

A photograph of a Tulane University campus scene. In the foreground, there are several black lampposts with white lanterns. Attached to the lampposts are banners featuring the Tulane University logo (a shield with a 'T' and 'U' and the year 1834) and the text 'Tulane'. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

PREPARE THEM TO BE UNPREPARED: PARENTING A STUDY ABROAD STUDENT

Session Leaders:
NTC Office of Study Abroad

Tulane

Newcomb-Tulane College
Center for Global Education



Learning Outcomes:

- I can encourage a growth mindset in my student.
- I know what study abroad advisors can and cannot assist with.
- I can compare the impact of choosing a fall/spring/summer study abroad on on/off campus housing costs and program placement.
- I can explain the home school tuition model and why it is used.
- I can differentiate between staying here and going abroad when it comes to standards of living, health, and safety.

Two offices, one goal.

Office of Study Abroad (OSA)

- All Majors
- Partner programs
- This is us!

Freeman Abroad

- Business majors only
- All “exchange” programs
- Watch their webinar: families.tulane.edu

**Freeman Family
Webinar 11/19
at 6PM CST:
Register at
[FreemanAbroad.
Tulane.Edu](https://FreemanAbroad.Tulane.Edu)**

**Business majors
who want to
complete NTC
Requirements or
Freeman
electives**

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,
Assistant Director



Mike Whisenant,
Study Abroad Advisor



OSA OPERATIONS



Dr. Casey Love
Director of Global Education



Dr. Annie Gibson
Director of Study Abroad



Joanie Vicknair
Assistant Director for
Operations



Maddie Hayes,
OSA Advisor



Ilana Aquil
OSA Advisor



Mike Whisenant,
OSA Advisor



Siena Farrar,
Assistant Director
of Study Abroad Advising

Advising Support for Study Abroad





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.



HOW DOES TULANE PREPARE STUDENTS?

- Study Abroad Advisors
 - **All five** 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
 - Online canvas "handbook" with all PDO content for easy reference
- 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
- Signature Events: Study Abroad Fair, International Education Week
- Family Weekend Presentation Friday November 14th (This one!)

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, laundry) 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 ;)

"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



THE POWER OF 'YET'

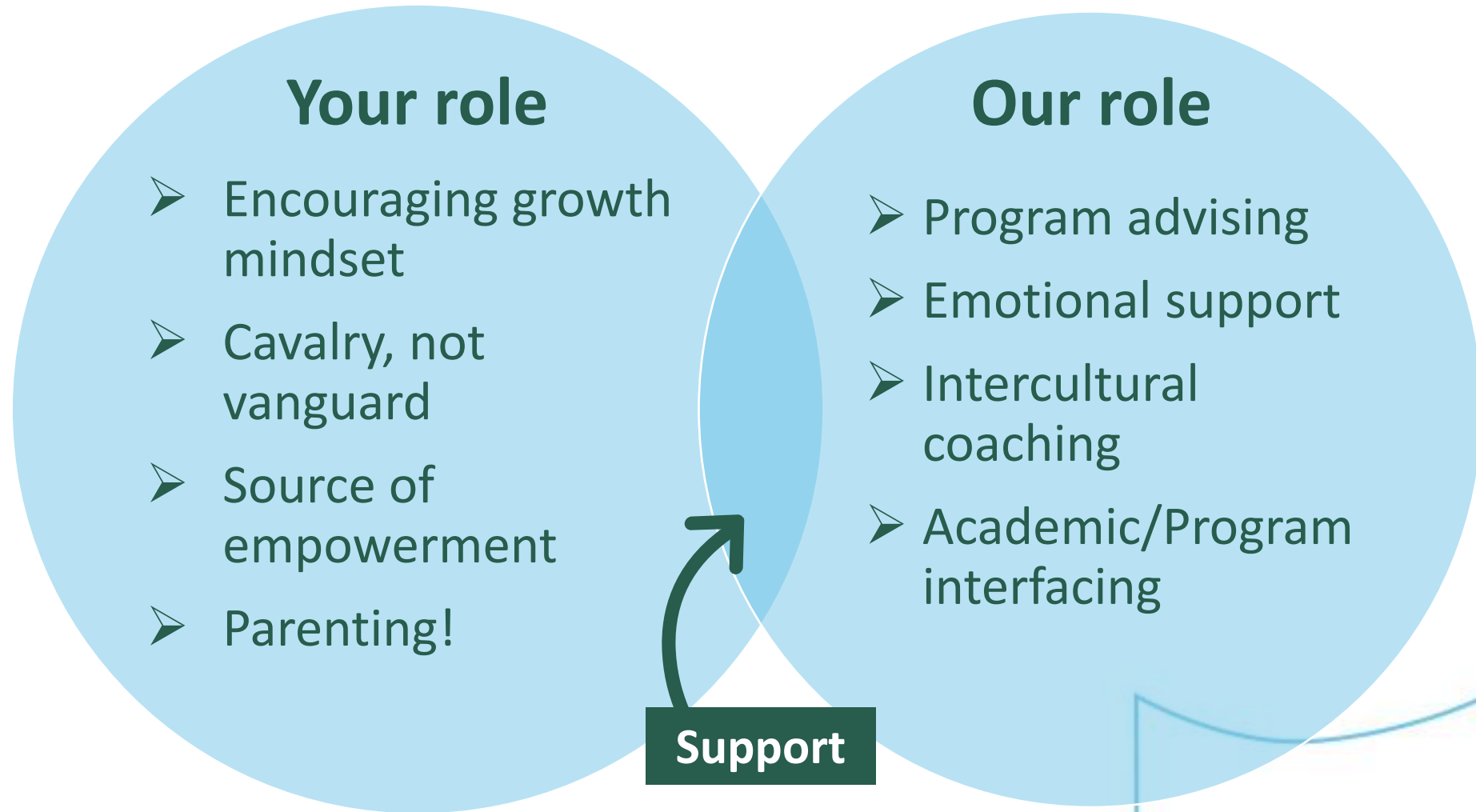
- One of the most powerful things you can do for your student while they are abroad is use 'yet' language
- We frame things like this to them, but **they'll listen more to you!**
- Why?
 - Encourages them to solve their own problems
 - **Reminds them pitfalls are not permanent**

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."



Working Together: Parents & OSA



HOW DO STUDENTS PICK PROGRAMS?

"Best Fit" may be influenced by...

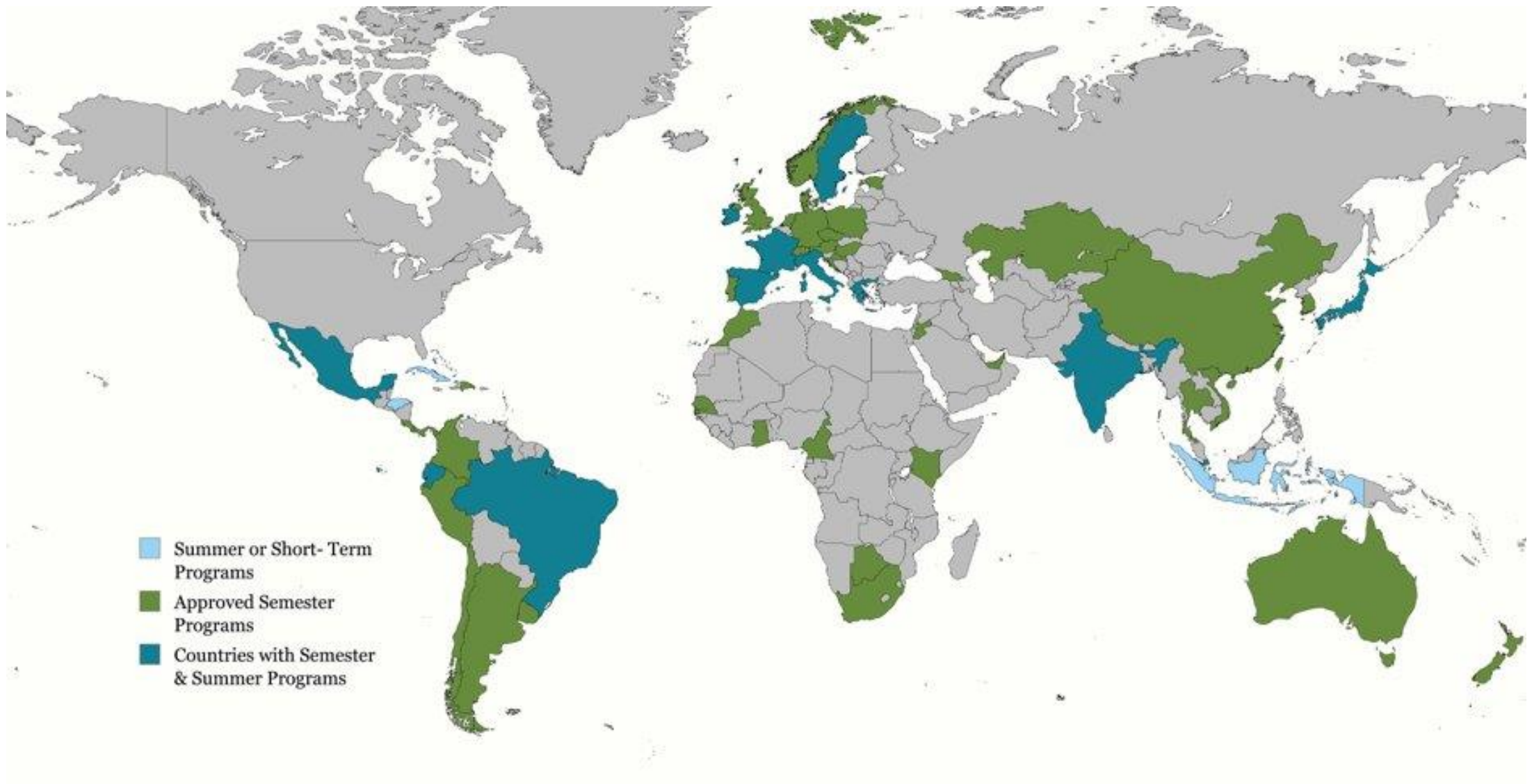
- Language Immersion
- Academic Culture
- Courses Offered
- Housing Options
- Region
- Heritage
- Physical Environment
- Program Model
- Internship or Research





Road work in the Marlyville neighborhood deems a driveway unusable in New Orleans, Tuesday, May 9, 2023. (Photo by Sophia Germer, [NOLA.com](https://www.nola.com), The Times-Picayune)

STAFF PHOTO BY SOPHIA GERMER



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**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**.

PROGRAM CAPS & BACK-UP PROGRAMS

- Certain programs are capped at 75 students.
- These affected programs for 2026/27 are:
CIEE Madrid, CIEE Barcelona, CEA CAPA Barcelona, and CEA CAPA Florence
- Why? Immersion and academic fit.
 - 64% of students on above program said fellow Tulane students prohibited immersion.
- If choosing to apply to one of these programs, you must actively choose a back-up program. (No capped programs can be a back-up choice)
- Applications will be evaluated on your goals for study abroad, as well as academic reasoning.
- For more information visit: **cge.tulane.edu/caps**
- **Consider spring.**





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** - manage 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 **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:

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

\$6,376 (suite style double room) + Program Housing Cost (~\$5,000) =

Full Year of Housing: \$11,376

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Both can live off-campus during senior year



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



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.
 - Pre-approvals exist for some majors! It is not exhaustive and students can still petition for more.
cge.tulane.edu/preapproved

WHICH OFFICE IS RIGHT FOR MY STUDENT?

Office of Study Abroad (OSA)

- Options to earn Freeman credit are available.
- Freeman course approval is required
- Some locations Freeman doesn't have (ex. Dublin)

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, 2026

OSA:
February 5th, 2026



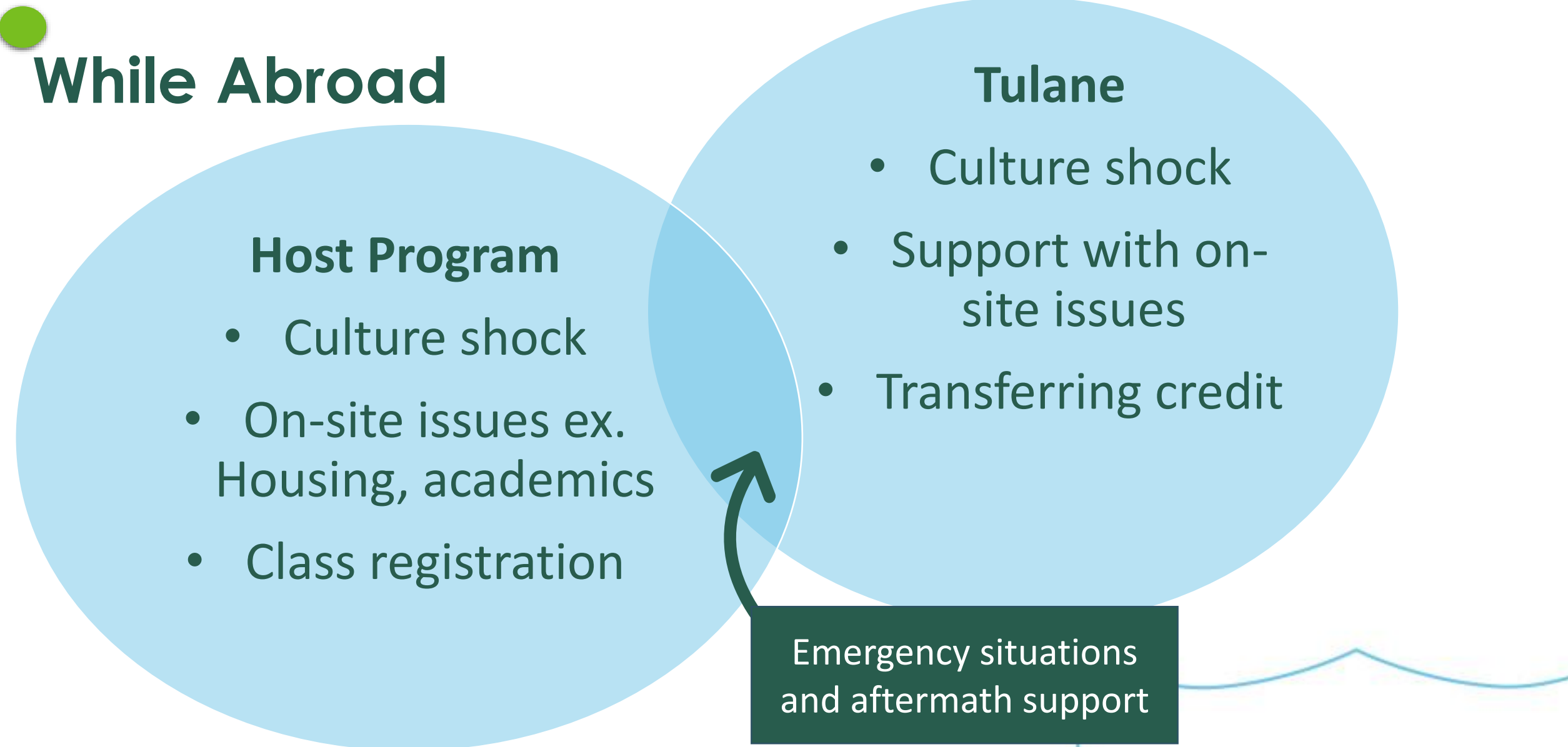
While Abroad

Host Program

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

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



Emergency situations
and aftermath support

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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.



IS STUDY ABROAD SAFE?

- Approximately 75% of study abroad students **had no concerns at all**
 - Most reported issues are when student is traveling away from home city.
- 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 2025

Evidence Based Research - since 2013

PUBLISHED DATE: November 04, 2025

Homicide/Murder/Unintentional/DGU ¹	12,482
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Total Number of Injuries ¹	22,796
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Mass Shootings ²	368
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Mass Murders ²	14
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Number of Children (age 0-11) ¹	Killed	191
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Injured	416
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Number of Teens (age 12-17) ¹	Killed	868
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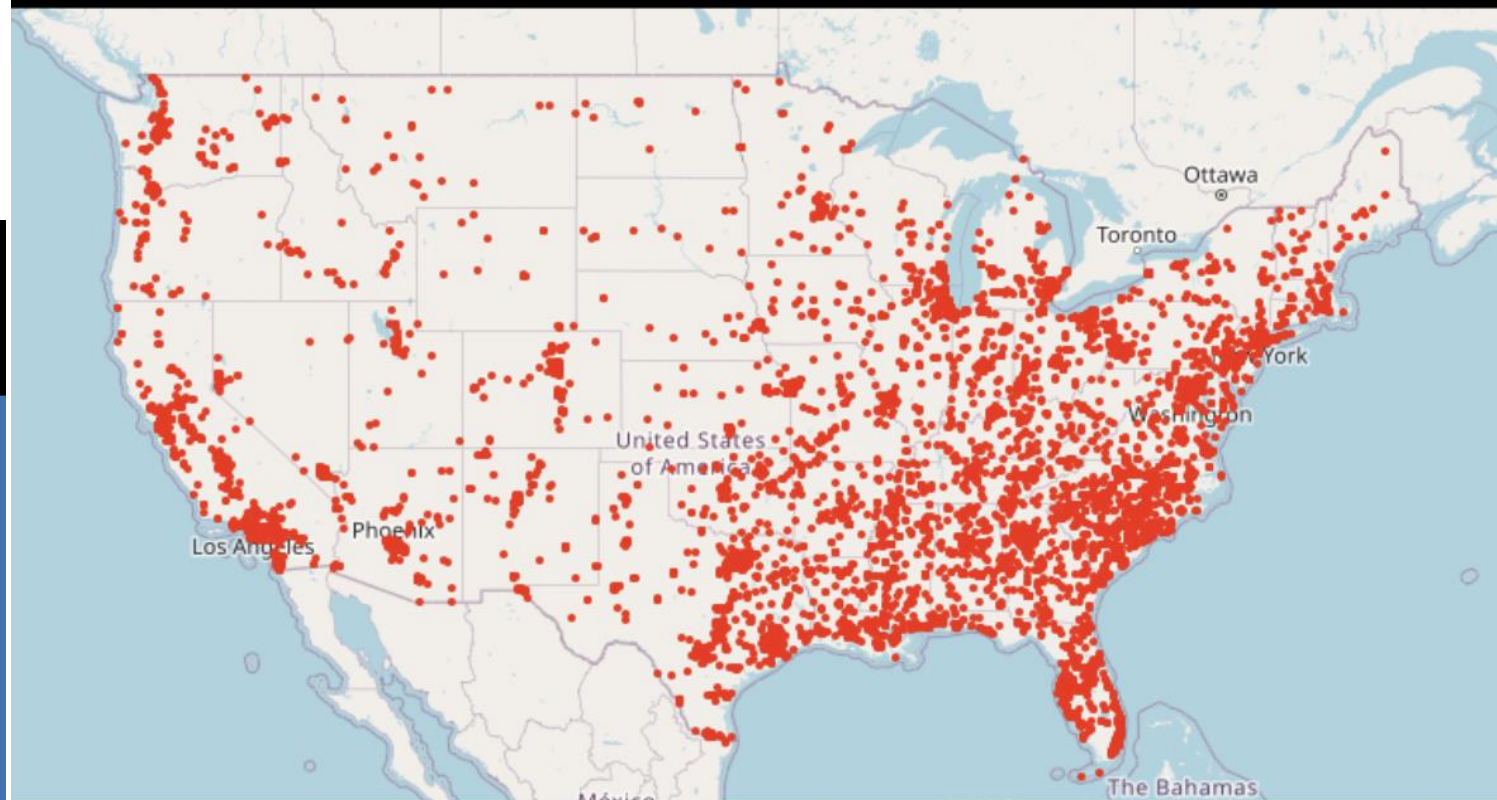
Injured	2,410
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GVA

GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE

NUMBER OF DEATHS IN 2025



January 1 - November 4, 2025

gunviolencearchive.org



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
- Challenge Your Perspective: **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
 - Greece
 - Intern in Barcelona, Spain
 - Singapore/Bali
 - Bahamas
- Freeman summer programs:
 - 23 programs at partner institutions on 6 continents
- Summer Programs have need-based funding as well




More events and info:

THE OFFICE OF STUDY ABROAD

COFFEE BREAK

SUMMER PROGRAMS EDITION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17
9 AM - 11 AM
CUDD HALL LOBBY



Summer Abroad Info Sessions

WED NOV **19**



LBC MOSES 211
GREECE
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

SINGAPORE & BALI
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

SWEDEN
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

SPAIN
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

IRELAND
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

BRAZIL
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

LBC KORACH 208
ITALY
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

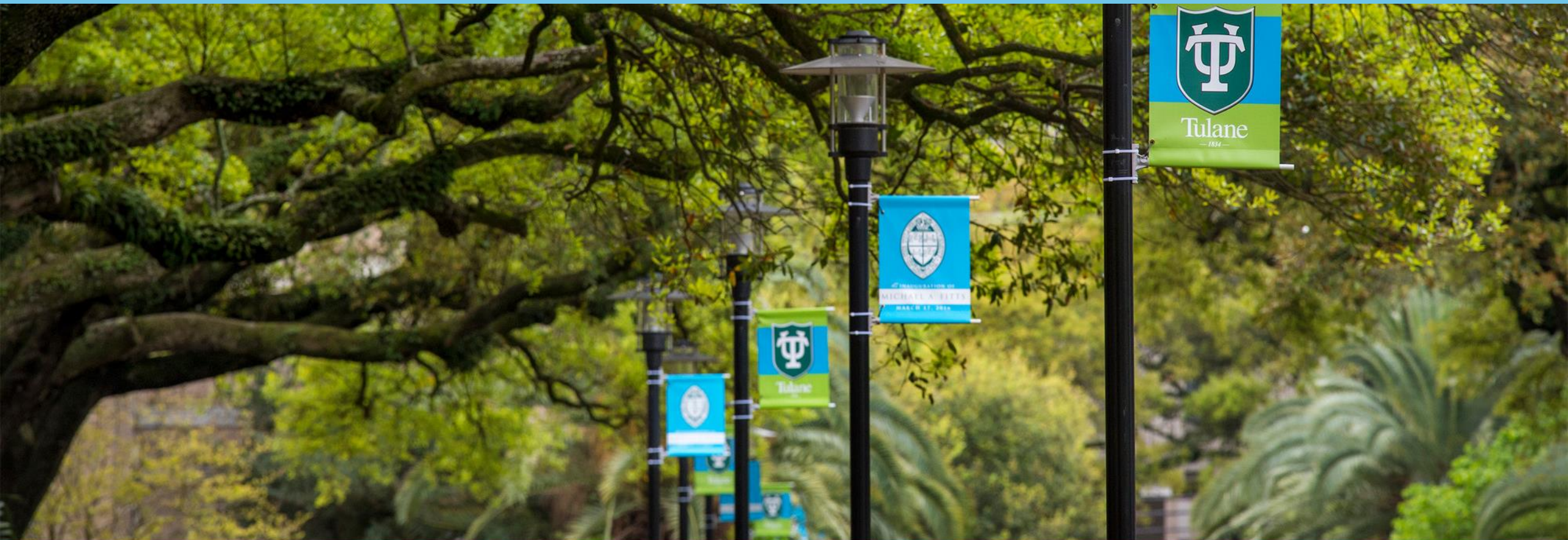
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Questions?
osa@tulane.edu



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