



FLIGHT

PASSPORT

VISA

INFORMATION

IHP Health and Community: Globalization, Culture, and Care

Track Two

Spring 2020



GENERAL FLIGHT INFORMATION

This document is designed to assist you in making your travel arrangements. An essential part of your preparation for studying abroad includes obtaining the proper travel documentation for your international stay. Please read this document carefully to determine if you need to take action *immediately* in preparation for travel.

Group Flights on Program

SIT has booked you on international student group flights between program locations and back to the US at the end of the program. You will receive the group flight itinerary in a separate email from your admissions counselor.

Travel to Launch City

You are logistically and financially responsible for booking your own travel to the program launch site in Washington, DC, USA. See Arrival Information on the next page of this document for more details.

Once you have finalized your travel arrangements to Washington, DC, please log into your application portal and enter your itinerary information and any notes about your arrival in the *Travel Information* section of your application. This will ensure that SIT staff knows when to expect you. Please submit your travel itinerary no later than 30 days prior to your program's start date.

End of Program Travel

You are logistically and financially responsible for your travel home from the return group flight destination, Miami, FL, USA.

You will have the opportunity to opt out from this student group flight and receive a travel allowance to book an alternate, individual flight with Key Travel. Details of this policy are outlined in the Return Flight Opt-Out document which you will receive closer to your program start date. Details about your return flight home at the end of the program will be sent in a separate email from your admissions counselor.

In-Flight Meals

If you have any allergies, please alert program staff as soon as possible. At the Launch, your Trustees Fellow will have a list of different in-flight meal options. If you have special dietary needs or practices, you can choose from a variety of different meal options. Please be cautious and bring your own safe food if you are concerned about the food on the airplane. You may want to bring disinfectant wipes and clean your seat area as a precaution. Airlines do not have any control of what foods other travelers bring onto the plane. The airlines may not serve any peanuts or shellfish products; however, other passengers may bring these products on board.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Traveling on a global comparative program requires much preparation, coordination, and collaboration. We expect students to be responsible for the following:

- being at airports or other designated departure points for group flights on time
- for any costs associated with missed flights
- to read and understand the terms and conditions for your airline tickets
- to reconfirm your travel reservations in advance of the day of travel to the launch city and at the end of the program
- to be aware of airline and TSA regulations for baggage size and content
- any costs associated with excess baggage
- obtaining any required transit visa(s) for any layover(s)

SIT is not responsible for additional charges you may incur as a result of airline schedule changes or other travel-related reasons.

Follow-Up Documents to Expect

Documents you will receive from your Admissions Counselor:

- ✓ Return Flight Opt Out
- ✓ Group Flight Itinerary
- ✓ Visa application process details

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

You are expected to meet your group at the following date, time, and location:

Program Arrival Date: Sunday, January 19, 2020

Group Meeting Location: A Welcome Session, which is open to family and loved ones, will take place from 2:00-3:30pm at the **Wellspring Retreat Center**, located 45 minutes outside of DC in Germantown, MD (address below). This is where we will also hold the first few days of orientation. The Welcome Session will provide an opportunity for students, family and loved ones to meet the other program participants. It will include light refreshments and brief introductions to the Health and Community Program. **Plan carefully; all introductory sessions are mandatory and you are required to attend the 2:00PM welcome session.**

Transportation:

Timing Your Arrival: if you are flying or taking the bus/train into the DC area, you should make arrangements to arrive in the Washington DC area no later than mid-morning of Sunday, January 19, 2020.

We will have two buses to pick up students who are arriving by plane, metro, or train at the following locations:

Union Station: bus will meet students at a pre-designated location, leaving at 1:15pm sharp.

Shady Grove Metro Station: bus will meet students at a pre-designated location, leaving at 1:30pm sharp.

Dulles Airport: bus will meet students at a pre-designated location, leaving at 12:30pm sharp.

Regan Airport: bus will meet students at a pre-designated location, leaving at 12:30pm sharp.

*The program will not have a bus picking up at **BWI Airport**. Those flying into this airport can meet the program shuttle at the Shady Grove Metro Station. The 201 bus stops at the Shady Grove Station (leaves every 60 minutes from BWI, so your flight should arrive before 11:30am):

<http://www.bwiairport.com/en/travel/groundtransportation/trans/wmata>.*

Arriving by car: Wellspring is a 45-minute drive from Downtown DC, five minutes off I-270N exit 15A. The address is 11411 Neelsville Church Rd, Germantown, MD 20876. <http://www.wellspringconference.org/directions>

*Students are required to communicate their travel plans to SIT Study Abroad admissions in advance of arrival. **More detailed arrival logistics will be sent out closer to the arrival day.***

NOTE: If you are unable to find suitable travel arrangements that will allow you to arrive at the specified date and time, please contact your admissions counselor as soon as possible—BEFORE you make any reservations.

Arrival prior to the start of the program is NOT possible. SIT Study Abroad staff will not be able to assist you with any matter should you arrive before the program's commencement due to personal travel or for any other reason. Please note that your accident and illness insurance, provided to you through SIT Study Abroad, takes effect once you have left the USA. The coverage ends on the last day of the program. Please see the [Safety, Security, and Health](#) pre-departure document for more information about your insurance coverage while abroad.

END OF PROGRAM TRAVEL

The program will end in Argentina and the group flight will return to the U.S. If you are returning to the U.S., you are expected to plan your departure from that U.S. airport for the following date, time and location. If you are not returning to the U.S., please see the Group Flight Opt Out information below.

Program End Date: Saturday, May 9, 2020 in Buenos Aires, Argentina at approximately 5PM at our retreat site outside of the city.

Return Flight Details: Departing Buenos Aires, Argentina, on American Airlines Flight #900 at 8:35pm on Saturday, May 9, and arriving into Miami, FL on Sunday, May 10, at 4:55am.

Group Flight Opt Out

It is possible to remain in-country after the program ends. Please note that the program is no longer responsible for you after the end of the scheduled program. You will need to get separate travel insurance for any additional post-program travel.

You will have the opportunity to opt out of the group flight back to the US and Key Travel holds a pre-determined allowance to book an alternate flight. **If you choose to opt-out of the group flight, it is your responsibility to communicate with Key Travel, in a timely manner, to coordinate and book your return travel plans.** Availability of itineraries and fares fluctuates; to maximize the pre-determined travel allowance, it is advisable to book your return flight home as early as possible. Any unused portion of the allowance will be forfeited.

You are required to book through Key Travel. No transfers to alternate travel agents or airlines will be granted.

Group Flight Opt Out Deadline

You will have until **13 January 2020** to opt out of the group flight. If your desired airfare exceeds the pre-determined allowance with Key Travel, you will be responsible for covering the remaining costs.

Requests to opt out of the group flight back to the US that are received after the deadline will not be accepted. Further information and details will be included in the Return Flight Opt-Out document provided by your admissions counselor.



PASSPORT INFORMATION

To participate in this program, you will need a signed **passport that is valid for at least six months after the end of the program**, and has at least six blank pages for visas and entry stamps.

- If necessary, apply for a new passport or renewal immediately.
- **US Citizens:** consult US State Department information at http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html for passport processing times and application procedures.
- **Non-US Citizens:** contact your embassy or consulate.

You may need to expedite your passport application in order to meet visa application deadlines. Please check with your admissions counselor at studyabroad@sit.edu or (888) 272-7881 to discuss whether you should expedite your application.

VISA INFORMATION

A visa is an official endorsement from a foreign government permitting entry into and travel within a particular country or region for a specified period of time. A visa may be glued or stamped directly into an applicant's passport or be on a separate paper or insert.

Students with US passports:

Further information about visa application processes will be sent by e-mail from your admissions counselor in mid-October. DO NOT apply for any visas until you receive this information

Vietnam

For this program, students with US passports will need an **E-visa** for **Vietnam**. Processing time for the visa is around **3-5 business days**.

Argentina

For this program US passport holders do not need a visa for visits of up to 90 days for tourism. Entry no longer requires a reciprocity fee. This is subject to change so please check with your admissions counselor.

South Africa

Students with **US passports** will receive a valid 90-day stay visa stamp on their passport on arrival in South Africa. US passport holders do not require obtaining a visa prior to arrival.

Students with non-US passports:

Students without a US passport may be subject to additional or different requirements for obtaining a visa or meeting other conditions of entry into the country or countries listed above. Many countries require individuals to apply for visas in person at the relevant embassy or consulate located in their country of citizenship. We strongly recommend that you contact the embassy of each country the program will be traveling to very early in the process to confirm visa and/or entry requirements applicable to your country of citizenship and determine next steps while allowing plenty of time to apply. If the foreign consulate permits non-US passport holders to apply for the required visa from within the United States, applicants are encouraged to contact Travia Visa Services. As an experienced visa agent working closely with a number of SIT programs, Travia may be able to assist you in your visa application process. A service discount is available by entering "SIT" as the corporate code in your Travia online application.

It is your responsibility to confirm and complete the visa application process particular to your situation, and to keep your admissions counselor informed.

GENERAL VISA AND PASSPORT NOTES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

- **Enrollment may be withdrawn and participation will not be allowed if all required visas are not obtained prior to arriving at the program launch city.**
- You are responsible for complying with all visa procedures and deadlines.
- Keep in mind that procedures and fees are subject to change at the discretion of the embassy or consulate with jurisdiction over your application. Students should double-check visa procedures prior to sending materials to ensure accuracy.
- Issuance of visas is at the sole discretion of the applicable consulate or embassy; SIT assumes no responsibility for the issuance, delay, or denial of any visa.
- You may also need to bring your yellow WHO vaccination card or a copy of your immunization record; please see the [Safety, Security, and Health](#) pre-departure document for more details.
- Students are responsible for their own passports. The program may hold passports for students when at the program site and when on excursion. Throughout the term, students should keep a copy of their passport and visa on their person at all times.
- If you are planning to travel to other countries before or after the program or your transit route involves connections in other countries, check with the embassies of those countries before you leave the US regarding visas, documents, and/or immunizations required. Please contact your admissions counselor as soon as possible to discuss the feasibility of your plans.



MILEAGE CREDIT

Students interested in obtaining mileage credit for their flights, should consult with each individual airline once the flight itinerary has been received. Please note that it is your responsibility to request mileage credit, and policies regarding this process are specific to the individual airlines.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the US office of SIT Study Abroad at 802-258-3212 or toll-free in the US at 888-272-7881 and ask to speak to your admissions counselor, who is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM–5:00 PM (US East Coast time) to assist you.