

Learning About Disabilities

Accommodations Abroad

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) only applies to accommodation requests within the United States of America. However, many international institutions offer comparable accommodations. For this reason, it is important to do your research before planning your trip.

ACCOMMODATIONS ABROAD

If you are considering studying abroad, you should notify the Office of Education Abroad and Disability Resources as soon as possible. Most students should allocate a minimum of one year to start planning, regardless of the nature or type of disability.

Once the Office of Education Abroad and Disability Resources have been contacted, your Study Abroad Advisor will contact the overseas institution to notify them of your accommodations at CWRU. The overseas institution will review this information, and contact you directly to review your accommodation request and determine if comparable accommodations are appropriate or available at their institution.

WHAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER AS A STUDENT STUDYING ABROAD?

Preliminary Communications

- Develop a plan of action for researching the overseas institution and country of interest.
- Talk to Disability Resources about your accommodation plan and disability related needs.
- Coordinate accommodation request with Study Abroad Advisor

Disability Management

- Investigate what resources are available through the overseas institution.
- Consider available community resources to medical, psychological, and/or informational support.
- Inquire about agencies or professionals who can repair auxiliary aids, if needed.
- Ask if document conversion is available when necessary
- Question whether or not materials that are audio or visual in format (e.g. videos, films) can be made accessible to you (e.g. captioned videos)
- Are library resources accessible? If not, what can be done to provide access?

Curriculum

To be aware of the nature of the coursework, use the following questions:

- Are the exams multiple choice, short answer, or essay format?
- Are the courses project or exam driven?
- How much reading is required?
- What are the usual methods of instruction (i.e. lecture, seminar, tutorial, lab, discussion)?
- How will my final grade be determined? (i.e. one exam and one paper or through several different assignments)

Housing

Review the available housing options. Ask the following questions:

- Are the rooms accessible?
- Are single rooms available?
- Are there accessible bathroom and shower facilities?

Activities Outside of the Classroom

- Inquire about the overall conditions of the public sidewalks and pavement of streets.
- If mobility assistance is required, ask if it is available and/or provided.

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ACCOMMODATIONS OUTSIDE THE USA AND ADA

As you prepare to travel overseas for higher education, remember that the Americans with Disabilities Act does not travel with you. Do other countries have their own version of the ADA? Some do, here are a few examples of countries that have laws in place in an effort to stop discrimination to individuals based on disabilities.

Australia

Disability Discrimination Act (1992)

Botswana

The National Policy on Care for People with Disability

China

Regulations on the Education of Persons with Disabilities (1994)

England (UK)

Disability Rights Act (1999)
Special Education Needs and Disability Act (2001)

Germany

Disability Discrimination Act (BGG)
Law on Equal Opportunities for Disabled People

Ireland

Disability Discrimination Act (1995)
The Disability Discrimination Regulations (1996)

Israel

The Equal Right for People with Disabilities Law

Japan

Act on the Elimination of Disability Discrimination

Jordan

Law for the Welfare of Disabled People

Netherlands

The Act of Equal Treatment on the Grounds of Handicap or Chronic Illness

Singapore

1990 Barrier Free Accessibility Code

South Korea

Anti-Discrimination Against and Remedies for Persons with Disabilities Act

Thailand

Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act, B.E. 2550 (2007)
Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act (1991)

dredf.org/legal-advocacy/international-disability-rights/international-laws/

CAMPUS CONTACTS

The Office of Education Abroad

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Disability Resources

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