COUNTDOWN TO STUDY ABROAD

12 - 18 MONTHS AHEAD
- Discuss opportunities to study abroad with family, professors, advisers and program specialists
- Collect information from various programs and opportunities (especially deadlines)
- Consider what you can afford to spend for foreign study and how you will be able to afford to fund a study abroad program
- Look into financial aid and scholarships
- Talk to other students who have studied abroad for advice and suggestions
- Take any required exams
- Visit the Student Money Management Center to create a budget

6 - 12 MONTHS AHEAD
- Collect application forms for the program you are interested in
- Obtain any official transcripts and reference/recommendation letters that are required
- Complete application forms and apply for financial aid and scholarships
- Get official copies of birth certificate and documentation needed to obtain a passport and visa
- Retake any required exams if necessary
- Find out what kind of approval you'll need to get academic credit for overseas coursework

3 - 6 MONTHS AHEAD
- Apply for passport (http://travel.state.gov/passport)
- Check visa requirements for the country you plan to study in (https://cibtvisas.com/visa-quick-check)
- Make flight arrangements and purchase any other travel passes
- Attend any program-sponsored information sessions
- Arrange to receive any vaccinations needed to go abroad

1 - 2 MONTHS AHEAD
- Get an international student card to qualify for student discounts around the world
- Have a complete physical health exam with your doctor, if applicable
- Create a list of primary care physician and other specialists contact information, known food and drug allergies, medications and prescriptions
- Arrange for medical insurance while abroad
- Purchase travel insurance for personal possessions, lost or stolen money, airline and rail tickets, etc.
- Attend any program-sponsored information or orientation sessions
1 WEEK AHEAD

- Refill any prescriptions and collect any over-the-counter products that may not be available in your host country (check with your program to make sure they are legal)
- Get a doctor’s note authorizing your use of prescription medications you are taking with you
- Make photocopies of all important documents, tickets, and travel passes
- Prepare a folder to hold all insurance papers, school registration papers, medical records and copies of documents such as birth certificates; make a copy of all documents to leave at home
- Get international access codes and passwords for bank and credit cards
- Exchange a small amount of currency to carry with you

1 - 3 DAYS AHEAD

- Pack, keeping in mind airline regulations on what you can and cannot put in your luggage and carry-ons
- Place your documents folder in a carry-on bag, BUT keep airline tickets and passport separate from copies, perhaps in a small purse, wallet or “fanny pack”
- Confirm airline and other travel arrangements
- Compile a phone/address directory or list to take with you, including: family, friends, program sponsor, school at home and abroad, home country embassy or consulate
- Make a list of bank and credit cards; keep one in your document folder and leave the other with a parent or family member in case of emergency

DEPARTURE DAY

- Take two forms of ID, at least one should have a photo, to the airport
- Make sure to leave an emergency contact phone number with your family
- Place luggage ID tags on each piece of baggage with your destination address
- Arrive at the airport several hours ahead if you have an international flight