SIT Study Abroad defines Independent Travel as travel that is unrelated to program activities, that a student organizes independently, and that involves an overnight stay. The following Independent Travel Policy will be communicated to students on an ongoing basis throughout the application process and during the program, with reminders during orientation and throughout the period of time students are on the program.

Studying on a SIT program is an intensive and immersive experience. Students should expect most weekends to be very busy with their homestay families, their homework for their classes, and planned program excursions. Independent travel plans should not interfere with regularly scheduled program activities. Students are strongly encouraged to plan and schedule any independent travel either before or after the program.

Students should not generally expect to have more than four weekends free to travel independently during the program (three short weekends (Friday afternoon to Sunday night) and one 3-day weekend (Thursday afternoon to Sunday night—the long weekend can only take place during the ISP period)). Travel outside of the European Union is not permitted.

If a student plans any independent travel within country that includes an overnight stay he/she should, in advance of travel:
1) Provide travel plans and itinerary to the academic director.
2) Provide lodging, contact information for travel, and names and contacts of travel companions.
3) Once your trip is approved by the academic directors, inform your homestay family.

If a student plans independent travel that crosses an international border within Europe he/she must:
1) Seek permission from the academic director at least two weeks prior to intended travel. The time of travel and destination must be set in consultation with the academic director and requires his/her approval. Students who are not in good standing academically, for example, may be denied this approval.
2) Provide travel plans and itinerary to the academic director.
3) Sign the Temporary Leave form which relieves SIT/World Learning of any liability.
4) Provide lodging, contact information for travel, and names and contacts of travel companions.
5) Understand that he/she may be subject to a passport check upon return to the program. Some areas may be deemed off-limits by the academic director due to safety and security concerns.
While travelling, students continue to be responsible for meeting and abiding by the program’s Conditions of Participation and are responsible for their own actions and safety.

**Disciplinary sanctions for violation of the Independent Travel Policy may include a warning, probation, or dismissal from the program.**

---

i The period of enrollment for students begins on the program arrival date in country and concludes the day of the scheduled program departure for return to the US. SIT Study Abroad and its employees assume no liability for individuals outside of this time frame.

ii Academic directors may modify this definition of international travel to conform to the specifics of the program site. For example, a student on one of our Switzerland programs might need to travel to neighboring regions in France as part of their activities with homestay family.