this place? Have you wrapped up all your academics? Think back to all the times over the last few months (or in those months of planning and anticipation) that you said “before I leave I’d really like to…” Now’s the time to review this list and see if there’s any way to fit a few more of these things in before you go. We hope this will ignite a lifetime passion of travel and intercultural endeavor on your part, but although many students say they will return to their host country again, in reality most do not. So get out there while you can and have as few regrets as possible.

Think about all the photographs you’ve taken over the last few months. Did you really photograph everything that’s important to you? How about what you see on your walk to class every day? Or your host-family? Do you have a photograph of your favorite café or restaurant, or your host-country friends? Don’t end up with a thousand pictures of churches, temples or castles and none of the things that make up your day-to-day life, because it’s those commonplace details you’ll think-and talk-about most when you’re back.

An idea: do a “day in the life” photo-shoot. Photograph your whole day from morning till night, so you can visually answer the question “what was a typical day like”.

PACKING UP
Remember the airline weight limits you worried about before you left? They still apply. Check with your airline if you don’t remember what they are. Now might be a good time to ship a box home if you can. Remember that you’ll likely be tired on the way back, and that jet-lag tends to be worse coming home than going away.

Now might also be a good time to pack up some things you wouldn’t have thought about bringing home otherwise. Think of the food you’ve (hopefully) grown to love over the last couple of months. Is there anything you’d like to share with your family, or just have at home for a taste of your host-country on those days when you’re missing it? Are there any recipes you’d like to have? Now’s the time to ask about them and write them down.

Other things you might want to pack up include memories. If you’ve been keeping a journal, the last few weeks are a great time to reflect on your experience. The times in peoples’ lives that are characterized by change often have a crisper quality to them; every experience seems to be imbued with a deeper meaning. Try to capture this in your writing.

Ask yourself some questions:
What did I accomplish while abroad?
What did I learn about myself?
What did I learn about this country?
What friends did I make, and what did they teach me?
What will I miss the most?
What am I most looking forward to?
What does this experience mean for my future? Will I live differently now?
What did I learn about my own country and culture while abroad?
Do I want to return to this place? What have I left undone?

You’ll want to ask yourself these questions again after you’ve been home for a while, but thinking about them now can be rewarding and can help you put a little closer on your experience.

**COMING HOME**

The first (and often surprising) thing to know about coming home is that in many ways you will feel like you did when you arrived in your host country a few months ago: exhausted and excited. Probably it will feel as great to be home as it felt to be in your host country for the first few days, though for different reasons. You’ll enjoy some home cooking, calls from old friends, and telling your family about your experiences. You may be thrilled to pull all those clothes you left behind from the drawer and put on something clean for the first time in some weeks.

But, just as your initial elation at being in a new and exciting place was tempered by a realization at how foreign and unfamiliar it felt, your honeymoon period at home may also start to not seem totally right. Things that you expected to be familiar may now seem quite alien. Your ears might find it weird to hear English being spoken everywhere. You might think your family throws too much away. You may balk at spending $50 for a meal out when you know your host family lived off that much for a month. The abundance in the supermarket may stop you in your tracks, so used to getting by with less things have you become. You may be dismayed at how fast-paced U.S. culture is, or frustrated at how little people actually want to hear about all your experiences (or look at all your pictures). You may not experience every single one of these things, but most of you will experience some of them. The most important thing to realize is that this is totally normal, and the ups and downs you’re experiencing is frequently called “reverse culture shock”. It actually often gets mapped just like the U-curve:

The most important step in being ready for reverse culture shock is to expect it, and to realize that most of it is caused not by changes in home, but changes in you. You won’t know how far you’ve come until you can reflect on the journey from the place you call(ed) home. This is actually a great time to not only learn about yourself and how you’ve grown while abroad, it’s also a great time to learn about home from a far more objective perspective than you’ve ever had before. Lots of students come back saying that they never felt more American than when they were abroad, and never more foreign than when they were back in the U.S.

The first thing to do is relax. Like culture shock the first time around, you’ll get through this, and end up stronger for the experience. You’ll have your ups and downs, good days and bad. Some of the same coping
skills you used to get you through the low points while abroad will serve you well here—reflect in your journals, keep active, rest and eat well, explore your surroundings with new eyes. Soon you will have adjusted, though we hope that you’ve never quite the same as you were before your experience abroad!

OPENING NEW DOORS
While the last section dealt with things you needed to address while still abroad, this section examines your (new) life at home and back on campus. And while we encouraged you to put some closer on your experience abroad, now we’re going to suggest you take the next step—figuring out what doors have opened to you as a result of your experiences.

DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES?
In the first week that you’re back on-campus, you’ll receive a welcome-back letter and an invitation to the annual study abroad welcome back dessert. Please attend this informal, fun event; you’ll have a chance to touch base with other students who studied abroad who are in the same shoes you are, and afterwards the CGE staff will lead a short discussion on other opportunities you might take advantage of.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE COUNTRY YOU STUDIED IN?
Talk to your advisor, the faculty director of the program or anyone at the CGE; we’ll help you find courses that may build upon your experiences. You can also consider an independent study; talk to your academic advisor to find out more. Some students focus their honor’s thesis on their country of study as well.

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INTERNATIONAL CAREERS?
Maybe you think you’d like to make travel a part of the rest of your life, and not just for vacations. Maybe you’d like to spend a few years after graduation traveling or working abroad before settling down. Career Services and the Center for Global Education present an International Career Workshop every semester. In addition, please visit Career Services and the CGE and learn about some of the many options!

DO YOU WANT TO PUBLISH YOUR WRITING, ART OR PHOTOGRAPHY?
There are several opportunities available to you. There’s a yearly photo contest, usually held in the Spring semester. There’s also The Aleph: a journal of global perspectives, published every Spring by the Center for Global Education. To submit your work to the Aleph, or learn more about it, email Doug Reilly at the CGE at dreilly@hws.edu. You can submit things at any time.

For photographers and artists, the CGE has opened a gallery space at their location on the 3rd floor of Trinity Hall. The Global Visions Gallery hosts individual and group shows, with the goal of opening a new show each semester. If you have an idea for a show, see Doug Reilly.

DO YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH FELLOW STUDENTS?
Learn about becoming a Programming Assistant (PA) with the CGE and help orient other students going abroad, help the CGE develop on-campus programs aimed at making HWS a more culturally-diverse place, and help us out with programs like the photo contest, The Aleph, and International Week.

Also, consider becoming a Study Abroad Ambassador. Ambassador’s help the CGE represent programs to prospective students at admissions events, general information sessions for study abroad programs, and general and program-specific orientations, as well as tabling, and talking to classes. Contact Doug Reilly at dreilly@hws.edu.

DO YOU WANT TO WRITE ABOUT YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE?
The Center for Global Education, working with Stephen Senders in the Writing and Rhetoric Department, has started an informal writing group for students who studied abroad and want to explore their experiences through reflective or creative writing. The Away Café Group meets every other week; they eat dinner, write and share their stories. Contact Doug Reilly at dreilly@hws.edu for more information.
DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR REENTRY EXPERIENCE?
The staff of the CGE love to talk about study abroad. We've all studied abroad, and that's why we do the work we do
today. Make an appointment with one of us or just drop in - if we're available, we’d be more than happy to hear about
your experiences. It helps us learn how students perceive our programs, and it gives you a chance to talk to someone
who understands.

Our hope is that you’ll take advantage of one or more of these opportunities.

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