

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

Two Offices

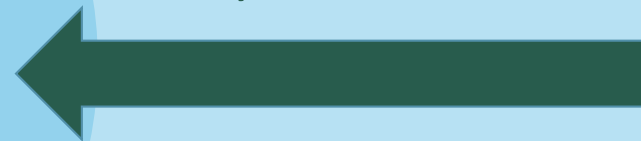
One Goal

Office of Study Abroad (OSA)

- All Majors

Freeman Abroad

- Business majors
only



Business majors who want
to complete NTC
Requirements

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OSA OPERATIONS



Dr. Casey Love
Director of Global Education



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OSA Advisor

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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 a time in the last few years you felt out of your depth?
- Was it your first time doing something?
- Have you been out of your comfort zone before?
- Did previous experience prepare you to tackle this challenge?

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!**
- 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."
- Why?
 - Encourages them to solve their own problems
 - **Reminds them pitfalls are not permanent**



HOW DO STUDENTS PICK PROGRAMS?

Language immersion

Academic culture

Courses offered

Housing options

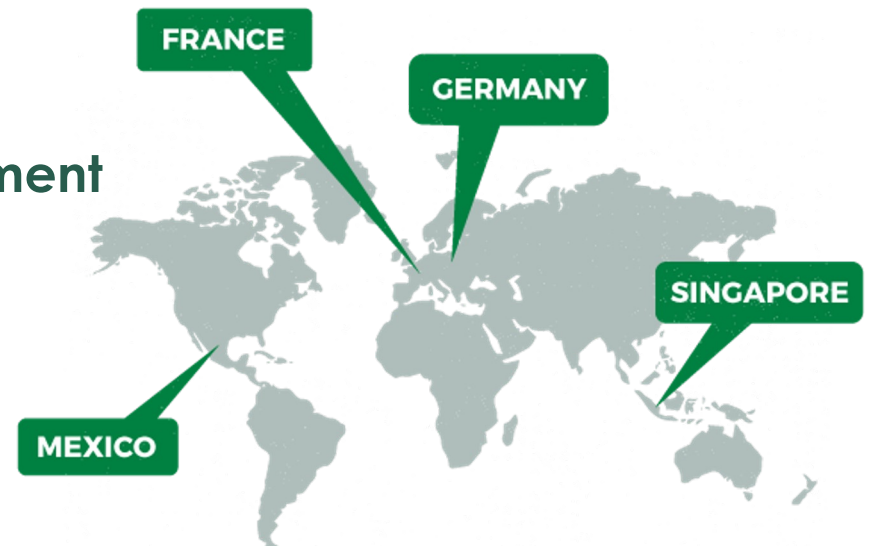
Heritage

Physical environment

Program model

Internship or Research

Region



OSA offers programs in every major spanning every world region.

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TOP
MAJORS
ABROAD

ACADEMIC
YEAR
2022-2023
•••

1# PSYCHOLOGY

#2 PUBLIC HEALTH

#3 COMMUNICATIONS

#4 POLITICAL SCIENCE

#5 NEUROSCIENCE

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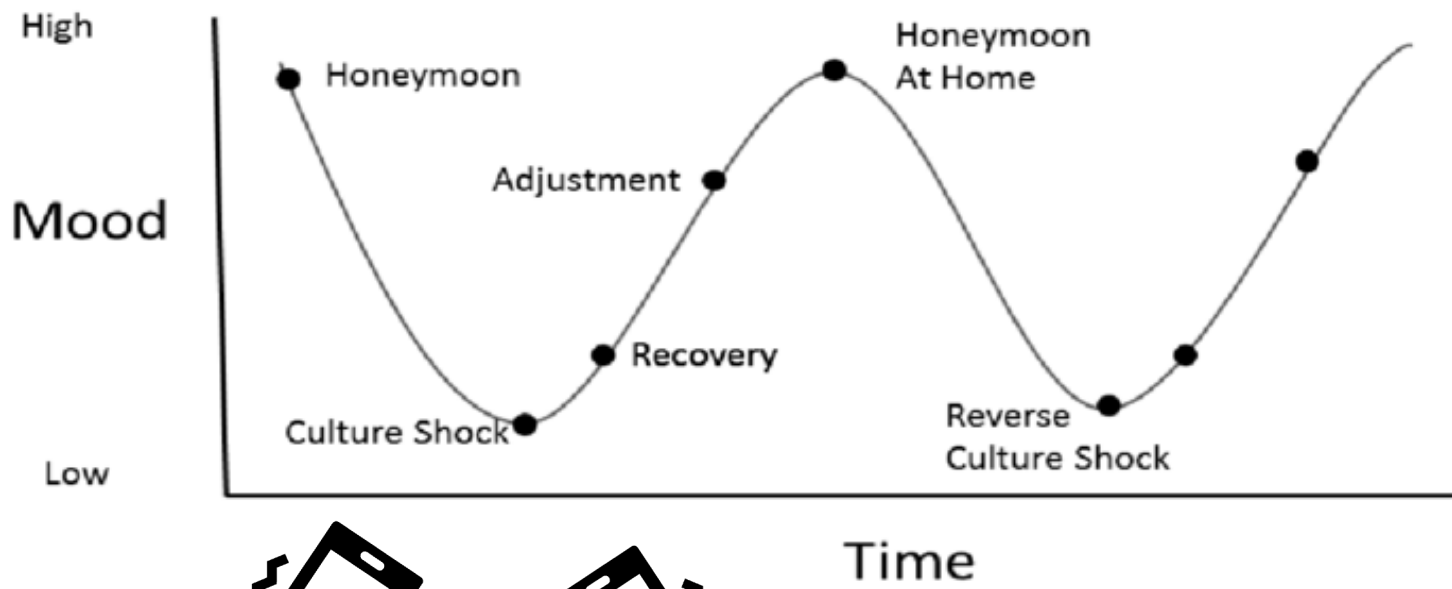


Where can study abroad at Tulane take them?

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WHAT HAVE STUDENTS DONE BEFORE?

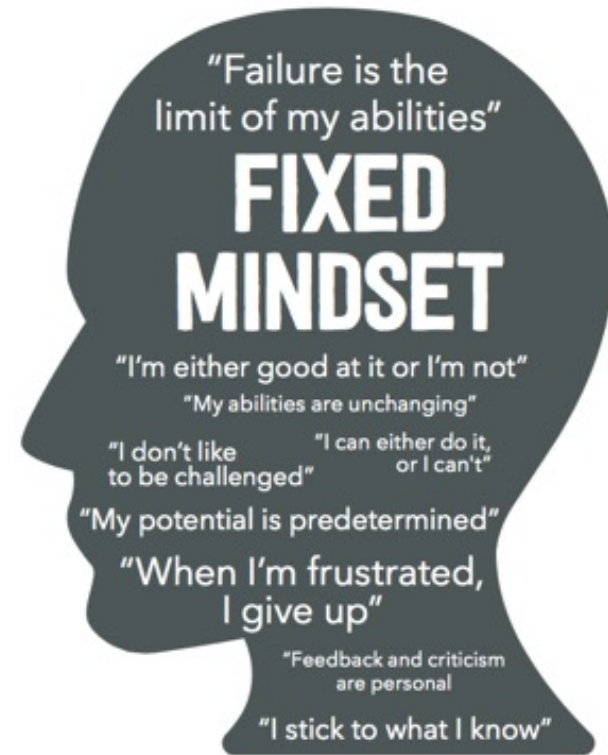
- Study the sustainability of coral reefs, coastal forests, and vulnerable fauna while observing rare and endangered wildlife in the **Galápagos**.
- Conduct a research assistantship in **Copenhagen** centering on reproductive technology access.
- Take part in an architecture studio at **National University of Singapore**, a leader in sustainable development and 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.



Source: Based on the U-curve (Oberg 1960) and extended by (Gullahorn & Gullahorn, 1963)



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

OSA AND PARENT COMMUNICATIONS

- We strongly encourage students to take ownership of the entire application and predeparture experience, as **this level of logistical preparation is part of the growth process.**
 - You can help them, but please don't hinder this growth opportunity.
- FERPA protects your student's privacy while abroad as well – **our office is based in the USA, and this is a US law.**
- Some countries **do not allow direct communications** between program staff and parents.
- 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.

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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
 - Meeting with **international students** from around the world



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WHAT IS HOUSING LIKE ABROAD?

- Three main types: dorms, apartments, and 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 and don't avoid it!
- 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

WHAT ARE CLASSES LIKE ABROAD?

- There is a **wide variety** of different programs and experiences
- Some will mimic an American university; some will be **fully integrated** into the host culture
- Students **match the academic style** of their host country or program
- Students may take classes with only other Americans or alongside students **from** the host university

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 your transcript but **will not be factored into your 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**.

HOW DO THEY MAKE FRIENDS?

- Being “alone” is **not** a complaint we commonly receive from students
- Students from Tulane **and other U.S. based** universities can participate on these programs.
- Opportunity to make new friends with U.S. students AND **students from their host country**. Study abroad is a worldwide phenomenon!
- Remind them of their Freshman year – maybe they knew some people coming into Tulane, maybe they didn’t, but they likely have friends now – it will be similar abroad
- Chance to build a **global network**
- With around 50% of Tulane students going abroad, there are likely to be familiar faces either on program or in town.
 - **We don’t recommend going with a large “pack” of Tulane students!**

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!



IS STUDY ABROAD SAFE?

- All students are registered in **Crisis24**
 - 24/7 security and medical assistance
 - Emergency Evacuation if airports are closed
- 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**
- Most **common** safety complaints:
 - pickpocketing
 - secondhand smoke
 - street harassment



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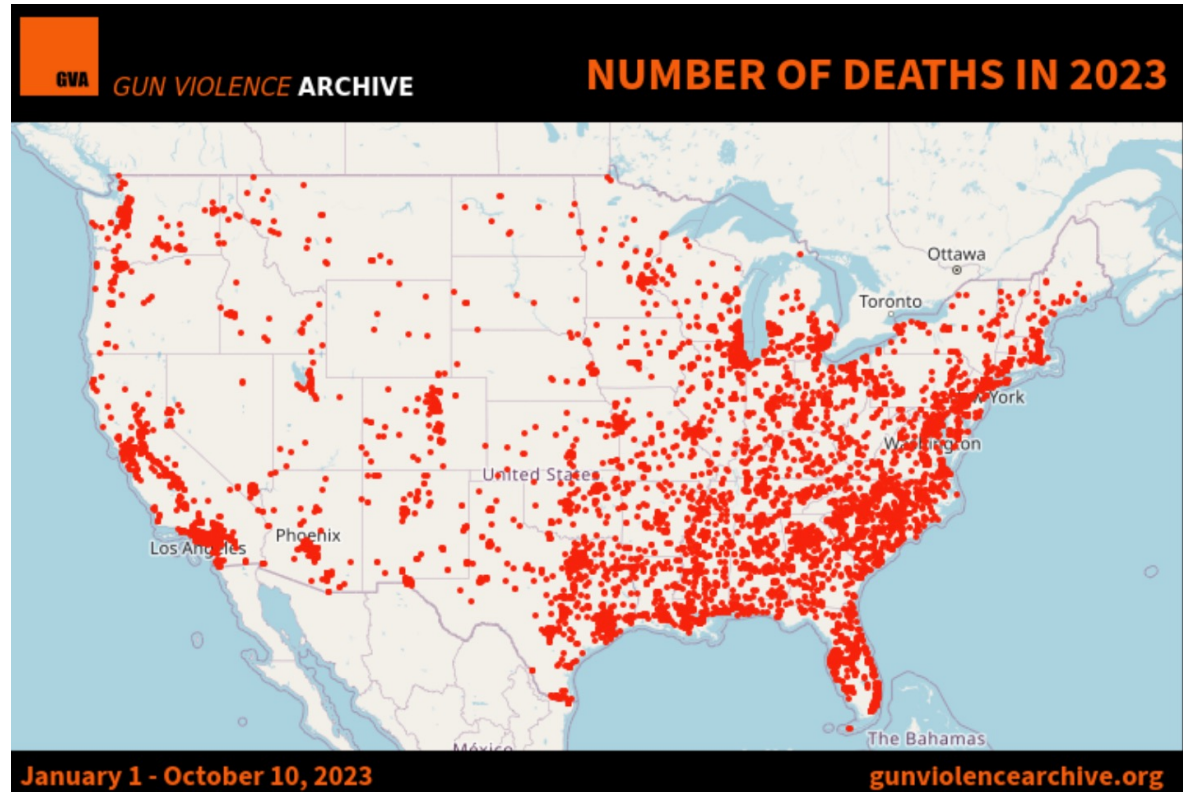
CONTEXTUALIZE SAFETY

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



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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
 - Stockholm
 - Paris
 - Dominican Republic, Senegal, Brazil (short-term, location rotates)
 - Rome
 - Greece
- Freeman summer programs:
 - 23 programs at partner institutions on 6 continents
- Summer Programs have need-based funding as well



Questions?
osa@tulane.edu



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