



TULANE FAMILY WEBINAR ON NEWCOMB-TULANE COLLEGE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

PREPARE THEM TO BE UNPREPARED: PARENTING A STUDY ABROAD STUDENT

Presented October 9, 2024 by

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- **Mike Whisenant, Study Abroad Advisor**

Tulane

TULANE UNIVERSITY
Office of Family Programs

Newcomb-Tulane College

Center for Global Education

Two offices, one goal.

Office of Study Abroad (OSA)

- All Majors
- Partner programs
- This is us!

Freeman Abroad

- Business majors only
- All “exchange” programs
- Has their own webinar Nov. 6

Business majors who want to complete NTC Requirements or have specific location goals



OSA OPERATIONS



Dr. Casey Love
Director of Global Education



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Director of Study Abroad



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STUDY ABROAD ADVISORS: WHO ARE WE?



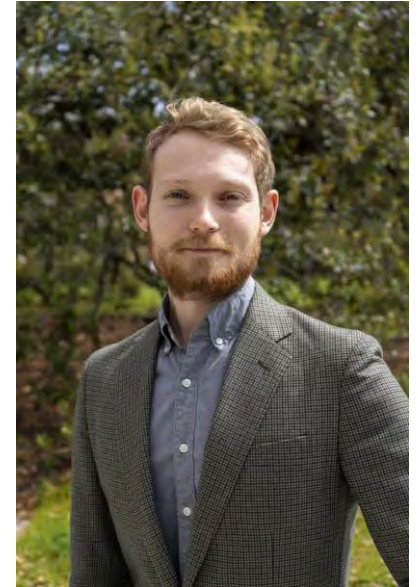
- WE ARE:
 - A resource for students before, during, and after studying abroad
 - Intercultural educators
 - Able to assist throughout the application process
 - Part of a robust on-campus support system



- WE ARE *NOT*:
 - Immigration/visa advisors
 - Travel agents (Tulane has this!)
 - On-site support (each program has dedicated staff for this)



Siena Farrar,
Senior Study Abroad
Advisor



Mike Whisenant,
Study Abroad Advisor

PREPARING YOUR STUDY ABROAD STUDENT:

Reflect!

- When was the first time you truly felt like "an adult"?
- Do you feel like your student is an "adult"?
 - Your relationship with your student may be different now than in high school
- Study abroad is an *additional* negotiation of adulthood within the larger conversation – they've moved out of the nest, and now they've moved out of the country!



PREPARING YOUR STUDY ABROAD STUDENT:

- Students who realize that study abroad is more than a vacation have personal and academic growth
- Students who pursue study abroad have increased hire-ability, adaptability, and intercultural communication skills
- Study Abroad can be a multitude of things: exciting, scary, fun, depressing, confusing, amazing, overwhelming, and more
 - Support them through the multitudes

“I got good practice in adjusting to unfamiliar settings and persevering when I was in an uncomfortable situation.” – Student abroad Denmark: DIS - Study Abroad in Scandinavia - Copenhagen – Fall 2021.

THE POWER OF 'YET'

- One of the most powerful things you can do for your student while they are abroad is use 'yet' language
- We frame things like this to them, but **they'll listen more to you!**
- Why?
 - Encourages them to solve their own problems
 - Reminds them pitfalls are not permanent

For example:

- Student: "I don't know how to order my coffee in Spanish!" "I don't like my commute!"
- You: "You don't know how to order yet, but you will soon."
"You don't like your commute yet, but it's such a great way to know your host city."



"Failure is an opportunity to grow"

GROWTH MINDSET

"I can learn to do anything I want"

"Challenges help me to grow"

"My effort and attitude determine my abilities"

"Feedback is constructive"

"I am inspired by the success of others"

"I like to try new things"

"Failure is the limit of my abilities"

FIXED MINDSET

"I'm either good at it or I'm not"

"My abilities are unchanging"

"I don't like to be challenged"

"I can either do it, or I can't"

"My potential is predetermined"

"When I'm frustrated, I give up"

"Feedback and criticism are personal"

"I stick to what I know"

From: *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* by Carol S. Dweck

Working Together: Parents & OSA

Your role

- Encouraging growth mindset
- Cavalry, not vanguard
- Source of empowerment
- Parenting!

Our role

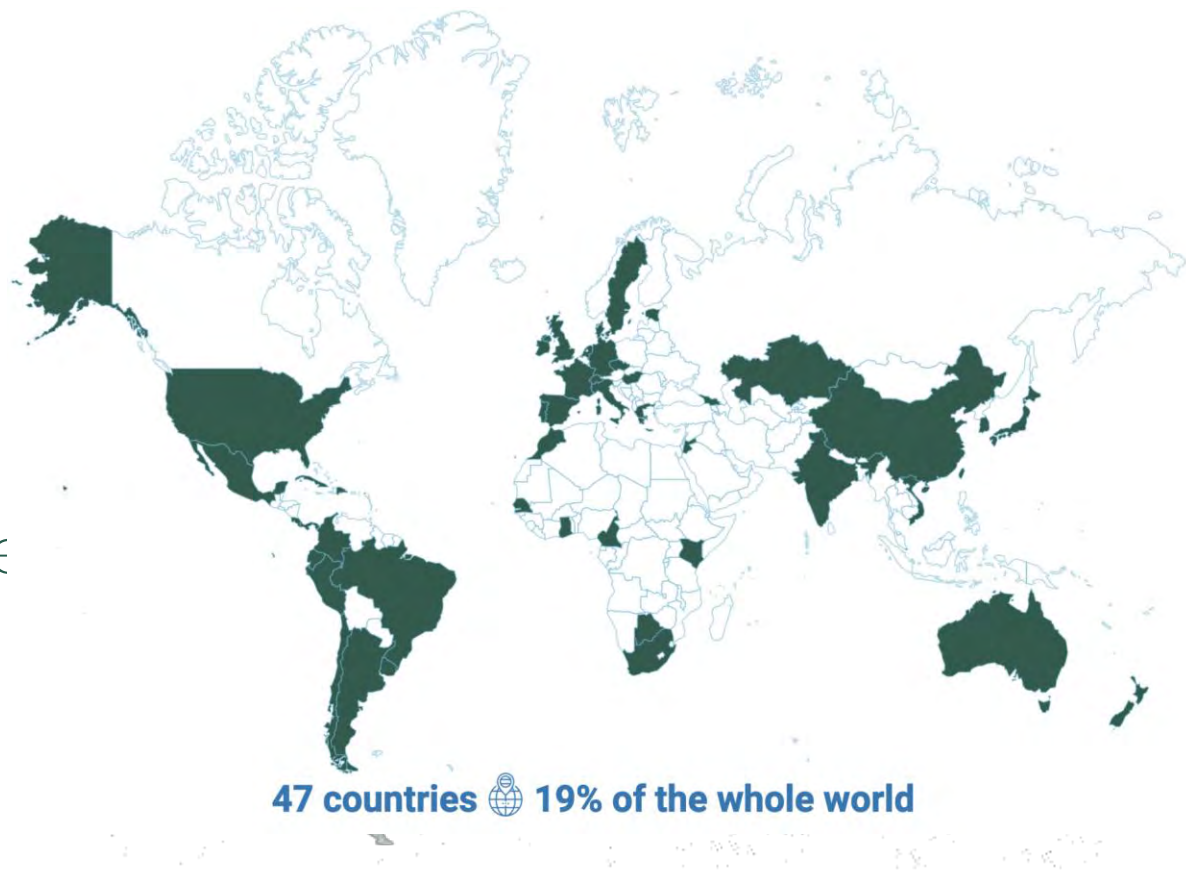
- Program advising
- Emotional support
- Intercultural coaching
- Academic/Program interfacing

Support



HOW DO STUDENTS PICK PROGRAMS?

- Language Immersion
- Academic Culture
- Courses Offered
- Housing Options
- Region
- Heritage
- Physical Environment
- Program Mode
- Internship or Research



THE OSA APPROVED

227 in **52**
programs countries

l a s t y e a r

1026

*STUDENTS STUDIED
ABROAD*



Tulane



**TOP FIVE
MAJORS
2023-2024**

**PSYCHOLOGY
COMMUNICATIONS
PUBLIC HEALTH
NEUROSCIENCE
POLITICAL SCIENCE**

TOP FIVE PROGRAMS INSIDE OF EUROPE

DIS Copenhagen
CEA CAPA Florence
CIEE Barcelona
CEA CAPA Barcelona
CIEE Madrid



TOP FIVE PROGRAMS OUTSIDE OF EUROPE

CIEE South Africa: Cape Town
IFSA Argentina
CIEE Korea: Seoul
IFSA New Zealand: Christchurch
IFSA New Zealand: Dunedin





Where can study abroad
at Tulane take them?



WHAT HAVE STUDENTS DONE BEFORE?

Study the sustainability of coral reefs, coastal forests, and vulnerable fauna while observing rare and endangered wildlife in the **Galápagos**.

Take part in an architecture studio at **National University of Singapore**, ranked 6th in the world for their undergraduate Architecture program.

Work an internship and develop a future professional network in **Shanghai**—no language background required!

Enroll directly in language immersive coursework at the Sorbonne in **Paris** while living with a French host family in the heart of the city.

Research indigenous healthcare access and traditional medicine in **Chile**.



OSA AND PARENT COMMUNICATIONS

- We need students to take ownership of the entire application and predeparture experience, as this level of logistical preparation prepares them for study abroad.
 - If you have questions, start with your student – prepares them to know what to ask & forces accountability
 - In order for your student to be independent, they need to practice independence. Study Abroad is a great place to start.
- FERPA protects your student's privacy while abroad as well – our office is based in the USA, and this is a US law.
 - Your student is the only one who can waive their FERPA rights
- Our advising is student focused, and the student must be in the appointment.
- Please provide your student's full name on the phone as well.



HOW DOES TULANE PREPARE STUDENTS?

- Study Abroad Advisors
 - All four have study abroad experience and provide one-on-one advising
- Predeparture Orientation
 - Multiple sessions for different aspects of preparing to go – ex. Health and Safety, Identity, Designing Study Abroad, Internships
- Peer Advisors
 - All are seniors who have returned from abroad and can talk about their experiences.
- Global Café
 - Free weekly event with coffee and snacks
 - Meeting with international students from around the world
- Study Abroad Fair – October 28 2-5PM

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STUDY ABROAD AND A VACATION?

STUDY ABROAD



- Elsewhere!
- Long-term (2+ weeks, 1 month, 4 months, a year!)
- Focused on academic classes
- Stay in a dorm, apartment, or with a host family in a residential area
- May be more "immersive" i.e. living your normal life (groceries, homework) but elsewhere!

VACATION



- Elsewhere!
- Short-term (weekend, 1-2 weeks, etc.)
- Focused on "tourist" or leisure activities only
- Stay in a hotel or AirBnB, maybe in a touristy area (ex. French Quarter)
- No homework ;)



WHAT IS HOUSING LIKE ABROAD?



Three main types:

- Dorms
- Apartments
- Homestays

- All have pros/cons
- Will vary by program and even on the same program – if housing is an important component for your student, they should factor it in early
- NOT a vacation home/AirBnB - corral expectations

- Global housing crisis:
 - Students may not get their first choice of housing, but often live in better accommodations than local students or staff
 - On-campus living like at Tulane is not a worldwide norm –students may have a commute like local students (minimum of 30 minutes in most of Europe)
- Independent housing with friends:
 - NOT ALLOWED and highly discouraged – similar to Tulane's on-campus requirement

HOUSING at Tulane?

Tulane's on campus housing requirement for Juniors:

Questions about Tulane housing while abroad?
Housing and Residence Life:
504-865-5724

Going in the FALL

- Released from on-campus requirement for returning spring semester
- NOT guaranteed on campus housing for spring
- EXTREMELY UNLIKELY to find a subletter – budget for paying for an empty room

Empty room for Fall semester (average \$1k/month, June – December = \$6,000 + Program Housing Cost (\$5,000) + Spring semester room off campus (\$6,000) = Full Year of Housing \$17,000

Going in the SPRING

- Must live on campus for Fall semester
- Don't have to worry about subletting/empty house of stuff

\$6,130 (suite style double room) + Program Housing Cost (\$5k) = Full Year of Housing: \$11,130



BILLING

- Students continue to pay Tulane tuition and fees on approved programs.
- Housing and other independent costs (excursions, program insurance) are paid to the provider or university directly by the student.
- All institutional scholarships and financial aid continue to apply.
 - OSA scholarships are available!
 - Providers and host universities may offer additional funding
 - Look into external awards like the Gilman or the Boren

SCHOLARSHIPS

OSA offers internal funding for our students
Easy to apply!

- Check “YES” to indicate you would like to be considered and “YES” to give us permission to access your Financial Aid information
- 150 Word “Essay”

Program providers and direct enrollment institutions offer scholarships:

CIEE, DIS, SIT, IFSA-Butler, CET, IES, etc.

Many automatic awards for financial need (Pell Grant, etc.)

Check program websites for more information!





HOW DO THEY EARN CREDIT?

- Courses transfer automatically as general electives. Major, minor, or core credit can be awarded through your department.
 - ❖ Grades from abroad will appear as letter grades on transcripts but will not be factored into GPA
- Students should meet with their major and academic advisors during the application process to discuss prospective courses.
 - ❖ Freeman students can participate on OSA programs, but they cannot earn Freeman credit unless it is a pre-approved program.

WHICH OFFICE IS RIGHT FOR MY STUDENT?

Office of Study Abroad (OSA)

- Options to earn Freeman credit are available.
- Freeman course approval is required
- More likely to get first choice of location (~90%)

Freeman Abroad

- Ensures the smoothest path of degree progression
- 70% of students get a **top 3** choice of school placement

Application Deadlines:

Freeman Abroad:
February 5th, 2025

OSA:
February 12th, 2025

Advising Support for Study Abroad



While Abroad

Host Program

- Culture shock
- On-site issues ex. Housing, academics
- Class registration

Tulane

- Culture shock
- Support with on-site issues
- Transferring credit

Emergency situations
and aftermath support



IS STUDY ABROAD SAFE?

- Approximately 75% of study abroad students had no concerns at all
- All students are registered in Crisis24
 - 24/7 security and medical assistance
- On-site support: many programs have suggested doctors, psychologists, and cultural-specific information for students
- Tulane's Travel Agency: ensures quick rebooking
- Consider an OSA summer program

STUDY ABROAD HEALTH & SAFETY QUICK FACTS

- Common complaints lie in differences b/w U.S. and abroad
 - Secondhand smoke, transportation differences, tap water taste, etc.
- Top safety complaint: pickpocketing and street harassment

Region	Health Complaint %	Safety Complaint %
Africa	36%	57%
Asia	27%	15%
Australia / Pacific Islands	9%	12%
Europe	29%	30%
Latin America	36%	34%



SAFETY IN CONTEXT

NEW ZEALAND – “Exercise increased caution in the United States due to the threat of terrorism (level 2 of 4)”

JAPAN – “[T]here is a growing concern that mass shootings at high risk of causing many casualties at once have been increasing in recent years”

UNITED KINGDOM – “Terrorists are very likely to try and carry out attacks in the US.”



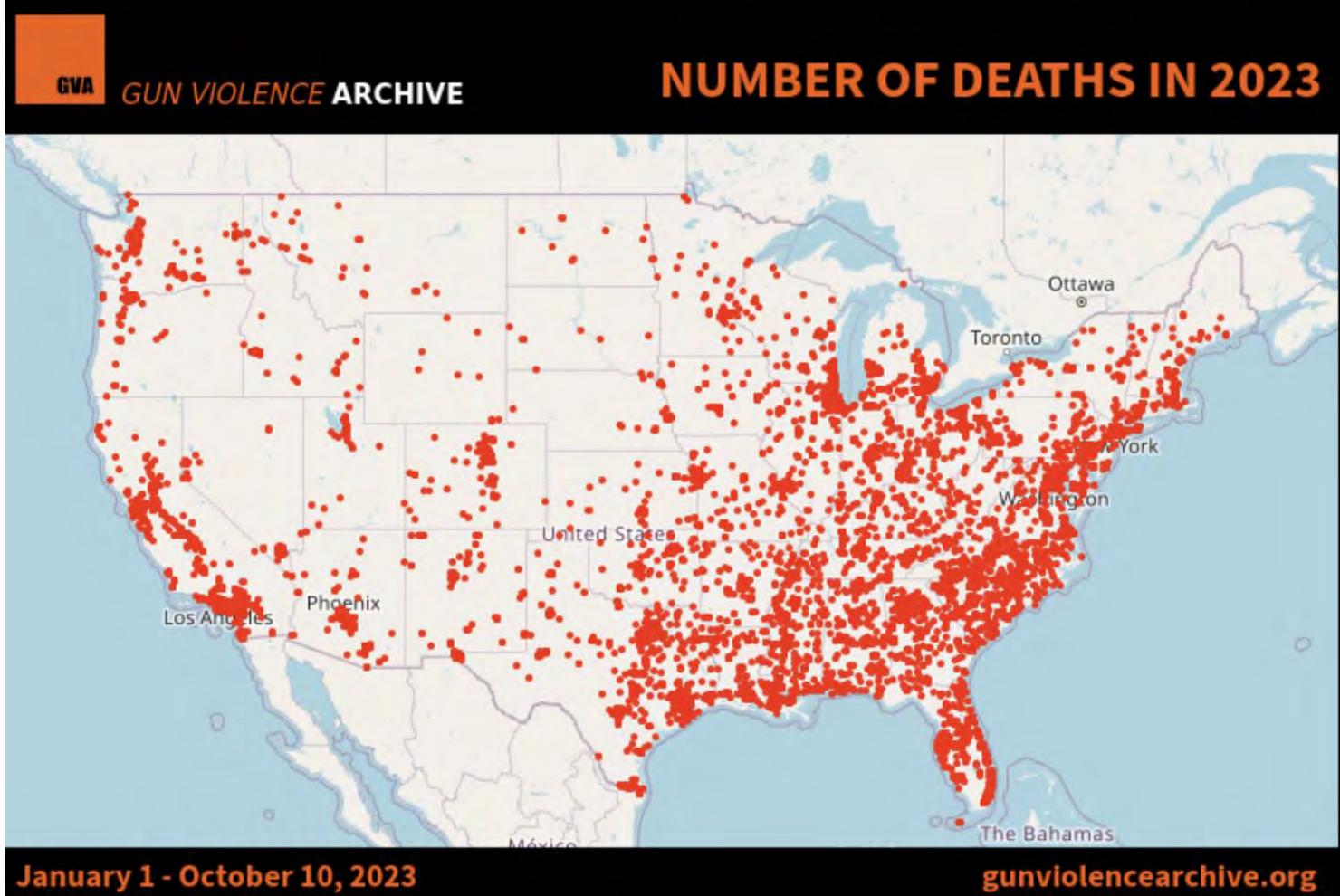
CONTEXTUALIZE SAFETY

GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE 2022

Evidence Based Research - since 2013

PUBLISHED DATE: October 10, 2023

Total Number of GV Deaths - ALL Causes⁴	44,399
Homicide/Murder/Unintentional/DGU ¹	20,309
Suicide ³	24,090
Total Number of Injuries¹	38,545
Mass Shootings ²	645
Mass Murders ²	36





ADDITIONAL SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Going through our office is the only way to ensure enrollment in Crisis24
- Tulane does NOT approve programs in Level 3 or 4 Travel advisory countries as determined by the State Department
- Challenging Perspectives: Spain and South Africa (Level 2) have the same travel advisory level. Argentina and Australia do as well (Level 1).
 - The advising team often hears from parents and students they only feel safe in Western Europe. This may not be the safest place physically, but emotionally.
- Students often have the same level of risk or less when abroad than being in New Orleans or another major city.
- Crisis alerts and active monitoring is a foundation of our office
- Advising team can have identity-specific conversations with your student and their location

SUMMER STUDY ABROAD

- OSA summer programs:
 - Dublin, Ireland
 - Stockholm, Sweden
 - Paris, France
 - Dominican Republic, Senegal, Brazil (short-term, location rotates)
 - Rome, Italy
 - Rural Greece
 - Intern in Barcelona, Spain
 - Cape Town, South Africa
- Freeman summer programs:
 - 23 programs at partner institutions on 6 continents
- Summer Programs have need-based funding as well



Questions?
osa@tulane.edu



Tulane