



STUDY ABROAD EXPLORATION: TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR LGBTQ STUDENTS

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- ❖ Every student has questions regarding their study abroad options. As an LGBTQ student, you may have additional questions or concerns. Feel free to discuss these topics with Kelly Lampe.

Below is a country specific listing of places that may, or may not, be a good option for you:

Excellent	Good	Up and Coming	More Investigation	Not Recommended
Belgium	Argentina	Australia	Chile	Egypt
Denmark	Czech Republic	Austria	China	Kenya
Sweden	England	Greece	Costa Rica	Singapore
	France	Israel	Egypt**	
	Germany	Italy	Hong Kong	
	Ireland	Japan	Kenya**	
	New Zealand		Russia	
	Scotland		Singapore**	
	South Africa		South Korea	
	Spain*			
	Sweden			

*Some cities/regions are better than others.

**Research thoroughly before considering these options.

***Please note: in doing the research, the majority of the information gathered was primarily specified for gays and lesbians. Also, this table is to be used as a guide. We cannot guarantee any country as being 100% accepting. The information on this hand-out was gathered from the websites listed below and from various on-line news articles.

Websites to check out:

Amnesty International:

www.amnestyusa.org/outfront/

Gay Times (country reviews, some things are not up-to-date):

<http://www.gaytimes.co.uk/>

NAFSA: Association of International Educators Rainbow Special Interest Group:

www.indiana.edu/~overseas/lesbigay/

Map of Homosexuality Laws:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:World_homosexuality_laws.png

Let's Go Guide On-Line:

www.letsgo.com

Out and About:

www.outandabout.com

STUDY ABROAD EXPLORATION:

POINTS OF CONSIDERATION FOR LGBTQ STUDENTS

1) Sexuality and Gender Stereotypes:

- What are gender relations in the host culture?
- What is considered typical male and female social behavior in the host culture?
- What makes the “coming out” process different in the host country compared to the U.S.?
- What is the social perception of gays and lesbians? How are they socially defined?
- What roles do transgendered people play in the host culture? For example, in Brazil the social role and definition of *travesti* (not to be confused with “transvestite”) is different from U.S. cultural norms.
- What is the difference between sexuality and sensuality in the host culture?

2) Law and Local Attitudes: “Legal but not legal?”

- Are there “public decency” laws? Or “public indecency” laws?
- Are there laws related to sex with minors? What is the cut-off age for minors?
- Are there “vagrancy” laws?
- Does the law require having “proper documentation” at all times?
- What is the police attitude towards the local GLBT community?
- Does the law apply the same to “upper class” and “working class” gays?
- Does the law apply the same in urban areas (cities) as in rural, in-country areas?
- Are there divorce laws? For example, Chile does not have a divorce law and this impacts social relations and perceptions.

3) Citizenship and GLBT Perception: Color, Gender and Nationality of Locals

- Could the GLBT student be perceived as a local and not as an “American”?
- Could the GLBT student’s skin color create a perception that the student is a local?
- Could the GLBT student’s dress style and/or jewelry create a perception of being a local?
- Could the GLBT student’s hairstyle and hair color create a perception that s/he is a local?
- Could the GLBT student’s language fluency create a perception that student is a local?
- What is the police attitude towards locals, Americans, or other nationalities?
- What is the police attitude towards GLBT “tourists” who are visiting the country?

(This page is adapted from a handout presented by Eero Jusurun, CIEE – NAFSA Conference 2001)
www.indiana.edu/~overseas/lesbigay/advise/GLBT_Handouts.htm