SPANISH IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

June 29 to July 29, 2018
Santa Ana, Costa Rica
SJ01
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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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

COSTA RICA OFFICE
Centro Lingüístico Conversa
Santa Ana, Costa Rica

PHONE  011-506-2203-2071 OR 2072
TOLL FREE PHONE  1-888-669-1664
WEBSITE  http://www.conversa.com/

PROGRAM LEADER
Dr. Jose Gomariz
850.644.3727 (main office number)
jgomariz@fsu.edu

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER
Emergencies/Police/Main  911
Fire Department  118
Ambulance  128
Police (in the city)  117
Police (outside of the city)  127

U.S. EMBASSY (Pavas, San José)
Public Affairs Office
Embassy of the United States
P.O. Box 920-1200
Pavas, San José, Costa Rica

PHONE
In Country  (506) 2519-2000 or (506) 2220-3127
From U.S.  011-506-2519-2455 or 011-506-2519-2000
After Hours/Emergencies  (506)2519-2280 or (506)2519-2279
EMAIL  ACSSanJose@state.gov
WEBSITE  http://costarica.usembassy.gov/uscitizen.html

INTERNATIONAL CALLS
Making international calls from the U.S. to Costa Rica: First
dial “011” (for international call), followed by “506” (the
country code), then the specific area code (dropping the first
zero) and location number.

Time Differences: During the summer, Costa Rica is one
hour earlier than Eastern Standard Time.
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 students 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. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. 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.
PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. CITIZENS

- **Passport:** Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months from the date you enter Costa Rica.

- **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, securely 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 REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-U.S. CITIZENS AND US CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD:

If you are a non-U.S. citizen or U.S. citizen living abroad, 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.
FLIGHT INFORMATION
There is no group flight for this program, and your program fee does not include airfare.

You should purchase a ticket that will allow you to arrive in San Jose, Costa Rica on the start date of your session, Friday, June 29, 2018 (ideally around noontime) and depart on the last date of your program, Sunday, July 29, 2018. All orientation/welcome activities are mandatory.

The group airport pick-up is scheduled for 1:30PM local time. If you choose to arrive before or after the group pick-up time, you will need to arrange your own transportation to Conversa, located in Santa Ana, Costa Rica. Airport taxis or shuttle fares usually cost around $25 plus tip.

If you will not arrive in time for the group pick-up, contact your Program Leader, Dr. Gomariz, and/or Andy Kaufman at the Centro Conversa as soon as possible to coordinate arrival details. If your flight is delayed or cancelled, please notify International Programs, Dr. Gomariz and/or Andy Kaufman as soon as possible. You can instruct your parents/friends to contact FSU International Programs at 1-800-374-8581, and contact Conversa 1-888-669-1664, or 2203-2071. If calling from USA dial 011-506 and then the number (ask for Andy Kaufman and identify yourself as part of the Florida State University Group).

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

You must check out of program housing on the morning of the last day of your program Sunday, July 29, 2018. Group airport transports will be arranged by Conversa in groups based on flight departure times.

Once you have completed your travel arrangements, all students must email their flight arrangements to the IP Office (ip-info@fsu.edu). Your flight arrangements will be provided to your Program Leader and it is very important that he receives 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.

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,** make sure to drink lots of water, get up, and walk around at least once during the flight. Try to sleep; it will help you combat jet lag. Wear layers as the temperature on the plane and in airports may vary.

ARRIVING IN COSTA RICA
Upon arrival to SJO, you will go through immigration and present your passport to the immigration officer. Once you clear immigration, proceed to pick up your luggage to go through customs. Once you have cleared immigration and customs, you will be outside of the airport secure area. As you walk outside, look for a Conversa sign and Dr. José Gomariz, who will be wearing an IP t-shirt. It is highly encouraged that you also wear your IP t-shirt for faster identification. A shuttle will transfer the whole group to the Centro Lingüístico Conversa in Santa Ana where you will have a welcome lunch and onsite orientation.
HOUSING
Students will stay with a Costa Rican family and will be placed one student per family (private room- shared bathroom). Arrangements are made by Conversa housing coordinators who select and monitor the families. Students will eat breakfast and dinner daily with the family. Lunch and a morning snack will be provided at Conversa. One load of laundry per week will be handled by the family.

Conversa has shuttle buses that run from Santa Ana housing neighborhood to the Conversa campus for your morning class. For your morning class, departure time will be provided at the onsite orientation.

International Programs will endeavor to provide accommodations that are appropriate and comfortable. Any issues with housing must be reported to the Program Leader, Dr. Gomariz, immediately.

Rooming assignments and locations will be made based on a combination of factors such as housing preference form and special needs form.

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. For contractual details about your program housing, rules, and regulations for your specific program, please refer to the FSU International Programs Contractual Agreement located in the Important Forms packet and the Housing Terms and Conditions located in this document.

You are required to sign the FSU International Programs Contractual Agreement as it outlines your contractual obligations as a participant on our program.

HOST FAMILIES
Your host family's contact information will be emailed to you in late spring.

It is culturally appropriate to bring a gift for your host family. This does not have to be an expensive item, but it will show appreciation to the family for allowing you to stay in their home during your time in Costa Rica. Gift suggestions may include, but are not limited to:

- Cookbooks with American recipes
- U.S. paraphernalia (things from Disney World, NBA, NFL, etc.)
- American candy and gum (i.e. M&M's, Hershey, saltwater taffy, etc.) especially if there are children in the family
- American soap, lotion or scented candles (i.e. Bath & Body Works products, etc.)
- Tablecloth and/or placemats
- Clothing or items with FSU logos
- Scenic potholders, aprons, mugs and glasses
- Regional foods to make a special dinner
- Coffee mugs
- Chocolate
- Calendars with U.S. scenery

CLASS SCHEDULE
Classes will take place from Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 am to 1 pm, unless otherwise indicated. There is a break between classes for a snack, provided by Conversa.

PROGRAM EXCURSIONS
As part of SJO, you are required to participate in cultural excursions. Excursions will take place on Friday, and some of them would include an overnight stay. Destinations, calendar, and time of departure for excursions will be provided onsite in Costa Rica. There will be a 15-minute grace period added to the departure time. After the grace period, the bus will depart. If you miss the bus, you are to contact Dr. Gomariz immediately.

PERSONAL TRAVEL
Independent travel outside of Costa Rica is NOT allowed during the program. Students who wish to travel outside of Costa Rica are advised to do so before the program begins or after the program ends.

You are no doubt eager to explore Costa Rica. During the program, you will have a whole weekend for independent travel. It is best to wait until you have arrived in your study abroad location before you book any independent travel. 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.

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 also 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.

When packing for summer please remember that churches do not allow shorts, halter-tops, or miniskirts. You are advised to bring a cardigan or light jacket to cover your shoulders with for church visits. It is advisable to bring a raincoat and an umbrella. The weather in San José can be humid and stays approximately in the mid to upper 70s. Because you will be in Costa Rica during the beginning of the rainy season, you can expect frequent showers in the afternoon. The temperature can be fairly cool in the morning or evening, so bring a sweatshirt or sweater. You may also want to bring an overnight bag for weekend trips. The weather may change according to your destination. It is especially hot on the beaches, but in the mountains, the temperature is considerably cooler. Be prepared for a variety of weather conditions by bringing clothes that can be layered.

You may want to wear more jeans and long pants instead of shorts. This is a personal choice; however, in the past other students have mentioned that they felt a little too casual and “tourist-like” wearing shorts in the city. However, when visiting the Pacific Coast, shorts maybe a better choice than long pants. For updates on weather conditions, visit https://www.accuweather.com/en/world-weather.

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.

Things to consider when packing:
- Bring comfortable walking shoes
- For outdoor excursions, you will need hiking shoes. We will be hiking in rain and cloud forests, where trails may be wet. Flip-flops are highly discouraged for outdoor activities.
- Shorts can be worn while at the beach, however, you may also want to bring some long pants, light sweats or dry fit clothing for the evenings and to protect yourself from mosquitoes. For hiking, wear long pants.
- You may want to bring one dressy outfits in case you go somewhere nice with your host family, but this is uncommon.
- It is required to bring your own towels, they will not be provided by the host family (beach/pool and personal)
- Items we recommend that you purchase while in the U.S.: sunblock, mosquito repellent, bath towels, hiking boots, sandals, battery-powered reading light, travel alarm clock, rain jacket or poncho, small lock for your valuables, umbrella.
- Bring your own prescription and non-prescription medications.
- Consider bringing a Spanish/English dictionary
COMMUNICATION & ELECTRONICS

MAIL
We recommend that your friends and family do NOT mail you any packages or important information of value while you are in Costa Rica – all packages have to clear customs, and taxes and high shipping costs may be applicable. If you must have something mailed, Fed-Ex, DHL or UPS are the best options. Please contact the Conversa staff directly upon arrival if you require mailing instructions.

CELL PHONES & COMMUNICATION
Phone calls in Costa Rica are charged by the call and all local calls are charged. Therefore, if you use your host family’s home phone line, you must first ask their permission and it is polite to offer to pay for the time you spend on personal calls.

While it is not mandatory that you buy or rent a cell phone while you abroad, it is highly recommended. Past students have found that it is easiest to buy a phone and pay for calls and messages as you go. The phones can be used for both calls in your study abroad location and for calls to and from the U.S. Local stores will sign you up with the carrier who is offering the best rates available at the time of your purchase. Calls made or received while you are in other countries may be very expensive.

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
The Centro Lingüístico Conversa has wireless Internet available for student use. Internet cafés and the library are also available in Santa Ana. Last summer, Santa Ana was offering free Wi-Fi. Please note that it is not a guarantee that all host families will have Wi-Fi networks in their homes available for student use.

If you want to bring your laptop, we recommend doing the following:
- Check if your computer has a built-in transformer that is capable of handling the different voltages. You will 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. 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 http://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 or laptop charger in your checked luggage.
**EXPENSES WHILE ABROAD**

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.
- Keep in mind when budgeting that the meals during the program are covered during class days (breakfast and dinner with the host families and lunch and a snack at Conversa). Any meals that are eaten out on free days, weekends or additionally during the week are at personal cost.
- For a 4-week summer program, it is recommended that you budget at least $500- $1000 (depending on your weekend plans and personal spending habits).

**CURRENCY**

Costa Rica uses the Colon as the national currency. Exchange some dollars for Costa Rican Colones before you leave the U.S. Don’t exchange more than $100, you just need enough to get you to your study abroad location and to a bank abroad. Visit [http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/](http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/) for the current exchange rate.

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**BANKING**

We recommend you set up on-line banking for your bank accounts prior to departure from the U.S. so you can monitor your account while overseas.

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 abroad. Disbursement usually occurs after students have left the U.S. Make arrangements for your check to be deposited, if that is your chosen method of disbursement.
INOCULATIONS/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 Health and Wellness Center offers a travel clinic which provides immunizations (http://www.tshc.fsu.edu/travel.html). 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.
- We highly recommend that you bring sufficient quantities of your prescription medications 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 drinking alcohol in Costa Rica 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 Costa Rica 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 in 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: 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/ and The Code of Student Conduct at http://dos.fsu.edu/srr/conduct-codes/student-conduct-code. 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.
HOUSING TERMS & CONDITIONS

The following regulations for the International Programs student housing are based upon the Florida State University Contractual Agreement and the rights and responsibilities of individual members of the university community as spelled out in the 'Codes of Student Conduct' in the:

- Florida State University General Bulletin (http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/)
- Florida State University Student Handbook (http://dos.fsu.edu/resources/student-handbook), and

These rules and responsibilities have been adapted and supplemented where appropriate to take into account the special needs of each program. The housing rules are designed to conform to the local laws protecting the mutual rights of both students and our local neighbors. We are guests in another country and we should respect and abide by the customs of the people. Since the housing and academic components are tied together very closely, the program staff must ensure that your stay in the residence facility provided enhances the overall mission of the program.

Carefully read these regulations and responsibilities. All occupants/participants in program-provided housing are obliged to conform to them so the overseas experience may be a positive one for everyone associated with our program. The program staff is responsible for ensuring these rules are enforced. He/she has the authority to supplement them at any time to deal with circumstances that affect the integrity of an academic and social/cultural program that functions in a foreign country. The program staff has the authority to dismiss from the program any occupant/participant who does not comply with all rules.

I. AGREEMENT TO GENERAL TERMS

A. Participants are reminded that our program-provided housing is in facilities regulated by the respective country’s law. Although the FSU rules and regulations apply on our study program, the law of the land where any misdemeanor occurs takes precedence and FSU cannot break these regulations or laws.

B. All program dates are advertised as first night in program housing to morning of the last day of the program. The FSU International Programs Contractual Agreement, appropriately signed, is effective from the morning on the date of the first night in housing of a particular program until the morning of the day of program departure. Specific times vary by country. More information is provided in the housing section of this packet.

C. If an occupant/participant voluntarily withdraws from a program and is released from this legal document he/she must vacate the residence within 24 hours of that decision. In the case of expulsion or immediate suspension/dismissal, another breach of contract, or a judicial process, the occupant/participant must vacate the residence immediately.

D. The acceptance of this FSU International Programs Contractual Agreement by Florida State University/International Programs Association, Inc., does not guarantee assignment to any particular room. Roommate preferences, however, will be honored as far as possible and practicable.

E. Under this document, the Florida State University, in conjunction with the Study Center program staff, reserves the right to formulate and put into effect other rules and regulations which, in their judgment, may be necessary for the safety, care, and cleanliness of the premises and for the preservation of mutual rights and responsibilities of the occupants/participants of the building, and the inhabitants of the neighborhood. All occupants/participants agree to abide by any and all additional rules and regulations adopted for those purposes.

F. Under this document, all occupants/participants are responsible for reading, understanding, and adhering to the general applicable regulations, rules, and procedures concerning student codes and policies as set forth in official publications of Florida State University. Such publications include the current editions of the General Bulletin, the FSU Student Handbook, and the Florida State University International Programs Important Forms packet.

G. All Florida State University International Programs facilities are designated no-smoking facilities. Smoking or vaping of any substance is prohibited throughout the buildings. All occupants/participants agree to accept this condition. Deviations from this policy, if they exist, will be provided in your country specific orientation package.
II. AGREEMENT TO GENERAL CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

A. Respect for Persons
1. Program participants must be cognizant of the rights of others and avoid activities, which unnecessarily disturb individuals or groups, or interfere with the normal activities of International Programs. These include, but are not limited to, intimidating behavior, physical assault, hazing, or unsuitable or boisterous conduct. Participants should be aware of the effects of their noise on others and respond appropriately to requests to lower volume.

2. Florida State University respects and celebrates the diversity of its students. Statements of intolerance and/or harassment pertaining to race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, veterans’ or marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other protected group status are neither appropriate nor tolerated and can lead to dismissal from the program.

B. Respect for Property and Living Space
1. Program participants are expected to respect university property as well as the property of other community members.
   a.) University property may not be removed from any room or from public areas.
   b.) Out of respect for the community environment, sports and general rowdy behavior are not permitted either in the Study Center or in program-provided housing.
   c.) Participants may not affix any items to the walls of the residence
   d.) Participants in program-provided housing may not remove, alter, or tamper with door closures, security equipment, or locks, nor may they wash or hang laundry in their rooms.
   e.) Students are expected to report all maintenance issues. If a maintenance issue is unreported and results in major damages, students may be held responsible for costs.

2. Participants in program-provided housing should ensure their rooms are properly cared for. It is the responsibility of all to maintain a standard that provides cleaning and care of the room.

3. Participants in program-provided housing are responsible for the reasonable care of their assigned living spaces and their equipment and appliances. Charges will be assessed for damages to, unauthorized use of, or alterations to, rooms, equipment, and buildings as well as for special cleaning necessitated by improper care of rooms or equipment.

4. Unless it can be determined otherwise, occupants/participants are jointly responsible for damages done to public areas and equipment in their living quarters. Public areas are defined as those areas available for use by all program participants living in a shared area. Charges for damages to public areas and equipment, other than those determined to be the result of normal wear and tear, may be assessed of all program participants of a particular room or floor, or of the residence as a whole.

5. Authorized administrative personnel may enter rooms for the purposes of cleaning, normal inspection, and maintenance. Occupants’/participants’ personal property is not subject to search without the express approval of the owner except in circumstances when a reasonable belief exists that the room is being used for an illegal purpose or a purpose which would otherwise seriously interfere with discipline and/or an occupant’s/participant’s personal safety.

6. Florida State University/International Programs Association, Inc. is not liable for damage or loss of personal property, failure or interruption of utilities, or unforeseen accidents or injuries. The organizations named above will be liable only for those damages or injuries caused by negligence on the part of their employees, agents, or representatives while they are working within the scope of their employment or agency. Occupants/participants are strongly advised to secure their own personal property insurance.

C. Respect for Housing Operations
1. It is expected occupants/participants will comply with reasonable requests from the program staff and the housing administrative staff.
   a. Residents will identify themselves when asked and will provide true and accurate information.
   b. Residents will refrain from harassment and verbal abuse of staff personnel.

2. Room keys may be neither lent to nor borrowed by anyone. Such actions violate administrative codes, are not permissible, and constitute grounds for dismissal. For personal safety reasons, the propping open of exterior doors is strictly prohibited.
3. Occupancy of rooms is reserved only to those program participants to whom the room has been assigned.
   a. Room transfers, if possible, may be made only after receiving approval from the program staff.
   b. After reasonable notice, room assignments may be changed, cancelled, or terminated at any time by the program staff in the interest of public order, health, discipline, maximum utilization of facilities, or disaster.

4. You will receive specific information regarding the guest policy for your International Program location during the on-site orientation. Some programs prohibit guests in residential areas. If you are staying on a program that does allow guests, the following rules apply:
   a. No guests are allowed in program housing between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.
   b. Guests must be accompanied by their resident hosts at all times throughout the visit and may not be unescorted at any time in the residential areas.
   c. All guests must abide by the housing rules and regulations applicable to the resident host and must immediately depart the premises when told to do so by the host or program staff. Host may be held responsible for violations of their guest(s).

ADDITIONAL HOUSING INFORMATION
As you may know, Florida State University operates study centers in various countries around the world. Under our contractual obligations, students from one program are not permitted to use the housing facilities of another program if they are visiting. If you do have friends on another FSU program, please do not get them into trouble by trying to share their rooms if you visit them. You must arrange for your own housing. This also includes friends and relatives who may be traveling abroad.
ONLINE 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://cnn.com/WEATHER/ (daily weather forecasts)
http://www.statravel.com/ (student travel site)
http://www.state.gov/travel/ (U.S. State Department’s information for Americans)
http://www.letsgo.com (on-line travel guide)
http://www.donquijote.org/spanishlanguage/ (brush up on your Spanish!)
http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/living_1243.html (tips on living abroad from the State Department)
http://nolereservations.blogspot.com/ (FSU International Programs blog with articles from former program participants)

USEFUL APPS
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

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