EXPLORING CHINA
MAY 11 - JUNE 23, 2019
TIANJIN, CHINA
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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE
A5500 University Center
282 Champions Way
P.O. Box 3062420
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306-2420

PHONE  850.644.3272
1.800.374.8581

FAX  850.644.8817
850.645.4659

EMAIL  ip-info@fsu.edu
WEBSITE  international.fsu.edu

HOURS  8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. EST, Monday – Friday

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION
Dr. Aaron Lan, Program Director

PHONE
American  850-644-8389
Tianjin  011-86-182-226-01535
EMAIL  flan@fsu.edu
FAX  850-644-0524

TIANJIN FOREIGN STUDIES UNIVERSITY (TFSU) FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE
Contact Person: Li Peng
PHONE  (011-86-22) 2328-6974
FAX  (011-86-22) 2328-3806
EMAIL  foreignstudents@tjfsu.edu.cn

U.S. CONSULATES AND EMBASSIES
The following is subject to change at any time.

U.S. EMBASSY IN BEIJING
3 Xiu Shui Bei Jie
Chaoyang District
Beijing PRC 100600

PHONE
Daytime  (+86-10) 6532-3431 or 6532-3831
After Hours  (86-10) 6532-1910
FAX  (86-10) 6532-4153
WEBSITE  http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/
EMAIL  AmCitBeijing@state.gov

The Consular Section, including the American Citizen Services Unit is located on the eighth floor of Westgate Mall, 1038 West Nanjing Road.

PHONE
(86-21) 6433-6880
(86-21) 6433-3936
(86-21) 6433-4122, 6471-1148
EMAIL  shanghai_acs@yahoo.com

U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL IN SHANGHAI
1469 Huai Hai Zhong Lu
Shanghai, P.R.C. 200031

PHONE
Daytime  (86-21) 6433-6880
After Hours  (86-21) 6433-3936
FAX  (86-21) 6433-4122, 6471-1148
EMAIL  shanghai_acs@yahoo.com

This consular district includes the following provinces/regions of China: Shanghai, Anhui, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang.

U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL IN SHENYANG
No. 52, 14th Wei Road
Heping District, Shenyang
Liaoning, P.R.C 110003

PHONE
Daytime  (86-24) 2322-1198, 2322-0368
After Hours  (86-0) 13704019790
FAX  (86-24) 2322-2374
EMAIL  ShenyangACS@state.gov

This consular district includes the following provinces/regions of China: Liaoning, Heilongjiang, and Jilin.

INTERNATIONAL CALLS
Making international calls from the U.S. to Tianjin, China:
First dial “011” (for international call), followed by “86” (the country code), then the specific area code (dropping the first zero) and location number.

ACADEMIC MATTERS
This program is first and foremost an academic one, so you should be prepared to invest as much time, effort and thought into your coursework as you do on your home campus. Since classes are small, you will have more interaction with your fellow students and with faculty than you have on main campus. There will be a greater emphasis on participation in class discussions. This means you must be prepared to maintain a high level of performance by being an active and committed participant in your class.

FSU ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS RELATED TO STUDY ABROAD
FSU students are encouraged to get involved with the Garnet and Gold Scholar Society and the Global Citizenship Certificate program. These two resources provide special recognition as global-ready graduates.

The Garnet and Gold Scholar Society program facilitates involvement and recognizes the engaged, well-rounded student who excels within and beyond the classroom in the areas of Leadership, Internship, Service, International, and Research. A student who has met the criteria in three of the five areas is eligible for consideration. All study abroad programs organized through the International Programs Office qualify for the international experience portion of the International Area. Visit http://garnetandgoldscholar.fsu.edu/ or email GarnetandGoldProgram@fsu.edu to learn more.

The Global Citizenship Certificate program helps undergraduate students develop invaluable cross-cultural skills and global competencies needed to be a global-ready graduate. Students who enroll in the certificate take 2 required courses, Global Perspectives and Global Citizenship, and 2 electives. Both required courses count toward FSU Liberal Studies X, E-series, and writing requirements. In addition, students participate in 8 intercultural events on campus and a sustained international experience abroad, which you are about to complete! Enroll in the Global Citizenship Certificate before you study abroad to ensure your experience counts toward the certificate. Visit cge.fsu.edu/globalcitizen or contact an advisor at globalcitizen@fsu.edu to learn more.

TUTORING RESOURCES
There are a number of tutoring resources available at Florida State University to assist you academically, both in Tallahassee and abroad. Online tutors are available through the following programs:

- **Reading & Writing Center (RWC)**
  http://wr.english.fsu.edu/Reading-Writing-Center/RWC-Online

- **Academic Center for Excellence (ACE)**
  [http://ace.fsu.edu/] ACE provides free tutoring in many subject areas, including accounting, biology, chemistry, economics, math, statistics, and physics.

- **University Libraries: Office of Distance Library Services**
  https://www.lib.fsu.edu/department/distance-learning

STUDENT DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (SDRC)
SDRC provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Documented disabilities and accommodations vary in nature, and though the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 do not apply extraterritorially, we do our best to accommodate our students. If you anticipate needing to request accommodations for a documented disability, please schedule an appointment with the SDRC by calling 850-644-9566 (Voice) or 850-644-8504 (TDD) and provide appropriate information on your Special Needs form. For more information, visit http://dos.fsu.edu/sdrc.
VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. CITIZENS

- **Passport**: You must hold a U.S. passport that is valid for at least 6 months beyond your return from China.

- **Copy of Passport Pages**: After you receive your passport, make several photocopies of the pages that contain the issue date, your signature, and your photograph. Leave one copy at home with your family, send one copy to our Tallahassee office, and take another copy with you in case your passport is lost or stolen. Carry a copy separate from your passport when you are traveling.

- **Visa Instructions**: In order to study in China, you must have a valid entry visa. International Programs will coordinate the processing of your travel visa if all required visa documentation is received by the deadlines provided in the student visa information packet.

  After the visas are returned to our office, you may pick up your passport with your visa, or have it sent to your home via Federal Express.

  Once you have received your visa, please check the validity dates to ensure they accommodate your travel plans. If you have any questions about this, please contact the International Programs office.

- **Travel outside the Program**: Due to visa processing times, international travel during the months prior to the start of the program will be limited. Please contact an Immigration Specialist at IP-Visas@fsu.edu if you have international travel plans.

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-U.S. CITIZENS AND U.S. CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD:

Non-U.S. citizens and U.S. citizens living abroad are asked to contact an International Programs’ Immigration Specialist at IP-Visas@fsu.edu. You may be required to apply for a visa on your own or you may have additional visa requirements and expenses.

All visa information is correct at the time of publication, but terms, fees, and guidelines are subject to change without notice.
**BEFORE DEPARTURE & PROGRAM SPECIFICS**

**FLIGHT INFORMATION**

There is no group flight for this program, and your program fee does not include airfare.

You should make arrangements to arrive in Tianjin or Beijing on the start date of your program May 11, 2019. You will most likely need to depart the United States one day before the program’s start date in order to arrive on time. All orientation/welcome activities that take place upon arrival are mandatory.

Students arriving before the start date must make arrangements to stay in a hotel.

Your return flight should depart Tianjin or Beijing no earlier than the last day of your session, June 23, 2019. You must check out of program housing on the morning of that day. You will be responsible for getting yourself to the airport in time for your departure.

Last year, student tickets ranged from $1,250 to $1,750 for a round-trip ticket flying out of somewhere in Florida to either Tianjin or Beijing.

Once you have completed your travel arrangements, you must email your flight arrangements to the IP Office (IP-Info@fsu.edu).

Your flight arrangements will be provided to the Program Leader and it is very important that they receive this information in order to monitor student arrivals.

You may want to consider purchasing travel insurance when booking your flight. Travel insurance typically covers flight cancellation fees, lost luggage or other losses incurred while traveling, etc. Speak with your airline for more information.

If your flight is canceled, delayed, or you miss a connection on your way to your study abroad location, contact the International Programs staff via email or phone.

**ARRIVING IN CHINA**

There will be two group pick-ups at Beijing Capital Airport. One pick-up will be in the late afternoon and the other pick-up at night, on May 11, 2019. The schedule of the pick-ups will be finalized after International Programs receive all students’ flight itineraries and sent to you by email. Upon arrival, once you get your luggage, walk out of the arrival exit and look in the arrival hall for your FSU Program Leader or the FSU group.

If you are arriving into Tianjin Airport please be sure to submit your flight itinerary to International Programs as soon as possible so we can coordinate a pick-up time.

**IN TRANSIT**

- **Domestic flights.** In general, arrive at the airport ticket counter **two hours** before your departure time. Check with your specific airline to find out the recommended pre-flight allowance.
- **International flights.** Arrive at the airport ticket counter **three hours** before your departure time.
- **Keep your boarding pass.** Some airlines require it for baggage claim. Also, it will help if your luggage gets lost.
- **Have your passport accessible.**
- **During your flight,** drink lots of water and get up and walk during your flight. Try to sleep; it will help you combat jet lag. Wear layers as the temperature on the plane and in airports may vary.
BEFORE DEPARTURE & PROGRAM SPECIFICS

HOUSING
Rooming assignments and locations will be made based on a combination of factors such as type of program, housing preference form, and special needs as indicated in the information you provide International Programs. Roommate assignments will be communicated upon arrival, and cannot be changed.

Participants will be housed in the foreign-students dormitory on the main campus of Tianjin Foreign Studies University. The standard double room has a bathroom, air-conditioning, phone and satellite TV. Students have wired access to internet in the dorm rooms and wireless connection in the dorm lobby. The housing address is as follows:

International Exchange Center
Tianjin Foreign Studies University
No. 117 Machangdao, Hexi District
Tianjin, zip code 300204
P. R. China

PHONE
Dorm Office    (011-86-22) 2326-8866
After Hours   (011-86-22) 2328-8303

Family and friends can reach you by dialing 011-86-22-2326-8866, wait for instructions (in Chinese), then dial your 4 digit dorm room number. You will receive your dorm room number upon arrival in Tianjin.

During your on-site orientation, you will be advised of the Housing Rules & Regulations. Violation of any of the housing policies is grounds for dismissal. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the housing rules and regulations for your specific program. Refer to the FSU International Programs Contractual Agreement and the Housing Terms and Conditions for details. You are required to sign the FSU International Programs Contractual Agreement as it outlines your contractual obligations as a participant on our program.

CLASSES
Classes will be conducted in Yifu Building on TFSU campus.

TRANSPORTATION
Students can get around in the city of Tianjin by bus, taxi, or subway. Intercity commuter trains run every 30 minutes between Tianjin and Beijing.
PERSONAL TRAVEL
You are no doubt eager to explore areas of China. It is best to wait until you have arrived in China before you book any independent travel, unless instructed to do so by your Program Leader. Waiting until classes have started will allow you to make your plans around the following factors:

- Academic deadlines for exams, papers and presentations. You do not want to book a once-in-a-lifetime trip somewhere only to discover that you have a major research paper due around that time.
- You will receive a cultural calendar of activities planned for all students upon your arrival.
- The travel plans of your peers. One of the joys of studying abroad is the opportunity to build friendships through travel and shared experiences.

Do not plan travel that will cause you to miss classes; strict academic standards will be maintained on the programs. Your grade may be reduced by any unauthorized absence from class.

Summer programs may have mandatory academic excursions that take place over a weekend. Participants of summer programs should be flexible with their weekend plans. Due to the compact nature of the summer programs, course-meeting times will be intensive and independent travel time may be limited.

For safety purposes, you will be instructed by the International Programs staff and Program Leaders to fill out a mandatory online independent travel form each time you plan on traveling outside of your study abroad location. More information will be provided to you in an email from IP-Info@fsu.edu prior to departure.

CLIMATE & PACKING
All airlines have different policies regarding the number, size, and weight of bags allowed on domestic and international flights. Fees for having too many bags or exceeding size and weight limits are steep, and vary by airline. It is important that you determine the restriction on your particular airline before you pack. **Please be aware that you will be responsible for carrying your own bags, packs, etc.** Restrictions regarding carry-on baggage are different for each airline and sometimes vary depending on your originating, transferring and/or terminating airport. Also, requirements change based on current events. It is imperative that you check your specific requirements just prior to your departure and plan accordingly. Use the IP luggage tag and luggage strap you received to ensure your bag is marked in capital letters with your name, address, and final destination both on the inside and on the outside of the bag. It is recommended that you pack 1 or 2 outfits in your carry-on in case of flight delays/cancellations or lost luggage.

Tianjin lies in a temperate zone and it enjoys four distinct seasons a year. The average yearly temperature is only 55 degrees Fahrenheit with hot summers and freezing temperatures in January. The weather in May and June will often vary so it is advisable to pack for both hot and cool weather.

It is advisable that you begin monitoring the weather in your destinations a few weeks before your departure to help you pack appropriately and efficiently. For updates on weather conditions, see www.weather.com.

You should not bring any valuable or sentimental items such as jewelry, expensive watches, expensive cameras, or keepsake items you would regret losing. You also don’t want to bring any electrical appliances such as hair dryers, heaters, etc. The electricity in many countries is twice as powerful as in the U.S. and will cause those items to burn out.

Reference the International Programs packing list for more packing tips!
MAIL
Please share the following information with those in the U.S. who are interested in sending you mail while you are abroad.

You can mail letters through mailboxes on TFSU campus. There is a post office located within a five-minute walk from campus. Below is your TFSU mailing address:

International Exchange Center
Room # (to be assigned)
Tianjin Foreign Studies University
No. 117 Machangdao, Hexi District
Tianjin, Zip Code 300204
P. R. China

CELL PHONES & COMMUNICATION
You need to use an IP card (a sort of magnetic phone card) to make phone calls from the telephone in your dormitory room. IP cards can be purchased on campus. Calling the United States from China is expensive; it is economically preferable that you let your parents and friends in the U.S call you instead. Calling cards purchased in the U.S. are not usable in Tianjin.

If you decide to use your U.S. cell phone, contact your provider to find out about possible international plans and roaming charges that may apply.

Other popular options to keep in touch with family/friends back home include applications like Skype, WhatsApp, Face Time and Viber. You may communicate with family and friends for free using Wi-Fi. These options also have inexpensive calling rates for landlines and cell phones.

COMPUTERS
If you want to bring your laptop, please check if your computer has a built-in transformer that is capable of handling the different voltages. You will also need an adapter for the plug (i.e. from flat to round prongs). Please note that if you take a laptop with you, it is at your own risk. If you do choose to bring a laptop, check your homeowner’s insurance to make sure that it is covered when you are away from your primary residence. If not covered by your homeowner’s insurance, you may want to check into laptop insurance through www.safeware.com, a worldwide insurance provider for all electronic devices (e.g. laptop, digital camera, iPod, etc.). They also have a provision for non-electronic personal property. Do NOT pack your laptop in your checked luggage.

Internet access is available in the lobby of your housing. Computers with Internet access are available for students in computer labs on TFSU campus or in the University Library. Please be aware that internet connectivity can be unreliable and slow compared to access in the U.S.
EXPENSES
In estimating your financial needs while you are abroad, calculate the amount of money you will need for meals for the entire period of your stay; your transportation and lodging costs for any personal trips you will be taking on the weekends, and your personal entertainment and social activities costs.

A good way to estimate what you might need abroad is to assume that whatever you spend here in the U.S. (in dollars), you will spend the same (numerical) amount in the currently of your study abroad location. Take that dollar amount and convert to your location’s currently by using the current exchange rate.

The suggested amount of personal spending money for your program is $500.

CURRENCY
China uses the yuan as the national currency. If you leave the States from an international airport (Miami, Tampa, New York, etc.), you can exchange some dollars for yuans/renminbis at the airport before you leave. Don’t exchange more than $75—just enough to get you to Tianjin until you reach a bank.

Money exchange facilities are available at major airports, hotels, and department stores. Major brands of traveler’s checks are accepted at such exchange facilities and cash advances against a credit card can be arranged; a service charge is usually added. Consult with your bank before departing the United States to be sure that your brand of check or credit card will be accepted.

Foreign currency (cash or traveler’s checks) may be exchanged for Chinese currency at licensed exchange facilities of the Bank of China and other authorized banks.

BANKING
We recommend you set up online banking for your bank accounts prior to departure from the U.S. so you can monitor your account while overseas. The easiest way to access money while abroad is with an ATM card. You can use a Debit Card at any ATM to withdraw cash whenever you need it. ATMs compatible with U.S. bankcards are available throughout Hong Kong and in major mainland cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, and Tianjin.

Bring or have access to at least one credit card in the event of an emergency. If you need to visit a doctor or hospital, you will likely have to pay prior to the service, and then submit an insurance claim afterward. Credit cards are also useful for everyday purchases and offer excellent exchange rates. MasterCard and Visa are the most widely accepted credit cards overseas. A credit card with “chip and pin” technology is worth considering, as this is the standard abroad.

Before using an ATM or debit card overseas, we recommend the following:
- Contact your financial institution(s) before you leave the U.S. to make sure your ATM or Debit card is activated for international use. You will also need to inform them of your dates/location abroad. If you fail to contact your financial institution(s), it is not unusual for credit card companies to “freeze” an account if suspicious or fraudulent activity is suspected.
- Make sure your debit/ATM card is linked to a checking account, rather than to a savings account, so you will have access to your funds.
- If you have a pin longer than 4 digits or based on letters, you may have trouble using it abroad. You will need to change your pin before departure.
- You should also contact your financial institution for information regarding ATM transaction fees. You can limit the fees if your U.S. bank has a ‘sister’ bank in the host country and/or if you limit your withdrawals, though we do not advise keeping large sums of money on your person or stored in your residence, even if a safe is provided.
- Keep a record of all credit/debit/ATM card numbers and the phone numbers you would need to call, with area codes, if they are lost or stolen. Keep this record in a safe place separate from your cards, and you should provide a copy to family at home.

For those who receive financial aid, ensure that any student loans you have requested will be available for disbursement during the term you are abroad. Disbursement usually occurs after students have left the U.S., so make arrangements for your check to be deposited, if that is your chosen method of disbursement.
IMMUNIZATIONS/MEDICAL CONCERNS
Florida State University requires certain immunizations prior to your registration for classes. All newly admitted degree-seeking students (freshman and transfer) and non-FSU students must complete the required Student Immunization Form. The form must be mailed or faxed directly to Florida State University Health Services, Health Compliance Office, 960 Learning Way, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4178, fax (850) 644-8958.

It is very important that you make yourself aware of specific requirements and health matters in your program location. The FSU Health and Wellness Center offers a travel clinic which provides immunizations. Additional information is available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s site: www.cdc.gov/travel/. Please note that some countries have specific requirements for inoculations based on past location(s) the traveler has visited. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure previous travel has not triggered additional requirements.

- A tetanus booster shot is suggested if you have not had one within the past 10 years.
- Specify every health concern you have on your form.
- We highly recommend that you bring sufficient quantities of your prescription medication with you to last for the duration of your stay. Keep these in their original containers with copies of the prescriptions and place them in your carry-on luggage. Be sure to bring a copy of a legible prescription from your doctor and be aware that not all U.S. drugs are available elsewhere. In particular, Adderall and Concerta are not available in all countries. Don’t postpone discussing your prescription needs with your doctor. After discussing medications with your doctor, students will need to work with their insurance company to cover the vacation prescription. Students who experience difficulty in obtaining a vacation prescription should seek assistance from our office.

- If you wear glasses or contact lenses, take an extra pair and/or the prescription.
- Complete routine medical and dental care before you leave.

The CISI insurance provided is included in your program fee and the policy is available on our website: http://international.fsu.edu/Documents/HealthSafety/CISIInsurancePolicy.pdf. You will want to familiarize yourself with the coverage details.

ALCOHOL AWARENESS & ILLEGAL DRUGS
The legal age for the drinking of alcohol in China is 18. This means that you will likely have the opportunity to buy and drink alcohol legally. It is in your interest to recognize that this right carries a great deal of responsibility. FSU International Programs has a strict code of conduct relating to the use of alcohol, violations of which will likely result in a judicial hearing with the possible sanction of being dismissed from the program. In short, know your limits and drink within moderation if you choose to do so, but not to excess.

Florida State University has a zero-tolerance policy regarding the possession, use, manufacture, production, sale, exchange or distribution of illegal drugs by students participating in FSU study abroad programs. Violation of this policy may result in immediate dismissal from the program and disciplinary action onsite or upon return to campus. International Programs’ policies follow either the U.S. law or local law, whichever is more stringent with regard to drug use. For complete information on student judicial processes, victim’s rights, and appeals see the Student Conduct Code at: http://dos.fsu.edu/srr/.
Policies & Safety

Rules, Policies & Procedures
Florida State degree-seeking, transient, and special students are bound by the rules, policies, and procedures set forth in the FSU General Bulletin and Student Handbook. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these before you leave. You may locate the FSU General Bulletin online at [http://registrar.fsu.edu/](http://registrar.fsu.edu/) and The Code of Student Conduct at [https://dos.fsu.edu/srr/conduct-codes/student-conduct-codes](https://dos.fsu.edu/srr/conduct-codes/student-conduct-codes). The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities updates any changes to the Code of Student Conduct.

Safety & Security
Our highest priority is the welfare and security of our students, faculty, staff and facilities. We have emergency plans in place for each of our locations and work closely with our insurers and 24/7 emergency response providers to monitor and respond to all situations worldwide. It is our policy to follow guidance from the respective U.S. Embassies, U.S. State Department, as well as local officials and keep students apprised of any new information. For more information on IP’s security policies and procedures, please contact our Director of Risk and Emergency Management, Chris Carroll at 850.644.7823 or ccarroll@fsu.edu.

- **Resources.** Even though students are not on the main campus, they have access to many resources should they encounter issues while abroad. Program staff members are available to support students in a variety of ways, including connecting students with other professionals locally and/or on the main campus.
  - **Victim Advocate Program.** The University takes very seriously all types of victimization, including sexual violence, relationship violence, and domestic violence. Advocates are available and on-call 24 hours a day to provide confidential support services, even for students who are abroad. For more information on the Victim Advocate Program, visit [http://victimadvocate.fsu.edu](http://victimadvocate.fsu.edu).
  - **University Counseling Center.** The Counseling Center is a welcoming and confidential place to discuss questions and concerns such as homesickness, struggles with relationships, sexual identity, cultural issues, and more. Visit [https://counseling.fsu.edu](https://counseling.fsu.edu) for more information.
  - **Center for Health Advocacy & Wellness.** The Center for Health Advocacy & Wellness encourages students to make healthy lifestyle decisions that facilitate academic success and lead to life-long health and wellness. For more information, visit [http://chaw.fsu.edu](http://chaw.fsu.edu).

- **The U.S. State Department** maintains a web site of information for Americans studying abroad, including current travel advisory warnings, at: [http://studentsabroad.state.gov](http://studentsabroad.state.gov/).

- **The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)** is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency. We strongly recommend you register here: [https://step.state.gov/step/](https://step.state.gov/step/).

- **Waivers.** All IP participants will be given a Waiver of Liability via email. It must be signed and submitted to IP.

- Be aware that you are subject to the laws of the country in which you are traveling.

- Always carry a photocopy of the picture and signature pages of your passport with you. Keep another copy in your room separate from your passport. Leave one copy at home in the U.S. with your family or a relative.

- Use the buddy system—try to travel with friends as much as possible and always tell your roommates or friends where you are going and when you expect to return. Bystander intervention is a powerful opportunity and responsibility for those within our community.

- **Valuables.** Students should not take sentimental valuables on their program. Students should not leave cash, passports, or other items of value unattended in their rooms. If a locker or safe is provided, students are strongly encouraged to use it to store anything of value at all times. Students should plan regular visits to the cash machine rather than leaving large amounts of cash in their rooms. Students are responsible for ensuring their rooms are left secure at all times – do not prop open doors, do not leave doors and windows unlocked, do not give keys to anyone. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase insurance that will cover their belongings while abroad, whether a standard homeowners or renters policy.

- **Pickpocketing.** In most large cities throughout the world, pickpocketing is the most common crime and can happen anytime, anywhere! We caution you to always be aware of your surroundings. While traveling in some areas beware of beggars who try to distract you with papers, boxes, or excessive body movements. Coats and purses are often stolen in crowded areas. Keep them close to you and lock your pack zippers with a combo lock. Secure your valuables if you are traveling on an overnight (“sleeper”) train.

- **Weapons.** Students are strictly prohibited from keeping or using firearms, knives, weapons (including pellet, air guns, paintball guns or other dangerous articles or substances). Furthermore, mace and/or pepper spray may be illegal in the countries that you visit. It is your responsibility to know the laws regarding weapons in the host country if you intend to bring any item for self-defense.
**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**
The more information you find out about the country beforehand, the better off you will be once you get there. Here is a list of a few web sites that may be helpful as you begin your information search.

http://www.tripadvisor.com (online travel guide)
http://www.letsgo.com/ (on-line travel guide, check out the “HotLinks” button)
http://cnn.com/WEATHER/ (daily weather forecasts)
https://www.roughguides.com/ (travel guide)
https://nolesabroad.international.fsu.edu/ (FSU International Programs blog with articles from former program participants)

**USEFUL APPS**
*For communications among program members in China, download WeChat (download in iPhone App Store).

Google Translate (instantly translates words, phrases, and web pages between English and over 100 other languages)
Dark Sky (With down-to-the-minute forecasts, you’ll know exactly when the rain will start or stop, right where you’re standing)
Mobile Passport (authorized by U.S. Government to get through customs upon your return to the U.S. Allows you to use the dedicated mobile passport line in 21 participating airports).

(Note: Florida State University is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.)

**Connect with International Programs on social media**
International Programs Facebook
International Programs Twitter
International Programs Instagram

_Last Updated 1/2019_