



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Global Engagement Office, Varsi Hall, 408-551-3019

CONSIDERING CULTURE: THE SCU DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR PROGRAMS ABROAD

DAILY LIFE

- Housing; during orientation and throughout program
- Meals
- Money and banking
- Budgeting – how much do things cost?
- Telephone and mail
- Local Transportation and commuting
- Laundry

CULTURE

- Dress
- Gestures and body movement
- Communication, both verbal and nonverbal
- Time, schedule, and the pace of a day
- Race, class, gender, sexual orientation – perceptions, challenges and advice
- Food and eating/drinking customs
- Music
- Meeting host country nationals – what are some ways to do this?
- Cultural dos and don'ts
- Assimilation into student-life
- Cultural adjustment; “culture shock”

ACADEMICS

- Differences in the education system from that of the U.S.
- Grading and assessment
- Courses, professors, papers, examinations
- Library use
- Computer, printer and e-mail access
- Field trips, labs, internships/volunteering
- Credits and taking a course on a credit/ no credit basis

HEALTH, SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND SAFETY

- Program director and program staff
- Group Dynamics
- Legal and political dos and don'ts
- Personal Safety; cultural perceptions of Americans by the host country
- Medical Care: doctors, medical facilities, over-the-counter medicines, prescriptions, vaccinations, health insurance
- Visa-requirements, working with embassies/consulates, fees, deadlines