

International Programs
Participant Guide 2009

South Africa

CSU **The California State University**
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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This *Participant Guide* is designed to assist you with your preparation for your year abroad. We encourage you to share this information with your family and friends so that they can share in your experience. The *Guide* is revised annually and we welcome your suggestions

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Introduction

The *Participant Guide*

Congratulations on your acceptance to the California State University International Program in South Africa. It will be an exciting and challenging year. We are pleased that you will be joining a unique group of CSU students and wish you the best for your time abroad.

This *Participant Guide* is designed to help you deal with the various requirements for participation in IP. Carefully read the detailed information that follows in the various sections. They contain a lot of information about planning and paperwork you will need to do. You should also take this with you when you go abroad. We know that there are a lot of facts to absorb and a lot of things you have to do. Bear in mind, however, that you are going to be spending an academic year at a different university in a different region of the world—assuredly, a very complex undertaking. We will try to make it as easy as possible, but it will still require considerable effort on your part.

Undoubtedly, you have a lot of questions and as you go through the process of preparation you will have more. In addition to this booklet there will be a Regional Orientation that we strongly urge you to attend.

Although this *Guide* is revised and up-dated each year, it is based on the advice, insight and experience of thousands of students who have studied abroad on IP. Your own experience will be a personal and independent one. Studying and learning in an unfamiliar educational system, exploring the neighborhoods, learning your way around, finding your own place to meet and socialize – these will be part of your discovery of South Africa, and we wish you all the best. One of the most common pieces of advice from returning students is to keep an open mind. Be flexible and use diplomacy and humor to gain a better understanding of your new surroundings.

The CSU International Programs: An Overview

The International Programs (IP) was established by the CSU Board of Trustees in 1963 as the systemwide study abroad unit of The California State University. Under the direction of the Office of International Programs (OIP), students are offered an opportunity to enroll simultaneously in one of the CSU campuses—where they earn academic credit and maintain campus residency—and in a host university or a special study program center abroad for a full academic year of study.

IP's primary objective is to enable participants to gain first-hand knowledge and understanding of other areas of the world through a year of academic study. Students have the opportunity to increase their communication skills through participation in the language and culture of other countries.

Some overseas study centers have a Resident Director charged with the academic, administrative and advisory aspects of the program. Resident Directors are faculty members in the CSU. Other centers have either a Resident Coordinator who performs the functions of a resident director but is not a CSU faculty member, still others are administered by a responsible officer of the host institution.

Eligibility is limited to students who have achieved an overall grade-point average (GPA) in all college work of 2.75 at the time of their application to the program (except for Australia, Chile, Japan, New Zealand, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and specified programs where the minimum GPA is 3.0); who will have upper division or graduate standing during their year of study abroad (except for special learn language programs which are open to sophomores); who show ability to adapt to a new environment; who are, where required, sufficiently competent in the language of instruction at the foreign university; and who meet course preparation requirements where applicable. Selection is made by a faculty committee on the student's home campus and by a statewide faculty committee. Since more students apply than can be selected, selection is on a competitive basis.

Students assume costs for predeparture processing, insurance, transportation, housing and meals. The campus registration fee (the State University Fee), tuition on the home campus for nonresident students, and personal incidental expenses or vacation travel costs while abroad are also paid by the student. OIP collects and administers funds for those items that must be arranged or can be negotiated more effectively by a central office, e.g., the State University Fee (and nonresident tuition, where applicable), processing costs, insurance, and even housing in some centers. Students accepted by IP may apply for most types of financial aid available at their home campuses.

IP is supported by State funds to the same extent that such funds would have been expended had the students remained at their home campuses in California rather than going overseas.

IP has a faculty advisory body called the Academic Council on International Programs. It is composed of a faculty representative from each CSU campus. Representatives are appointed by their local Academic Senates and are eligible to serve two terms of three years. Three former IP students are appointed annually to full membership on the Academic Council.



IP Procedures

Your Acceptance to International Programs (IP)

The first thing we will need to know is whether you still plan to participate in IP. If you do, please sign and return the Agreement form by **October 15**. A copy for your records is included in the "Agreement" section of this *Guide*. If you do not plan to participate, please inform us in writing as soon as possible, so that an alternate participant may have the opportunity to take your place.

Alternate participants are selected for some programs when the number of qualified students exceeds the places available overseas. Alternates take the place of regular participants who withdraw before departure. If you were selected as an alternate, you must complete all requirements and make all payments just as if you were a regular participant. Based on previous experience, alternates have a good chance of ultimately becoming regular participants. You will be informed immediately when your status changes to that of regular participant.

Being an IP Participant

Being part of an established program, such as IP, involves commitments on the part of the participants as well as on the part of the program. At times, you will be expected to behave as a member of a group, such as at the on-site orientation and in other program activities. There are rules and regulations that you will be required to comply with as a program member that students who go abroad independently may not have to consider. While IP students generally have a great deal of independence while overseas, it is the case that your actions may affect your group or future groups of IP students. Thus, it is important to develop a sense of responsibility toward the program as well as your fellow IP participants.

The Systemwide Office of International Programs

Now that you have been selected for IP, you have become part of a statewide program. The details of your year overseas will be handled by the systemwide Office of International Programs (OIP) rather than by your individual CSU campus. **From now on, all questions about your participation in the program should be addressed to OIP.**

When making inquiries, we ask that you and not your parents contact us. Having supportive parents contributes to your success overseas; however, when it comes to the details of your participation, you must handle your affairs firsthand.

We are located in downtown Long Beach at the CSU Office of the Chancellor, not on the CSU, Long Beach campus as many assume. Our address is:

CSU International Programs
401 Golden Shore, Sixth Floor
Long Beach, California 90802-4210

Our telephone number is: (562) 951-4790. Please note that we are unable to accept collect calls from students.

OIP Staff:

Mr. Leo Van Cleve, Director
Ms. Jolene Colman, Department Secretary
Ms. Jan Terborg, Campus Relations Administrator
Ms. Sharon Okashima, Assistant Director, Finance
Ms. Joyce Cury, Student Funds/Scholarship Coordinator
Ms. Dana Rosón, Assistant Director, Student Services
Ms. Jeanine Beu, Student Services Assistant
Ms. Danielle Pattee, Student Affairs Assistant
Ms. Renata Bouwmeester, Assistant Director, Academic Services
Ms. Laura McCrary, Academic Services Assistant

Since IP participants come from all over the state, we will be communicating with you mostly in writing or by telephone. When calling or writing OIP, please make sure you indicate your CSU campus and overseas center so that we can identify you easily. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions about any aspect of your preparation for studying overseas.

While you are overseas, financial, academic, or other issues at your home campus may arise. In most cases, it is

not in your best interest to contact your campus directly. It is often much simpler for us to solve such problems as we are aware of your special status as an IP student. You should write to OIP through your Resident Director, Resident Coordinator, or host university contact. As those individuals are in close communication with OIP, we can contact the campus on your behalf.

Information for Participants

All participants receive the following:

The Participant Guide - Outlines requirements, policies and procedures regarding various aspects of your upcoming year, and gives advice on personal preparation.

- **The IP Bulletin (Included in this Guide)** - Describes the academic program and lists course offerings, or provides Internet links containing course descriptions. You will need this information in order to complete Academic Advisement form with a faculty advisor.
- **Student Experience Report (Included in this Guide)** Input from the current year participants at your center provides helpful information about the year overseas from the student perspective.

Online Packet #1 - Includes the forms necessary for your participation in IP. Before completing the forms, be sure to look over the relevant sections of this *Guide*.

Deadlines

- To make sure that all processing is completed in time, there are deadlines that have to be met. To help you identify these due dates, a pointing hand symbol A appears each time a due date is mentioned. You should mail all items to arrive by the dates indicated.
- In the front of this *Guide* there is a list of the due dates; failure to do so may jeopardize your participation in IP.
- If you have a problem completing a requirement, making a payment, or submitting any form on time, please call us for advice before the deadline. **It is not necessary to send materials and payments to OIP by overnight mail.**

Change of Address

Address • Telephone number
Cell phone number • Email address

It is your responsibility to notify us if your contact information changes.

It is very important that we always have up-to-date contact information on file for you. **It is your responsibility to let us know if this information changes.** Check the envelope this mailing came in to see that we have accurately recorded your name and current mailing address. Anytime there is a change in your address, telephone num-

ber, cell phone number, or email address between now and departure, please send us a Change of Address/Contact Information form. This form is included in Packet #1 online.

Registration

Do not register for classes at your home CSU campus while you are studying abroad. OIP arranges for you to be concurrently enrolled at your overseas study center and at your home campus.

Home campus registration for the term you return is once again your responsibility. Check your CSU campus' website for information on registration for that term. You may need to contact the campus to make sure that they have you as a continuing student as well as a current address.

Nonresident Students

IP is designed to provide CSU students the opportunity for an in-depth intercultural experience within a structured academic program. Participants are selected without regard to national origin, citizenship, or residence status. In a competitive situation, however, priority is normally given to those applicants who have not had extensive intercultural experience.

Resident aliens are advised to check with the US immigration officials on the possible effects of residence outside the US. Visa students must check with both their home country consular offices and the consular officers of their IP country to determine if any restrictions exist that might preclude participation. Students who are, or have been, citizens of their IP country may have additional restrictions or requirements placed on their admission by the host government and/or university. As an example, German universities require German citizens to possess the *Abitur* to qualify for admission. In all these cases, OIP needs to be informed.

Nonresident US citizens who are otherwise eligible to participate may apply to IP. Such students are subject to nonresident tuition charges.

Transfer Students

If you are a transfer student (entering a CSU campus for the term you are going abroad), you must provide OIP with two items: **a copy of your letter of admission** to the CSU campus, and **an updated transcript** from your former college/university. These items must be sent to OIP no later than **October 15**.

Payment of CSU Fees

Do not pay fees to your home CSU campus during the year you are participating in IP. Instead, you will make program payments to OIP. Nonresident students are required to pay the nonresident tuition charges to OIP as well.

Extracurricular Activities

Opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities are normally available at the overseas centers. Weekend trips, field trips or tours may be sponsored by student organizations or by the host university. Opportunities for individual or team sports may be available. Some of these activities are arranged under the auspices of the host university, and others may be available in the community. Cultural norms tend to determine the type and variety of athletic facilities, and few foreign campuses offer the athletic facilities and opportunities to be found on the typical CSU campus.

To some, international education is synonymous with travel. IP students are encouraged to avail themselves of the many opportunities they will encounter for recreational and educational travel abroad during and after their year of study. IP does not, however, give academic credit for travel, and such travel must not interfere with academic responsibilities. Recreational travel must be carried out during vacation and holiday time and not during class time. Students have the opportunity for extended travel at the end of the academic year. Costs for such travel are not included in the prepaid fees or cost estimates.

Hitchhiking is a dangerous practice and all IP students are strongly encouraged to avoid it.

Students are expected to maintain regular attendance in classes and to remain at the study center during the academic terms. During any absence from the study center, students should provide the Resident Director or host institution staff with details of their itineraries so that, if emergencies arise, the student can be contacted.

Housing & Meals

When housing and/or meal arrangements are made on a group basis by OIP, these must be used by participants. Request for exceptions to this requirement must be submitted in writing by **October 15**, and are reviewed by OIP on an individual basis. Married students and students with accompanying dependents may be required to make their own housing and meal arrangements even in cases where the program provides housing for single students. At study centers where students make individual housing decisions, they are individually responsible for fulfilling the financial and legal aspects of occupying their residences.

Changing Housing

If students begin the year in program-arranged housing, they may move out on an approved basis only if the following conditions are met:

- The host university dormitory authorities or other owner-managers concur and the student has met the terms of the lease or agreement.
- The move will not jeopardize the availability of housing for the following year.
- The Resident Director or Resident Coordinator, where applicable, approves.

- Any applicable penalty or quittance fees are paid.

Any refund to the student for prepaid housing fees will be made only to the extent that the housing authorities are willing to release IP from commitments made on behalf of the student.

In centers where IP places students in family-stay housing (e.g., Denmark, Japan, Mexico), termination of the arrangement before the end of the academic year may be accompanied by an assessment of two months' rent. The Director of International Programs will make the final decision as to whether this early termination charge will be levied; if so, it will be paid in full to the family affected.

If a student moves out of program-arranged housing for personal convenience, or is ejected from program-arranged housing as a result of misconduct, IP will not stand responsible for securing replacement housing for the student.

The terms of lawful leases, signed by students who occupy accommodations at IP study centers, and as interpreted by local officials under the terms of host country law, take precedence over IP's housing regulations. Students are subject to the full range of civil penalties for abuse of property or evasion of contractual obligations abroad in the same way they are subject to such provisions at home. Where legitimate debts arise from accepting accommodations owned or managed by the host universities, or other public entities associated with these universities, such debts may become debts owed to the Board of Trustees of The California State University and to the State of California.

Withdrawals

Prior to Departure

Students who decide not to participate in IP must complete the Predeparture Withdrawal Notification form and submit it to OIP as soon as possible so that alternate students may be offered the opportunity to participate. Refer to the next section for information on possible refunds. These students retain their status as continuing students at their home CSU campuses. It is their responsibility to contact their home campus regarding registration for the upcoming term.

After Departure

Because of the extensive commitments made by the State on each student's behalf, withdrawal after departure is a very serious matter. Students who request withdrawal at any time after arrival at the overseas site must consult with the Resident Director or Coordinator or host university representative, and complete the Program Withdrawal form.

Students who discontinue their academic programs without notifying the overseas staff or OIP may receive failing grades in all courses. Withdrawal after departure constitutes withdrawal not only from IP, but also from the student's home CSU campus for the remainder of the current term.

Students who are receiving financial aid should consult their home campus Financial Aid Office regarding any return or repayment of grant or loan assistance received.

In some instances, a change in visa status as a result of withdrawal from IP, and thus no longer having student status, may mean having to leave the host country immediately.

In all cases of withdrawals and disenrollments, students assume full responsibility for their return to their home, and thereby remove all liabilities and responsibilities from OIP representatives and staff and the Trustees of The California State University.

Refunds

Students are entitled to a full refund of all funds paid, less any funds already committed or expended on their behalf, provided that written notice of withdrawal is received by OIP **prior to November 15**.

Students who withdraw or are disenrolled **after November 15**, but before the beginning of instruction, will receive a refund of all monies paid to OIP less \$500 or an amount equal to funds committed or expended on their behalf, whichever is greater.

Students who withdraw or are disenrolled **after the beginning of instruction** will receive a refund of all funds not already committed or expended on their behalf.

State University Fee refunds will be based on the amount paid to OIP, effective withdrawal date, financial aid status (if applicable) and enrollment status at the overseas university.

No refunds will be made for health insurance cancellations after departure.

No refunds will be made for nonparticipation in IP group activities.

Determinations concerning eligibility for refunds and the amount and date of refunds shall be made at the discretion of the Trustees.

If students who receive financial aid withdraw, they may be required to make immediate restitution of monies awarded for participation in IP.

For those students who fully participate in the program, a separate accounting is made to each participant of all funds collected and expended on their behalf by OIP. As OIP makes liberal estimates of costs to cover all likely contingencies, there is usually a small amount of money left in each student account. These funds are normally returned to the students as a post-program year refund. Refunds to students are made at the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees. The Director of the International Programs, as agent for the Trustees, may make exceptions to this policy at any time without advance notice, and may make individual determinations. In particular, the Director may withhold refunds in those cases where students have not appropriately discharged their legitimate debts and claims to host institutions overseas. Refunds are processed at the end of the academic year, when a full accounting can be made. Completing this final accounting may take up to three months or more after the end of the academic year, depending on billing practices in the host country.

Renewal Students

IP is designed as a one-year academic experience; however, some students will want to spend a second year overseas. Renewal applications will be considered taking into account the following factors:

- The renewal applicant does not take the place of an eligible first-time participant.
- Graduate students are not eligible to renew.
- The overseas center and host university can accommodate the student and assume the additional academic and administrative responsibilities.
- The renewal applicant has the support of the overseas Resident Director or Coordinator or host university representative, home campus administrators, and the academic advisor.
- The renewal application is received in OIP by March 1.

Students with Dependents

If you indicated on your application that you will be accompanied overseas by your spouse and/or children, you must complete a copy of *Information for Students with Accompanying Dependents* which you will find in Packet #1 online. It discusses some topics such as housing and child schooling, and the attendant extra expenses. Also included are *Instructions for Students with Dependents* listing the items that OIP needs from you and a worksheet for you to calculate the extra expenses for your dependent(s). The *Application for IP Group Health and Accident Insurance for Accompanying Dependents* (also in Packet #1) should be sent to OIP by **October 15**.

Note: OIP can provide assistance to **legal** dependents only, i.e., spouses and children.

Student Conduct

General

During their stay overseas, IP participants are not only responsible for their own personal conduct, but how their actions reflect on IP, the CSU, the State of California, and the US. Abuse of the hospitality of a host university or community on the part of a few can result in the loss of opportunities for many. It is important, therefore, that participants pay particular attention to the acceptable norms of conduct in their respective host countries and abide by those standards. Under most circumstances simple honesty, courtesy, restraint and respect for the law are usually sufficient guides for proper conduct anywhere.

Standards of student conduct for IP students are established both in domestic and host country law, policy, and practice. The standards of conduct also form part of the agreement signed between the student and the CSU Board of Trustees. In some cases, host countries and institutions apply standards that differ substantially from those normally applied within the CSU. The CSU has concluded agreements with host institutions abroad that recognize the au-

thority of those institutions to apply their own standards to CSU students. It is incumbent, therefore, on students to be fully aware of their responsibilities to the CSU as well as to the host university and country.

Unacceptable Conduct

IP students are selected for their maturity and seriousness of academic purpose. These qualities are inconsistent with inappropriate or unacceptable conduct and such conduct is exceedingly rare among the members of this group. To be clear, however, the following constitute unacceptable conduct:

- cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program;
- forgery, alteration, or misuse of official documents, records, or identification, or knowingly furnishing false information;
- misrepresentation of oneself or of an organization to be an agent of the CSU International Programs;
- obstruction or disruption, on or off International Programs property, of the educational process, administrative process, or other official function;
- physical abuse, on or off International Programs property, of the person or property of any member of the International Programs staff, faculty, or student body, or the threat of such physical abuse;
- theft of, or non-accidental damage to, International Programs property, or property in the possession of, or owned by, a member of the International Programs faculty, staff, or student body;
- unauthorized entry into, unauthorized use of, or misuse of International Programs property;
- the sale or knowing possession of dangerous drugs, restricted dangerous drugs, or narcotics, as those terms are used in California statutes, except when lawfully prescribed pursuant to medical or dental care, or when lawfully permitted for the purpose of research, instruction, or analysis;
- possession, or use of, explosives, dangerous chemicals, or deadly weapons on International Programs property;
- engaging in lewd, indecent, or obscene behavior;
- abusive behavior directed toward, or hazing of, a member of the International Programs community;
- violation of any order of the Director of International Programs, or of the Resident Director;
- violation of International Programs rules and regulations as specified in official International Programs publications and correspondence;
- failure to attend classes to the extent normally required;
- failure to carry out a required portion of the program;
- violation of the laws of the host country or the political subdivisions thereof;

- violation of the rules and regulations of the host university institution;
- violation of the terms of stay or visa restrictions imposed by the host country;
- participation abroad in any event, activity, or conspiracy of a political nature, or the making of any public statement which might tend to embarrass or inconvenience the CSU International Programs or endanger the welfare of participating students;
- conduct which might be harmful to the International Programs or infringe upon the opportunities and benefits available to participating students;
- failure to discharge lawful debts abroad in a responsible and timely manner;
- conduct which represents a danger to the personal safety of the student involved or to other students, faculty, or staff members;
- flagrant disregard of local customs, mores or beliefs which might result in offending or antagonizing host country citizens or officials;
- violating the rights of any other participating student or students, faculty or staff members;
- soliciting or assisting another to do any act described above.

Sanctions

Each International Programs student signs an agreement with the CSU Board of Trustees which recognizes the authority of the Director of International Programs as the agent of the Board of Trustees, and at the sole discretion of the Director, to apply appropriate sanctions for the violation of the above items of unacceptable conduct, or other items of unacceptable conduct which the Director, again at the sole discretion of the Director, shall establish. Such sanctions are rarely applied, but must be brought to the attention of program participants:

- **Reprimands** – Verbal or written notice of unacceptable conduct. Reprimands set forth requirements for improvement of behavior and are intended to assist the student in correcting that behavior as part of the educational process where the conduct is remediable;
- **Probation** – Written notice of unacceptable conduct which sets forth specific terms required to avoid termination of enrollment where such conduct is deemed remediable, but of a serious nature;
- **Disenrollment** – Disenrollment and expulsion of a student from IP is the final sanction available to the Director of International Programs as a means to remove students from the program who have committed serious infractions and whose unacceptable conduct is deemed unremediable. Students being considered for disenrollment are provided a fair and timely opportunity to explain, justify or deny the behavior in question, or to raise matters of mitigation prior to any decision to disenroll. Disenrollment means termination of

status as an enrolled student, the probable termination of legal status in the host country, and withdrawal from the academic program at the host institutions abroad with all of the attendant academic and personal consequences thereof. Disenrollment from IP is not necessarily prejudicial to a continuation of enrollment at the student's home CSU campus; depending on the seriousness of your action, students may be subject to additional action.

- **Summary Disenrollment** – On those occasions where serious incidents of unacceptable conduct are combined with any form of imminent danger to the personal safety or health of the student involved, or where any threat to the safety, health or well-being of any other student participant, faculty member or staff member is involved, or where the continued operation of the International Programs is placed in imminent jeopardy by the conduct of the student involved, the Director of International Programs may carry out, at his sole discretion, an immediate disenrollment of the student involved without opportunity of appeal or mitigation.

Grievances

Students who believe that they have been treated unjustly, or have been victims of an error on the part of the staff or the administration of IP, should make every effort to resolve the issue by consulting the Resident Director, if applicable, or the Director of International Programs. Should there be no satisfactory resolution of the problem, it will be the responsibility of the Director of International Programs to advise students with grievances in a timely manner on the availability of additional channels of appeal or assistance as may be appropriate and applicable to the circumstances involved.

CSU International Programs Alcohol Policy

IP does not tolerate alcohol abuse by its participants. Alcohol may be consumed by IP participants of legal drinking age (in the host country). Students must understand that, if they choose to drink alcohol, they remain accountable for their actions and, therefore, must drink responsibly, following all host university and country rules and laws related to alcohol. Prior to departure, students are advised to research their host country's alcohol-related customs and laws.

The intent of this alcohol policy is to help IP achieve the following goals:

- Ensure that alcohol is never the primary focus of an IP event.
- Communicate to IP participants that they are expected to act responsibly regarding their consumption of alcoholic beverages while living abroad.
- Raise student awareness that, when choosing to consume alcohol abroad, students are subject to the local laws related to alcohol consumption.
- Remind IP Resident Directors and staff overseas that they should strive to create an atmosphere that does not

encourage students to drink alcohol and that respects those who choose to abstain.

- Warn students that excessive drinking or drunkenness is not condoned and will never serve as an excuse for misconduct.
- Encourage students to be aware of local customs and laws related to alcohol consumption.

CSU International Programs Statement on Sexual Harassment

Sexual Harassment

It is the policy of the CSU to maintain a working and learning environment free from sexual harassment of its students, employees, and applicants. All students and employees should be aware that the CSU is concerned and will take action to eliminate sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is conduct subject to disciplinary action.

As a CSU program, IP is concerned about sexual harassment abroad. This policy statement and the procedures below apply to students and employees of the CSU. Students should be aware that this policy does not apply to faculty, students and staff of host institutions abroad.

IP emphasizes the importance of orientation and open communication in order to promote a preventive approach that addresses and explains issues before they escalate into more serious problems.

Is There an International Definition of Sexual Harassment?

IP participants should understand that a definition of sexual harassment abroad must take into account the legal system and culture of the host country. Legal standards and cultural norms may be different than those in the US and this can make harassment difficult to identify abroad.

During orientations before departure and once abroad students will receive information regarding the host country and culture. In some cultures verbal comments that may be offensive in the US may be acceptable abroad. At the same time some types of dress that are considered appropriate in the US may send different messages abroad.

Reporting Sexual Harassment

All alleged incidents of sexual harassment should be reported to the Resident Director, Resident Coordinator or host university contact person. That person will consult with OIP regarding the issue. OIP will consult with other appropriate staff as necessary. On-site personnel and OIP staff should keep a written record and notes of any conversation surrounding these allegations.

Responding to Sexual Harassment

Staff should respond to complaints in accordance with IP policies and procedures for responding to such allegations.

Intercultural Gender Relations

It is equally important for both men and women traveling abroad to understand issues surrounding intercultural gen-

der relations. Gender relations may be initiated differently in different cultures and all students traveling abroad should educate themselves about their host country's customs and norms before they go. Knowledge increases competent behavior, which can also be important for personal safety.

Before going abroad, students are encouraged to learn about how interpersonal relationships are initiated in their host country. Understanding the meaning behind certain behaviors that are second nature in the US may drastically affect your experiences with host nationals abroad. Such things as clothing styles, make-up, cologne, eye contact, facial expressions, distance between people talking and even hairstyles may send unintended messages in another culture. Students who are unaware of these cultural differences may inadvertently find themselves in uncomfortable or dangerous situations.

Therefore, students are urged to learn as much as possible about the cultural norms of their host country. Your IP Campus Coordinator may be able to point to some valuable reading material on the subject of culture. Another way to learn about your host country's culture is to talk to former IP participants or to international students from that country. Every CSU campus has an international student office that may be able to introduce you to students from the country you will be going to. Again, knowledge increases culturally appropriate behavior.

Privacy of Student Information

Section 7(b) of Federal Public Law 93-579, popularly referred to as the Privacy Act of 1974, became effective January 1, 1975. This section of the statute requires that any federal, state, or local government agency which requests an individual to disclose his Social Security account number shall inform that individual whether that disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, by what statutory or other authority such number is elicited, and what uses will be made of it.

The application for admission to The California State University International Programs requires each applicant to provide his or her Social Security number. Authority for this requirement is found in Section 41201 of Title 5 of the Cali-

fornia Code of Regulations, and Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The student's Social Security number is used as the individual identifier in all student records which may include application files, registration records and certification documents, academic records, financial aid and transaction records, and transportation and insurance documents. Also, the Internal Revenue Service requires the University to file information returns that include the student's Social Security number and other information such as the amount paid for qualified tuition, related expenses, and interest on educational loans. That information is used to help determine whether a student, or a person claiming a student as a dependent, may take a credit or deduction to reduce federal income taxes.

It is IP policy to protect the personal information of participating students from unnecessary or inappropriate disclosure. Personally identifiable records are not shared or distributed to private individuals or agencies unless such sharing or distribution is authorized by the student or unless otherwise provided for in law. In circumstances where the safety or well-being of participants may be involved, information derived from official files, reports or records relating to participants individually or collectively may be utilized as deemed appropriate by the Director of International Programs for official purposes. Such information may be disclosed pursuant to host country law or regulation whether or not such disclosure is consistent with the laws or regulations of the US or the State of California.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The CSU International Programs welcomes diversity in its student body and seeks to include all who share its values of improved intercultural communication and international understanding. No person shall on the basis of race, color, sex, disability or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to unlawful discrimination under the International Programs.



Preparing For Your Year

Passports

You must have a passport to leave from and return to the United States. **Apply now for a passport if you do not have one**, or renew your passport if it has expired. If you already have a passport make sure that it is **valid six months beyond your stay abroad**. Do this as soon as possible, as the process can take several weeks.

If you are applying for a passport for the first time, you must apply in person. You can apply for or renew your passport at over 4,500 passport acceptance facilities nationwide that include many federal, state and probate courts, many post offices, some libraries and a number of county and municipal offices. These designated facilities are very convenient because they are located near your home. We recommend that you start by contacting the largest post office or courthouse in your area. You can find information on the web about how to obtain a US passport at:



Passport Services and Information:
<http://travel.state.gov/passport/index.html>

If you need your passport urgently, you are advised to go to one of the passport agencies listed below in person. Note: you will probably need an appointment, so we advise you to call ahead.

Los Angeles Passport Agency

Federal Building
11000 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1000
Los Angeles, California 90024-3615
Telephone: (310) 575-5700

San Francisco Passport Agency

95 Hawthorne Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, California 94105-3901
Telephone: (415) 538-2700

The following items are needed to obtain a US passport:

1. Proof of citizenship: A previous US passport, naturalization papers, or if you were born in the US, a CERTIFIED copy of your birth certificate bearing the seal of the city, county, or state custodian of records. Hospital birth

records are not acceptable. Make sure that you have the proper documents to avoid delays in getting your passport. Bear in mind that obtaining out-of-state birth records can take as long as six weeks.

2. Proof of Identity (previous passport, current and valid Driver's License, government ID, military ID, student ID).
3. Two recent identical passport photos.
4. Be prepared to pay a fee (\$100 as of 2/1/08) by cash, check or money order. Not all passport agencies accept credit cards.
5. Complete application form DSP-11 (Do not sign it until the Passport Acceptance Agent tells you to do so.) These are available from passport agencies, acceptance facilities, and on the Internet from the US State Department.
6. Know your Social Security number. You do not need your card, but you do need to provide your Social Security number.

After you receive your passport, sign it and keep it in a safe place until your departure. Send a photocopy of the pages of your passport with your photograph and personal information to OIP by **May 15**. It is also a good idea to make yourself a photocopy of the pages with your photograph and personal information. Keep this copy separate from your passport.

Visas

A visa is an endorsement or stamp placed in your passport by a foreign government which permits you to visit that country for a specific purpose and a limited time. All IP students must obtain a visa for study in South Africa. You will apply for the visa through the South African Consulate in Los Angeles. It can take from four to six weeks to process a visa (longer for non-US citizens). You should be aware that the South African government may deny a visa to an applicant. If this occurs, OIP cannot intervene on your behalf.

Students are advised not to make travel plans prior to the official IP program start date. It is possible that you will not have your student visa or passport back in time to travel abroad early. Unfortunately, there is nothing OIP

can do to speed the visa application process. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not plan to travel before the official program start date.

Students should also note that the South African government requires that all students leave once their academic program ends. Travel throughout Africa is permitted, but you must leave South Africa when the academic year ends because your student visa will expire.

To apply for the student visa for South Africa, students will need:

- All applicants must be in possession of a valid visa before entering South Africa. Visas must be kept valid at all times.
- Complete all of your visa application materials **now** so that they are ready to be sent once you receive your official acceptance letter from South Africa.
- Allow at least three weeks before departure for your visa documents to be processed by the South African Consulate General in Los Angeles and your passport and visa to be returned to you. Send the application as soon as you receive your acceptance letter from your host institution.
- If you plan to leave South Africa and return to South Africa (vacation, travel, etc.), ensure that you are in possession of a valid South African **"multiple-entry"** visa. The South African consulate issues single entry permits unless requested otherwise. This is not sufficient if you intend to travel outside the country during vacation. Should you fail to do so, you will be faced with a fine at the port of entry and may not be permitted to return to South Africa. We suggest that all students request a "multiple-entry" visa.
- The offer of a place at University of KwaZulu-Natal or Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University does not bind the South African Consulate General to grant you a visa, nor does it waive the need to obtain official permission to enter the country. If you are denied a visa, IP is unable to mediate in such matters.

The following visa instructions apply to US citizens only:

Mail your **official acceptance letter from your South African host institution** and the items below via Federal Express to:

The South African Consulate General
6300 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 600,
Los Angeles, CA 90048
tel: 323-651-0902 ext.115 fax: 323-651-5969
(Visa hours 9am-12pm M-F)
<<http://www.link2southafrica.com/>>

1. **Your original, signed US passport:** Must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended date of departure from South Africa, containing at least 2 blank pages.

2. **Your Birth Certificate:** Make a photocopy of your birth certificate and attach this to your visa application.
3. **Visa Application for Temporary Residence in South Africa (B1-1738, Form 8)** <www.southafrica-newyork.net/consulate/forms/bi1738.pdf>. **Complete through Part B only.**
4. **Two official passport photos:** Attach with paperclip to visa application. Print your name on the back of each photo. Photo booth photos are not acceptable.
5. **Repatriation Guarantee:** This must be signed by a Notary Public. Submit with your visa application and be sure to keep a photocopy with your passport when you enter South Africa in case you need to present it to a Customs Officer.
6. **A copy of your return ticket or *Itinerary* indicating your round-trip travel:** submit a copy of the group flight itinerary showing reserved round trip travel.
7. **Your money order or cashiers check in the amount of \$72.00,** payable to "*South African Consulate General.*" Personal checks and credit cards are not accepted. This application fee is non-refundable.
8. **Official acceptance letter from the host university:** This will be sent to you by OIP when it arrives from South Africa later in the fall. Do not apply for your visa until you receive this letter, but please have the rest of your visa application materials completed and ready to go in the meantime.
9. **To Whom It May Concern letter from OIP:** This letter confirms your IP student status as well as serves as proof of your **health insurance** and **financial status**. Keep a photocopy and send the original with your visa application.
10. **Republic of South Africa Medical Certificate and Radiological Report:** A doctor or medical practitioner must complete these forms. Coordinate this medical exam with the Health Status Report form required by IP. (NOTE: A skin test for TB will suffice for completion of the Radiological Report (x-ray not required).
Medical Certificate: <www.southafrica-newyork.net/consulate/forms/medical.pdf>
Radiological Report: <www.southafrica-newyork.net/consulate/forms/bi806.pdf>.
11. **Proof of Financial Means:** A bank statement or notarized letter from the parents stating the financial responsibility.
12. **State Police Clearance Certificate:** (criminal background check) all applicants 18 years of age or older and for all previous countries of residence for period exceeding one year.

13. **A Vaccination Certificate:** if applicant is passing through yellow fever belt area before entering or during stay in South Africa. (Ask you doctor)
14. In case of a minor, a notarized letter of consent from the parents.
15. **Proof of US Status:** (non-US citizens only e.g. 1-20 for F1 visa holders, greencard etc.)
16. **For the return of your passport and visa by FedEx:** include a **\$16.00** money order payable to the South African Consulate General. You must also provide the street address and phone number (**no PO Box**) where you want the passport and visa sent to you. We recommend you use Federal Express because you can track your documents much faster and more reliably. When you send something via Registered or Express Mail it can take two weeks to track down missing materials, which may prevent you from catching your flight.

Questions regarding your visa should be directed to the South African Consulate. Instructions, fees and requirements are subject to change without notice.

The Visa Application Process: Your Responsibility

A visa or a residence permit (as it is called in some countries) provides permission for you to remain in a country for a period of time. It is an acknowledgement by a foreign government that they trust you. The government official who issues you a visa or residence permit is giving permission to enter his or her country for the purpose indicated on your visa/residence permit application and with the understanding that you intend to leave on the date stated on your application. You should value the receipt of visa approval and honor their decision by showing respect to the country where you have been given permission to live for the academic year.

In recent years applying for and obtaining a visa has become increasingly complex. The United States and many other countries around the world have strengthened their requirements, increased the scrutiny they give all applications, and as a consequence lengthened the processing time. If a visa is required for your country, you must go through the process. It may be frustrating and it may at times seem arbitrary, but you will need to remain patient and calm, getting upset or losing your temper will not help.

Each year, the Office of International Programs (OIP) gathers information from the foreign governments to request information about the student visa application procedures. These are the instruction included in this Participant Guide and other mailings. It is possible that regulations will change and if we are made aware of any changes, we will notify you.

OIP does not set the rules or control the visa or residence permit application process. This is a request from you to a foreign government. OIP and the California State University

cannot act on your behalf or intervene with the foreign government and will not be able to speed up processing or alter the rules.

In nearly all cases, CSU students participating in the International Programs are issued visas/residence permits in time to participate in their study abroad programs. In some cases there may be delays, and in very rare cases, students have been denied visas. The visa/residence permit application process is entirely your responsibility. Please follow instructions exactly and carefully.

NOTE: You may feel that you have followed all of the instructions, submitted your visa application and all of your documentation beautifully, early and in duplicate. However, **no one has the right to be issued a visa and you will have to respond to whatever additional requests the Consulate may make.**

Non-US Citizens

Contact the nearest South African Consulate General now to determine your visa requirements.

The visa process may take several months longer than for US citizens. **DO NOT WAIT FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM OIP.**

Also, make sure your passport and your US re-entry permit will be valid for the entire length of time you will be abroad. If necessary, contact the Immigration and Naturalization Service to extend the expiration date on your reentry permit. If you plan to visit or travel through any other countries, be sure to obtain any transit or tourist visas required by these other countries as well. If your re-entry permit expires while you are abroad, you will have trouble returning to the United States.

Transportation

You will make your own arrangements to travel to South Africa, but you must arrive at your host university on the date indicated in the calendar section in the following chapter.

Contact your own travel agent and shop around to get the best fare. Travel CUTS and STA Travel are two travel agencies specializing in student fares. You can find them both on the Internet. You will deal directly with the travel agent to make your reservations and payments.

Please complete the Flight Information form and return it to OIP **no later than three weeks prior to departure.**

Although you are traveling independently, you are agreeing to the following conditions:

1. You will not depart before visa approvals (where required) have been obtained.
2. You will make scheduled payment before departure.
3. You will notify OIP in writing if your plans change.
4. You will report to your overseas center on the day and time specified. Reporting instructions will be provided

by OIP. You should plan on arriving on or before the arrival date.

In the event that there is a change to the starting date of the program, it is your responsibility to make modifications to your Flight Information Form to accommodate such changes. OIP is not responsible for any nonrecoverable transportation charges you may incur.

5. You will not be met at the airport (unless you arrange this with the host university and only if they offer a pick-up service). Accommodations and program services will not be available to you until the starting date of the program.
6. You release OIP of any responsibility for your transportation to the overseas center.

If you fail to comply with any of these conditions, you may be disenrolled from the program.

Air travel involves risks and could result in damage to property, injury to persons, and death. Please be informed that the California State University assumes no liability for damage, injury, and death which may occur during air travel required by the California State University-affiliated programs. Your participation in the program is voluntary, and you participate at your own risk.

Prior to departure you must sign an agreement, which includes a release from liability (see Agreement section of this book).

Travel Agencies Specializing in Student Travel:



Travel CUTS

<http://www.travelcuts.com>

1-800-467-4594

STA Travel

<http://www.statravel.com>

1-800-781-4040

Photographs

The photographs you submit to OIP must be in passport format.

Print your name and country on the back of each photo. Be careful that the ink is dry and does not damage the photos. You will need **4 identical** photographs as follows:

- Send **2** photos to OIP for official use
- **2** photo will be needed for your visa application (do not send to OIP)

The photos MUST meet these requirements:

- 2" X 2" high-resolution color or black and white photos.
- Full face view and have only your head and shoulders at the center of the photo
- Taken on a white background and printed on photo paper.
- Photocopies, scanned or digitally altered photographs **will NOT be accepted.**

- The most convenient way to get acceptable photos which will not cause any delays is to obtain them at a passport photo service.

International Student Identity Card (ISIC)

IP recommends that you purchase the ISIC, a card internationally recognized as proof of student status. The card provides cardholders with discounts and travel benefits around the world.

The ISIC also provides basic health and accident insurance while you are traveling abroad, which will supplement the mandatory IP health insurance. Cardholders also have access to a toll-free Traveler's Assistance Hotline for assistance in medical, legal, and financial emergencies.

If you are interested in obtaining the ISIC, you must purchase it on your own. IP does not provide students with the ISIC. You may purchase the ISIC online <www.myISIC.com>.

The website also provides a list of available discounts in each country.

Packing

Refer to the *Student Experience Report* for suggestions on clothing and other personal items to take with you. In general, you will find that what students wear in California is acceptable overseas, taking into account the local climate, particularly the fact that winter is usually harsher than at home. It is important to take clothes that demand little care, since you may not have easy access to washers, dryers, and ironing boards.

Many students wonder about taking musical instruments, bicycles, skis, or surfboards. When making this decision, consider that airlines may charge extra for these items and remember that you must be able to carry them in addition to your other luggage. Also consider the possibility of damage enroute, the problem of storage, and how much you will actually use the item. If you will only use your skis for a two-week winter vacation, it might be simpler to rent a pair. Similarly, it might make more sense to buy a secondhand bike overseas and sell it before you come home instead of risking damage to the one you own.

Whatever you decide to take, try not to take too much. There are several reasons for this advice: it is likely you will have limited storage space overseas, you will have to carry it all in your luggage (or have it shipped), and you will have to ship or bring it all home at the end of the year—along with everything you have bought while overseas.

Lightweight, easy-to-carry luggage is recommended. Check for sturdy construction; a broken zipper can be very frustrating on a trip. Consider also that you will use at least part of your luggage on vacations during the year. If you take a backpack, consider an internal frame pack or one with no frame at all; these are useful for vacation travel and can be carried comfortably for two or three miles. Packs with exter-

nal frames are easily damaged on overseas flights and are unwieldy on trains and buses; take one only if you plan extensive backpacking trips while overseas.

Airlines require that you have a name tag on each piece of luggage.

Based on past experience, it is a good idea to pack your carry-on bag to include everything you might need for a couple of days. If the rest of your luggage is delayed, you will at least have your necessities. Anything of great monetary or sentimental value should travel in your carry-on, or be left at home. No matter what the maximum baggage allowance is for your flight, keep in mind that you must be able to carry all of your own luggage on the trip overseas. Being able to pick up all of your bags at one time is not enough; **try carrying them outside and around the block.**

Shipping

In order to keep your luggage within the necessary limits, you may need to send some of your belongings overseas rather than carry them with you. The least expensive and most convenient method is to use surface mail through the US Postal Service. Airmail and express service also possible, but more expensive.

Check with the post office for size and weight limits on packages and packing regulations. Line packages with plastic bags to protect against moisture.

Send only used personal belongings to avoid paying duty overseas. Be sure to list contents of packages as "Used Personal Belongings." Parcels can and will be opened for inspection by customs agents overseas.

Address the package to yourself c/o the overseas mailing address provided in the next section. Put your name and address on the inside as well.

Mail your packages so that they will arrive overseas after you do; the center may not be open during the summer months to accept mail or packages. Packages can take up to three months, depending on the destination. In some locations you may have to pay charges at the other end, such as a fee for storage until you can claim your package or a charge to deliver the package to you. There may be additional formalities and changes due to French customs requirements.

An alternative to mailing packages in advance is to wait until you are overseas to decide which extra items you really need. Then ask someone at home to send them to you.

Shipping a trunk is not recommended because of the expense and inconvenience. You must pick it up at the dock, which could be a long way from where you live, and then reverse the process to ship it home at the end of the year. Air freight is not normally recommended for the same reasons: you would need to retrieve your package at the airport and/or pay a sizeable fee for customs, handling, and delivery.

Electrical Appliances

South African electricity works on 220/240 Volts AC, 50 cycles. If you want to bring any electrical appliances, make sure they can switch from 110 to 220/240 Volts. Also, the plugs in South Africa are shaped different and you will need to bring an adapter, or purchase one when you arrive. Note that it is easy to find an adapter for the round-two-prong European style plugs in Durban, but NOT for the flat-two-prong North American-style plugs.

World Electric Guide:

<http://www.kropla.com/electric2/htm>



The South Africa Program

The California State University is affiliated with two institutions in South Africa: The University of KwaZulu-Natal and The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. There is no CSU Resident Director in South Africa, but rather you will be assisted by the host university staff who are accustomed to providing orientation and guidance to visiting international students.

Institution

University of KwaZulu-Natal
(Pietermaritzburg campus)

Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan University

Host University Representative

Ms. Marie-Anna Marais

Ms. Tohiera Moodien

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) resulted from the 2004 merger of the former University of Natal and the University of Durban-Westville. Building on the strengths of these former institutions, the University of KwaZulu-Natal has made great progress in its efforts to create a truly South African, post-apartheid institution. Students who want to gain hands-on experience to real life problems facing developing countries and who wish to experience a wide diversity of cultures and languages can find a truly African experience at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The University of KwaZulu-Natal currently offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses across all disciplines including: Community and Development Disciplines, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, Human Sciences, Law, Science and Agriculture and Management Studies. It must be noted that due to the recent merger, the university is currently engaged in restructuring courses across all disciplines.

The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) was formed by the merger of the former University of Port Elizabeth and the Port Elizabeth Technikon on January 1, 2005. It is one of the most racially, culturally and linguistically diverse universities in Southern Africa and offers the most diverse academic programs. NMMU is a comprehensive university and students will find course offerings in a vast array of subjects. Students should note that NMMU is nationally renowned for its work in marine ecology and environmental management. It is also well regarded for its interdisciplinary studies in humanities and social sciences, addressing such issues as development, conflict management and South African politics and political economy.

University Application

Both the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University require that you complete their university applications.

These are provided to you online in IP Packet #1.

Registering for Classes

WARNING: It is your responsibility to remove all CSU home campus "holds" on your records before you go abroad. A "hold" on your records will prevent you from registering for classes. This includes Library holds, and all other campus holds including the Records Office, Financial Aid Office, your own academic department and any other campus office that may put a "hold" on your records. Before you leave, be sure to clear all "holds." This is your responsibility and will prevent problems in the future.

Arrival & Orientation

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Fly to either Johannesburg International Airport or Cape Town International Airport; get your connecting flight to Port Elizabeth Airport. Note: You will have to pass through customs at Johannesburg or Cape Town so remember to pick up your luggage at these airports and check it in again for the domestic flight to Port Elizabeth.

The Port Elizabeth Airport is a small, centrally located airport within easy reach of all parts of Port Elizabeth. Shuttle buses provide a way to get into the city. It is possible to go to the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University by taxi but we advise you to check the cab fare before deciding on this mode of transport because it can be very expensive.

University of KwaZulu-Natal

Airport pick-up will be arranged for all students who confirm their arrival details with the international Student Support Office.

For students who are going to Pietermaritzburg, please ensure that you book a connecting flight from the Johannesburg International Airport to Pietermaritzburg,

NOT Durban. The same pick-up service will be organized for you to be brought to campus.

There will be an orientation after your arrival on-site. Each university schedules these orientation sessions to provide essential information for your stay.

Housing

Students should finalize their housing arrangements before leaving California. The host university will send additional information to you about accommodations, including a housing reservation form, which you should complete and submit as instructed. All students, including students on financial aid, must be prepared to make housing payments themselves, directly to the dormitory, in the local currency, upon arrival. Note: Host universities cannot guarantee that your accommodation will be ready if you arrive early. Students planning to arrive prior to the published program start date should be prepared to pay for lodging at a hostel or hotel.

University of KwaZulu-Natal: Students must reside in the university-owned dormitories either on or just off campus. IP students are prohibited from making alternate housing arrangements. The University of KwaZulu-Natal will send you an "Accommodation Information Booklet," which will include an application for accommodation. You will select your accommodation and submit this application prior to departure. Further details will be provided in the booklet. Students must vacate the dormitories during the semester break.

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University: International Students have the choice of living on or off campus ensconced by scenic fauna and flora that offers itself as a Nature Reserve. On Campus accommodation mainly consists of residences and two student villages. Off - campus accommodation is located within close proximity to the university and is within walking distance to all campuses.

NMMU's most prominent off - campus facility is Annie's Cove Complex, with 56 two bedroomed units. This fully equipped village offers shared bathrooms and kitchenettes and a lavish swimming pool.

Similar off-campus accommodation can be secured in suburbs of Summerstrand and nearby Humewood which offer an extensive range of accommodation including garden flats, apartments and townhouses. All off-campus accommodation complies with the minimum standard as indicated by the University. Even though properties are accredited by the Off-Campus Manager, the University holds no legal jurisdiction and students take up residence and lease agreements in their own capacity. The University's International Office assists international visitors and students with information on international travel, visas and academic studies. The support network is comprehensive and visitors and students can feel confident that they will be made welcome and looked after during their time at NMMU. Feel free to browse the International Students Accommodation Brochure on <www.nmmu.ac.za> for more information and advice.

Food

South African cuisine has unusual variety, derived from the culinary traditions of its diverse population

Traditional dishes include: bunny chow (curry in a half-loaf of bread), samp and beans, milk tart, koeksisters, etc. South Africans are very fond of a braai; a barbecue with steaks, chicken and boerewors (spicy sausage). South African wines are among the best in the world, and there are also good local beers. There are a variety of restaurants including Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Greek and seafood restaurants, as well as numerous steakhouses. There are also many coffee shops (which serve light meals) and fast food/take away restaurants.

Computer/Internet Access

Computers and printers are available in the public computing rooms at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and many are open 24 hours. Student may apply for access. Each room offers printing also. Internet access is not available in the dorm rooms.

Students with laptops may bring them to South Africa, however, we strongly recommend that you bring necessary transformers (240 volts) and buy an adapter for local plug sockets. The adapters are readily available in South Africa for a few dollars, but the transformers maybe more difficult to find, so students should bring one from home.

Telephones

Public telephones are scattered around campuses. These operate on either a coin or phone card system. Telephone cards can be used for both local and international calls. These phones are fully automatic with direct dialling to most parts of the world.

Cell/Mobile phones

There are 3 cell/mobile phones providers in South Africa:

Cell C - <www.cellc.co.za>

MTN - <www.mtn.co.za>

Vodacom - <www.vodacom.co.za>

It is advisable to shop around when buying a cell phone as good deals can be found. Ensure that you purchase a cell phone from reputable dealers.

Money Matters & Banking

Before you go, you should have enough money in a bank account/ATM to cover your first two months worth of expenses.

You will need some cash with you on arrival for travel costs to the University and to cover general expenses during the first few weeks at the University, it is wise to bring most of your money in travelers' checks.

Most international credits cards such as American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are accepted, as well as Travelers' Checks. Foreign money and travellers' cheques may be converted into local currency (South African rand) at most banks and other authorized institutions such as Bureau de Change, American Express, Thomas Cook, Rennies, Travel Agencies and Airlines provided the currency is accepted in South Africa. Some hotels and restaurants do accept travellers' cheques for payment for services and purchases.



Currency Exchange Rates:

<http://www.oanda.com/converter/classic>

Introduction to South Africa: Guides, Documentaries, Films, and Books

By Tom Spencer-Walters
California State University, Northridge

You have selected South Africa for your student experience abroad; possibly your first visit to this enchanting land about which you probably know very little. You want this to be a memorable and utilizable experience; one that you hope would contribute immensely to your own development as a person and to your understanding and valuation of cultures and peoples in other parts of the world.

Planning for the South African experience can be challenging given the sheer complexity of this country: its rich, ancient history, its diversity of cultures, its almost miraculous and peaceful transition to a multiracial democracy and its economic disparities which is a direct consequence of decades of the repressive apartheid system. Given the sheer volume of information on these multifaceted aspects of South Africa, I have selected reading and viewing materials that I believe would guide you through the maze and give you a concise and balanced introduction to South Africa.

For a quick and visual introduction to the country, the South African Government's publication, *Pocket Guide to South Africa (2005)* is a very useful document to review. It covers, albeit briefly, a vast array of South African life and culture ranging from history, politics, arts, languages, to business, transportation, housing and tourism. However, for a more detailed and substantive coverage of the above areas of South African society, I recommend the *South Africa Yearbook: 2004/05*. The immediate benefit of this yearbook is that it contains vital, accessible and current information about almost every facet of South African society. The yearbook is also a publication of the government of South Africa. Alternatively, *The South African Story*, a business-inclined brochure put out by the International Marketing Council of South Africa, introduces you to various aspects of the South African economy. All of the above publications can be obtained at the South African Consulate in Los Angeles.

One of the non-governmental publications about South Africa that I would highly recommend is *Insight Guide South Africa (2005)* by Jason Mitchell. Like the *South Africa Year-*

book, it is comprehensive and insightful, but unlike it, *Insight Guide* breaks down its discussions by regions, specifically focusing on presenting balanced information that is highly pertinent to visitors; information such as guides to banking, education, cultural nuances, regional peculiarities, and wildlife reserves in South Africa. It also provides complete listings of hotels, businesses and transport services that would be invaluable to the student traveler. Furthermore, the text establishes continuity between, for examples, history and contemporary South African society, politics and the economy and wildlife preservation and tourism. Even the photographs in the book tell their own stories very vividly!

A more portable version of *Insight Guide to South Africa* is *South Africa Pocket Guide*, put out by the Berlitz company, well known for their language and culture guides. *The South African Pocket Guide*, like the government guide we listed above, has very useful information on traveling in the various regions of South Africa, hotels, restaurants and shops, night life and medical emergencies.

The South African Press is one of the most vibrant in the continent of Africa. There are more than 35 national and regional newspapers in the country and, collectively through their differing philosophies and news reporting styles, they contribute to the independence of the press and thus, to the emergence of an informed public. Among the 35 or more newspapers, a few regional and national ones are recommended for their coverage and distribution of news: The *Mail and Guardian (www.mg.co.za)*, though based in Johannesburg, is distributed nationally and readily available in most metropolitan centers. The *Daily Dispatch (www.dispatch.co.za)*, which is published in East London, focuses on news and information items affecting the Eastern Cape region (East London, Port Elizabeth, King Williamstown, Alice, etc.). The *Cape Times (www.capetimes.co.za)* is one of the premier newspapers on the Western Cape. The *Daily News (www.dailynews.co.za)* serves the KwaZulu-Natal area and is published in Durban. The *Sowetan (www.sowetan.co.za)* is based in Soweto, the sprawling township near Johannesburg, and covers mainly news items and information pertinent to the local population in the area.

All the above newspapers cover some national, international and regional news but with varying degrees of depth and detail. They will give you more up-to-date information on South African politics, cultural practices, education, housing, transportation, religion and business, before and after your arrival into the country.

Another important introduction to history and contemporary life in South Africa is through documentaries and films. These pictorial media will help you visualize topography, architecture, wildlife, even the complex dynamics of human interactions in South Africa. Among the more notable and easily accessible documentaries are National Geographic's "Documentaries on Nature" (2001). *Episode 8: Southern Treasures* is a commentary on challenges facing the new South Africa from the perspectives of those who actually live that experience. It is available on DVD and VHS formats from the website, <http://crawford.dk/africa/documentaries.htm>.

Not surprisingly, there are a number of documentaries dealing with the life and times of Nelson (Madiba) Mandela, undoubtedly one of the greatest icons of peace and forgiveness the world has ever known. Jonathan Demme's **Mandela: Son of Africa, Father of a Nation** is an intimate portrait of the life and struggles of this great leader. The documentary can be accessed from the same website above: <http://crawfurd.dk/africa/documentaries.htm>. A&E's Biography of Mandela, **Nelson Mandela: Journey to Freedom (1996)** is a compilation of testimonies about Mandela's dedication to the struggle for liberation of Black South Africans from the ignominy of apartheid. Six years earlier, another documentary, **Mandela: The Man and His Country (1990)** chronicles Mandela's life in the struggle through his release from 27 years of incarceration by the apartheid regime. Both documentaries above may be available in your campus libraries or can be obtained directly from *Global Exchange*, www.globalexchange.org/countries/africa/southafrica/films.html.

From the Filmmaker Library comes a riveting documentary about the life of Steve Biko, **Biko: Breaking the Silence**. Biko was a well-known Black activist in the Black Consciousness Movement of the 1960's until he died of mysterious circumstances in a South African jail more than a decade ago. This 52-minute documentary can be obtained from the Filmmakers Library (tel. #212-808-4980), info@filmmakers.com. It's very useful in understanding Black South African youth participation in the liberation struggle and their struggle for identity.

For those among you, who may be interested in the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, (set up for perpetrators of heinous crimes during the apartheid period to openly and voluntarily confess to their crimes, with the hope of obtaining a pardon from the Committee), you may want to view **Long Night's Journey Into Day**, which received an Academy Award nomination in the category of Best Documentary Feature. It can be accessed through Ronin Films, <http://www.roninfilms.com.au/video/2070523379.html>.

Films about South Africa and South Africans are readily available both here in America and in South Africa. Many variously chronicled the struggle for freedom while others utilized the rich and complex South African landscape to explore the joys and vicissitudes of human interrelationships and the beauty and awesomeness of nature. I would highly recommend the following: **Cry Freedom (1987)**, directed by Denzel Washington and Kevin Kline, is a moving depiction of Steve Biko's life as an activist and the sacrifices of those who helped him launch his ideas publicly. The popular movie, **Cry the Beloved Country (1995)** (an adaptation of the book by the same name written by Alan Paton, a South African), is a movie about a journey to discovery by a Black rural minister. Complementing this journey is another undertaken by a young White South African in **The Power of One (1992)**, who seeks the wisdom of both Blacks and Whites to fight injustice. Again, your campus library may be able to get these films for you or you can order a personal copy from *California Newsreel*.

A more celebrated film about the Soweto student riots in 1976 is **Sarafina**, starring Whoopi Goldberg. This film is available on CSU campuses as well as on commercial

DVD and VHS formats. **Mapantsula (1988)** on the other hand, tells the story of the hardships of urban life during the apartheid era. More importantly, it is a movie about choices: personal aggrandizement or commitment to bringing down apartheid; an excellent introduction to township life in South Africa. It is also available from *California Newsreel*. **Amandla!** examines the crucial role of music in the anti-apartheid struggle. All three films above provide relevant historical and cultural details about the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa.

One of the most endearing, mildly humorous and educational movies to be made about South Africa is **The Gods Must Be Crazy, Pt. 1 & Pt. 11 (1980, 1988)**. Both movies mirror what happens when Western representations of culture and civilization clash with the more traditional lifestyles and belief systems of the indigenous people. This film is available on <http://www.moviemailonline.co.uk/countries/South%20Africa>.

If you have a serious interest in books about South Africa and South Africans, here are some "must-read" books for you: Mandela's **Long Walk to Freedom**; a comprehensive autobiography of this great moral and political leader. **No Future Without Forgiveness** by Bishop Desmond Tutu, a passionate recounting of his personal observations and decisions as Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC). Read Bishop Tutu's book above in conjunction with Lyn S. Graybill's **Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa: Miracle or Model?**; a sobering, riveting and balanced analysis of the functionality and heuristic benefits of the TRC.

Finally, Leonard Thompson's **A History of South Africa - 3rd Ed** (2001) is a definitive work on the history of South Africa. It explains the current situations in South Africa through historical linkages going back several centuries. Unlike a number of other historical works on South Africa, Thompson's text gave carefully balanced and authentic perspectives of Black contributions to the complex history of this nation. The book is easy to read and readily accessible. If your library does not have it, you can obtain it through Interlibrary Loan.

Enjoy your travel to this enchanting African paradise!

South Africa is waiting to receive you!

Climate

The climate in South Africa is pleasant and you will enjoy beautiful, sunny days throughout the year. The seasons of the southern hemisphere are opposite from ours, with summer running from November to February. Average daily temperatures during the summer are around 73° F. Days are warm and afternoon thunderstorms are common. Winters are dry and mild with average daily temperatures about 63° F. South Africa enjoys one of the world's highest average daily hours of sunshine - 8.5 compared with 3.8 in London, 6.4 in Rome and 6.9 in New York.

Local Transportation

Public taxis and buses are available on a regular basis. Note that there are also private taxis, which are more expensive. Check the cost with the driver before commencing your journey.

In South Africa, drivers drive on the left hand side of the road (opposite from the US). The speed limit on the freeways is 120 km/hr, 100 km/hr on secondary rural roads, and 60 km/hr on urban streets. Fines for speeding are very steep. An international driver's license is required and should be obtained before departure. If you are a member of AAA, you may be able to obtain the international license from AAA.

Vacation Travel

The Baz Bus is a wonderful way to travel throughout South Africa and visit many interesting towns and cities. All you need is one ticket to your final destination and you can hop on and off the Baz Bus as many times as you want along the route. The bus will drop off and pick up in front of your backpacking hostel or lodge. There are a number of hostels and budget accommodations in South Africa and the Baz Bus will drop you off at over 200 of them. The Baz Bus is completely flexible, allowing you to meet interesting people and visit out of the way places (and there is no time limit on your ticket!). More information can be obtained at tourist offices in South Africa. The website also has information about hostels, routes and rates. Bookings can also be made online: <www.bazbus.com>.

Remember, if you decide to travel to other countries, you may need to obtain appropriate travel visas. You can inquire about this once you are in South Africa and will be able to obtain the necessary visas there.

2009 Calendar

Dates are subject to change.

KwaZulu-Natal University (Pietermaritzburg)

Arrival Date	Late January
First Semester	Early February - June
Second Semester	July - November

Dates were not available at time of printing. You will be sent the dates once they become available.

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Arrival Date	January 28
Orientation/Registration	February 02-06
First Semester	February 09 - June 19
Break	April 06-12

Second semester dates were not available at time of printing.

Mailing Addresses in South Africa

Until you obtain your permanent address for the year, you may receive **letters** c/o the IP address :

University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg:

International Student Office
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Milner Road, Room F10
Private Bag X01
Scottsville, 3209
Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University:

Office of International Education
Summerstrand South Campus
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
PO Box 77000
Port Elizabeth 6031
South Africa

Health Matters

HIV infection in South Africa is extremely high. IP participants going to South Africa must be prepared to refrain from all activities and behaviors associated with the transmission of HIV. Remember: Alcohol can impair your judgment and may lead to your making bad decisions. Please refrain from excessive drinking.

The government currently cannot confirm that the blood supply in South Africa is safe and therefore students must make every effort to avoid serious accidents or injuries that may require a need for blood. If anything occurs that makes you think that you may have been exposed to HIV (in any way), you should notify the International Students Office immediately. Because of the high level of HIV among university age students, all South African universities have thorough protocol for handling possible HIV exposure or infection. **We strongly recommend that you seek care immediately from the university health center if you fear you have been exposed.**

While most of South Africa is malaria free, malaria risk exists throughout the year in parts of South Africa. Based on your travel plans, you may want to consider a malaria prophylaxis. You are advised to read information about malaria provided by the Centers for Disease Control before departure <www.cdc.gov/malaria>.

Europ Assistance USA - Your CSU student health insurance policy includes emergency travel assistance coverage administered by Europ Assistance USA. This is a supplemental part of your health insurance policy valid around the world and can assist you if you should need emergency medical care while traveling abroad, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. To access their benefits, you **MUST** contact Europ Assistance USA and let them make all arrangements for any services that you need. The kinds of services they provide are listed in the insurance pamphlet that we included in your packet.

Upon request, Europ Assistance USA can also provide pre-trip counseling for any countries you will be traveling to.

They can also answer questions you may have about your prescription medications before departure or help you replace a prescription while traveling.

For further information on the services provided by Europ Assistance USA, please see the Wells Fargo Student Health Insurance pamphlet provided in your packet, or contact Europ Assistance USA at: (800) 243-6124 (*Toll-free within the United States*) or (202) 659-7803 (*Collect from outside the U.S.*).

South African Health Insurance

The South African government requires that all international university students purchase local health insurance. The cost of the insurance is over and above the prepaid costs which include the basic mandatory IP insurance policy.

You must register with one of the approved Medical Aid providers in South Africa before arrival. Information about the South African health insurance policies will be sent to you by your host university. You will not be allowed to register for classes without proof of local health insurance.

Work

Student Permit holders are allowed to work 20 hours per week in South Africa.

Registering at the US Embassy

Americans living or traveling in South Africa are encouraged to register with the nearest US Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website and to obtain updated information on travel and security within South Africa. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate staff to contact them in case of emergency.

The Consulate General in Durban is located at the Old Mutual Building, 31st floor, 303 West Street, telephone (27-31) 305-7600 (from South Africa 031-305-7600), fax (27-31) 305-7691 (from South Africa 031-305-7691). Its consular jurisdiction includes KwaZulu-Natal Province.



Academic Arrangements

Your Academic Status as an IP Student

As an IP participant you are concurrently enrolled at your home campus in California as well as at the host university overseas. All coursework completed receives resident credit and becomes part of your CSU transcript. However, it is the prerogative of your home campus to determine how specific courses apply toward graduation requirements. Take special care in completing the Academic Advisement form discussed below.

The Academic Advisement Form

Having gone through the IP application process, you should be familiar with the academic offerings at your overseas center. The Office of International Programs (OIP) requires that you formally plan out the courses you will take by completing, with the help of your major department academic advisor, the Academic Advisement form. Completion of this form provides you with guidance from your major department as to what courses you should take overseas and gives you a clear idea of how these courses will be applied to your degree requirements. If you will be studying overseas in a field other than your major, you should consider declaring a second major or a minor in that field, where available. You should complete the Academic Advisement form with an advisor for the program related to your overseas study.

Before planning to meet with your advisor:

1. Carefully study this section of the Guide, the IP Bulletin section that follows, and any other academic information from your host university.
2. Be aware of university breaks, holidays and exam periods since during these times, it may be a difficult to meet with advisors.
3. Go over the form itself and complete Parts I and II. Part II is especially useful if you are considering the possibility of graduating at the end of your year abroad.
4. Assemble the necessary materials: this Guide and other academic information where needed, your academic records, your home campus catalog, and the Academic Advisement form with its instructions.

This form must be submitted to the OIP by **October 15**.

Availability of Courses Overseas

The access of students to academic opportunities is increased as their academic preparation to perform in the particular host institution environment is improved. The major limitations are language fluency and literacy (in non-English speaking countries) and specific preparation in the major. It is important that IP participants develop an accurate view of what they can actually accomplish in their year overseas and set realistic goals. For students studying in non-English speaking countries, students should not overestimate their facility in the host country language and realize that some limits on choice of coursework are to be expected.

The IP Bulletin is the International Programs "catalog" and provides a listing of the kinds of courses offered at our program sites overseas. The courses listed are based on the latest information available at the time of publication so students are advised to visit the host university website on a periodic basis to access the most current list of course offerings. Just as is the case with any CSU catalog, not all of the courses are offered every semester so students should not enter the overseas academic experience with rigid and narrowly defined course requirements.

Please note that courses related to US history and institutions and California State and local governments, as well as science courses with labs may not exist or may not be open to visiting international students. If you have yet to complete required courses such as these, please understand that experience shows that you will probably not be able to take them overseas.

Graduating seniors: Students whose graduation depends on specific courses should note that course availability is not guaranteed. Therefore, graduating seniors must be open to the idea of returning to their home campus for additional terms following their participation in IP. The rewards gained by studying abroad tremendously outweigh the disadvantages of a delayed graduation. Future employers will not evaluate negatively for needing an extra one or two terms to graduate if it means that you will have successfully added an international experience to your resume, learned another language and proven your ability to adapt to another culture. To the contrary, these accomplishments will be admired. You should not miss out on the opportunity of a

lifetime, even if it means that you might have to delay your graduation by a term or two.

Before You Go

You should keep in mind that you might experience a great deal of difficulty in trying to take care of academic formalities at your home campus once you are overseas. You should handle certain matters before you go. Examples are:

- taking—and passing—all English and mathematics proficiency exams required by your campus
- arranging an independent study project
- changing or adding a major or minor
- filing a petition for course substitutions or waivers
- clearing up any incomplete coursework.

If you plan to graduate during or at the conclusion of your year abroad, your graduation may depend on the planning you do before you depart! Critical items to consider are:

- having a graduation evaluation done; some campuses require this before applying to graduate
- filing an application to graduate
- applying for graduate admission to your campus if you graduate mid-year
- completing proficiency examinations in math or English that are required for graduation
- knowing that grades will reach your campus four to six months after your year abroad has concluded. Graduating seniors must take this into consideration when submitting their applications to graduate since degrees will not be posted until all courses taken abroad are reported to the students' home campuses.

Academic Policies

CSU Registration

IP participants are fully matriculated CSU students who remain enrolled at their home campuses while studying overseas. To remain enrolled while abroad, the OIP arranges for the registration of all students at their respective home CSU campuses at the beginning of each term. Therefore, students must NOT enroll for any courses at their home campus for the time that they will be abroad through IP.

Students are not permitted to enroll in on-line courses, which are offered at their home campus or another CSU campus since the purpose of studying abroad is to engage in full time study exclusively at the study center or host university.

During the year abroad, academic counseling is provided by the Resident Director or host university staff who confers with each student to assist in making course selections appropriate to the student's degree program and assists them with the registration process.

Credit

All coursework taken overseas will be accepted by the student's home campus as resident credit. The appropriate authorities at the student's home campus make determination of the applicability of coursework completed overseas to major, minor, general education, and general elective degree requirements. In some cases, this may mean that a minimum number of units or specific coursework to be credited toward the major must be taken at the home campus.

It is the individual student's responsibility to check all major departmental rules prior to departure for overseas and to meet with the appropriate department advisor(s) to determine which courses will count toward the major and which will count toward elective credit. It is also the student's responsibility to collect and provide course information to his/her advisor.

The advisor determines how courses will be credited to the degree and as well as suggest appropriate courses to be taken abroad which might fulfill degree requirements in terms of course content, course level and unit value. Since courses abroad can differ somewhat from the CSU courses required for your degree, advisors can suggest that the student take similar courses to fulfill specific course requirements. In these cases, campuses usually require that students submit a petition (or course substitution request) to have these courses count towards specific course requirements. This process protects the integrity of the degree and the transcript while allowing students the flexibility of taking related courses to meet specific requirements. Students are advised to discuss the process with advisors and appropriate officials at the student's home campus PRIOR to going abroad.

The Academic Advisement form must be completed as accurately as possible and signed by the department advisor(s), where indicated. Without these signatures, there can be no guarantee that students will receive credit toward their degree objectives.

Even with prior approval for course credit, students are advised to keep course syllabi, term papers, examinations, and any other pertinent materials, until the degree is completed just in case this information is needed. In addition, it is highly recommended that students take their home campus catalog overseas (or at least the section of the catalog which pertains to the requirements for the degree being pursued). Current catalogs are on the web, but students may find it useful to have printed information from the catalog available.

When selecting courses at their host university, students should choose courses which best represents the home campus course requirement they are seeking to fulfill in terms of course content, course level and the unit value. In cases when the unit value of the home campus course requirement is MORE than the host university course, students should consult with their home campus advisor about se-

AcademicTip:

If given a choice of courses, select the one which BEST meets the course description of the requirement that you are trying to fulfill.

lecting an additional course, which would fulfill the unit value of the home campus course requirement.

Most coursework available at the overseas study center is at the upper division level, with the exception of beginning and intermediate language courses (where offered) and first year undergraduate level courses, which are typically considered lower division courses depending on the course. Graduate credit will be granted only in courses that are judged by the host institution and by the OIP to be graduate level. Graduate students must be aware that credit, in any case, will be granted only if prearranged with their respective home campus major departments and graduate deans. As few as six units per year may be directly transferable into their course requirements for the master's degree; nevertheless, all graduate students are required to maintain a full academic load (see Courseload, below). These additional units may be accepted by their major departments to meet other degree requirements.

Graduate Study

Graduate students are eligible for participation at most of the study centers operated by the IP. Applicants just beginning graduate work should be aware, however, that study abroad at this point in their academic career removes them from the home campus department and advisor at a critical juncture in their studies. It is essential that graduate students considering application for the IP obtain from both their graduate department and dean of graduate studies on the home campus advance information on how work accomplished within the IP can be applied to their degree program. At a later point, this also requires that both the department chair and the dean of graduate studies sign the Academic Advisement form. Graduate students may find that only six to nine units will count toward their degree; they must, however, maintain the unit load requirement.

Students pursuing graduate degrees must obtain classified graduate standing before departure for overseas. They should plan to complete before departure any course or courses which are either required as part of the graduate program and unlikely to be available at the foreign university or are prerequisite to other graduate work.

Graduate students must be realistic about what they can accomplish in a year of study overseas, both in terms of what can reasonably be expected in the way of course offerings and of what preparation they have to pursue the available offerings. They should not expect, for example, to work in a narrowly defined area of specialization, particularly one in which they have not had previous preparation. Similarly, their competence in the language of instruction might not be sufficiently advanced to permit them to take courses for which they are otherwise intellectually prepared. Acquisition of the foreign language in itself may be a valid reason for a graduate student to study abroad; however, such study is usually credited on the undergraduate, even lower division, level.

Students pursuing credentials or second baccalaureate degrees are admitted as post-baccalaureates, but are treated, academically, as undergraduate students.

Academic Progress

The IP is an official academic program of the CSU, and all students participating in its offerings are subject to all of the academic regulations of their home campuses as well as those of the IP and the host institutions they attend abroad. Home campus rules for academic probation and disqualification apply overseas at the study centers as they do at home.

Undergraduate IP participants are expected to make normal academic progress and to maintain a grade point average of at least a 2.0. Graduate IP participants are expected to maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 for all graded work for the degree. Students who fail to meet these requirements are subject to probation or disenrollment from the IP.

Furthermore, any student whose academic performance does not meet standards necessary for successful progression in the program may be in jeopardy of disenrollment.

Courseload

All undergraduate IP students are required to carry a minimum academic courseload of 15 units per term and a total of 30 semester, or 45 quarter units for the overseas academic year. **This requirement applies to all undergraduate students regardless of the number of units they need to graduate or the enrollment requirement of the host university if this differs from the IP requirement.** Any units earned during a pre-session, special session, or preparatory language program conducted outside the host institution academic year calendar, are not counted in meeting this courseload requirement.

Students are not normally allowed to enroll in more than 18 units a semester. Students interested in taking more than 18 units must apply to take the additional units through the OIP. Students requesting to take more than 18 units in the second semester of their international study must be in good academic standing and have earned a B average in the first semester of study.

Students pursuing graduate degrees must carry a minimum of 12 units per term on condition that at least six of those units are taken at the graduate level; otherwise, graduate students must carry a courseload on the same basis as undergraduates as described above. Post-baccalaureate students pursuing credentials or second undergraduate degrees are required to carry the same courseload as undergraduates as described above.

In exceptional cases, students may petition for a reduction in the prescribed courseload although under no circumstances will students be permitted to enroll in less than 12 units. Such petitions are granted only in cases of extreme hardship due to conditions beyond the control of the student. The discovery that coursework is at a greater degree of complexity than was assumed, that academic requirements are demanding, or that the student faces lower grades than expected are not grounds for the approval of a

Academic Tip: Undergraduate students must take 15 units each semester regardless of the number of units still required for the degree.
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reduced course load. Students who withdraw from courses without approval from the OIP will be assigned the administrative grade of WU (Withdrawal Unauthorized), which for purposes of grade point average and progress point computation, is equivalent to an F.

Extended illnesses and emergency situations requiring absence from the study center are generally considered grounds for the submission of a petition. Failure to maintain the prescribed academic load without prior approval may result in disenrollment from the International Programs.

Independent Study

In general, the IP is not designed to accommodate students pursuing independent study. The structure of overseas programs offered by the IP is fundamentally one of immersion in host institution instruction and supporting studies – such as language studies. The pursuit of other academic purposes tends to remove the student from the immersion environment and is, therefore, not generally encouraged. However, there may be a few students whose academic needs involve the completion of a paper or project during the period of study abroad, or who have a unique and very specific interest to pursue which is particularly relevant to the study center locale. In such instances, the OIP may approve limited independent studies on a case-by-case basis.

Where and when it is permitted, Independent Study is limited to a maximum of three semester units per term, except where the student's home campus permits only a lesser amount. In order to carry out independent study, a student may need to possess near-native fluency in the language of instruction, in addition to any special academic preparation and research skills required for the proposed study project. The student must have advanced written approval from the major department advisor and department chair, as well as from the OIP. Independent study must result in a paper or project capable of being graded on the student's home campus. Special tutors are not available, and students must be capable of carrying out all aspects of such study in terms of study and research skills, language skills, and access to appropriate resources. Independent study that involves additional instructional cost to the student cannot be given credit by the IP, and additional cost to the IP cannot be authorized. Upon request, independent study proposal forms will be sent to students interested in independent study.

Internships

Internships are unavailable at most study abroad centers but where internships are available, the following guidelines are used:

- internships are credited at one unit per three internship hours per week over a 15-week semester;
- internships will not exceed six semester units for the year (i.e. three units per semester);
- internships will be appropriately supervised by the IP partner institution;

- internships require a written component to be stipulated by the host institution/supervisor;
- students seeking internship credit in their major or minor must comply with all the policies and procedures on their home campus for internships and have approval of the major department; and
- the OIP has final approval of all internships requests.

Internship applications must be completed and submitted to the OIP within the first four weeks of the semester. Late applications will be not approved.

Grading

Higher education institutions outside the United States typically use grading systems which differ from those in use in the CSU, or they may not provide grades at all. The examination systems vary widely as well. In many universities, students pursue specific degree objectives in which the individual courses taken are not graded separately. Rather, a final comprehensive examination is given at the end of the year or at the end of the course of study, when the student's advisors feel that the student is prepared in all subject areas. Continuous assessment as known on American campuses is uncommon. Where examinations are given, they are usually highly specific, may focus on only a fraction of the subject, and may be oral or written. Grades for an entire term or year's work may be assigned on the basis of a single final examination.

In order to establish an orderly basis of comparison of grades, the OIP makes special arrangements, where required, to ensure that students are examined, and has developed through the experience of many years a general system for converting foreign grades to CSU equivalents.

OIP converts grades earned abroad to CSU equivalent grades. Extreme care is exercised by the OIP to ensure that students neither benefit from nor are penalized by different evaluation methods prevailing at the various study centers.

A grade will be reported for EACH course attempted. Grades earned while on IP will be averaged in the cumulative grade point average on the student's CSU transcript.

All grades as reported to the registrars by the OIP are considered permanent and final except "incompletes" which are rarely given. Under ordinary circumstances a grade may not be changed except to correct a clerical or procedural error. No change of a final grade may be made on the basis of re-examination, review of a student's work in the course or by completing additional work for the course.

If a student disputes a grade for a course while still at the study center, the student should contact the Resident Director or the host university staff, who will determine whether or not an error was made. If a student disputes a grade for

Academic Tip:
Don't hurt your GPA!
Avoid getting a WU by:
1) taking ALL courses for a letter grade unless the course is only offered on a CR/NC basis; 2) completing ALL courses that you are enrolled in before leaving your host university; and 3) not dropping courses without the OIP's authorization.

a course after he/she has returned to California, the student should contact the OIP and request a grade review. The OIP will request that the study center staff check for clerical errors on the student's behalf. In both cases, if it is determined that an error was made, the corrected grade will be reported to the OIP. The OIP will then report the corrected grade to the student's home campus.

Credit/No Credit

Subject to home campus restrictions, students may request to have one course during each academic term reported to the home campus for a Credit or No Credit (CR/NC) grade, for a maximum of six units per academic year. Normally this grading option will not be approved for work intended to apply to the student's academic major.

Courses reported as a CR/NC to the home campus will appear on the student's CSU academic record but will have no effect on the grade point average.

Request to have courses reported under the CR/NC option must be made at least one month prior to the final examination period.

The IP does not permit students to apply the CR/NC option to any course in which the primary objective is the imparting of language competency skills. This applies to courses offered during preparatory language programs and to both required and optional instruction in foreign language during the academic year. This policy applies equally to those study centers where the primary language of instruction is English as to those where the primary language of instruction is a language other than English.

TO HAVE A COURSE REPORTED AS CREDIT/NO CREDIT: Students requesting to have a course or courses reported to their home campus under the CR/NC option must complete a CREDIT/NO CREDIT COURSE REQUEST form.

Incomplete Work

Because of the difficulty of completing and grading work after the end of the academic year overseas, no incomplete grades are given. Students who fail to complete all course requirements by the end of the academic year at their host institution will receive a grade of WU, which is equivalent to an F in calculating GPA and units completed. Exceptions to this policy must be pre-approved by the OIP.

Academic Tip: Complete all assignments and exams by the end of your year abroad.

Auditing

Students may audit courses provided by the host institution under the following circumstances:

- auditing is permitted by the host institution;
- the instructor has given specific permission for the student to audit;
- the audited course(s) are carried as an overload, not as a substitute for required enrolled units; and
- there is no additional cost to the IP.

Students can audit no more than one course per semester. Audited courses do not receive credit, are not included in the minimum academic course load requirement, and are not reported to the CSU home campus.

Examinations

Students are expected to take complete all course requirements and take all examinations for the courses that they are enrolled in, before leaving their host university. They may not request early exams or special favors in order to leave before the end of the term.

Host universities can have strict test-taking policies, including refusal to permit students to take exams if they arrive late. Students are expected to read and comply with university policies, which pertain to their studies at their host university.

Although some host universities permit students to retake a final examination several weeks or months after the original examination period has taken place, IP participants are not permitted to retake exams in the US.

While You Are Abroad

While you are studying at your host university, you will be required to complete and return specific forms in order for the OIP to credit your courses at your home campus. Forms will be emailed to you before your final exams period each semester unless advised otherwise.

1. **Student Program Form.** In order to receive CSU credit for the courses that you took at your host university, it is necessary for you to list the courses you have taken while abroad using the *Student Program* form. Guidelines on how to complete the form will be provided. It is important to read the guidelines carefully before completing the form. The form is due BEFORE you leave your HOST university (before your final exams period).
2. **Course Description Form.** The OIP requires that you complete a *Course Description* form for each course that you have taken at your host university. Be as detailed as possible in the description of the course. These forms are due BEFORE you leave your HOST university and should be attached to the *Student Program* form. Remember to keep a copy of course descriptions and other course related information for your records. You may need to submit course information to your advisor when you return to your home campus.
3. **Credit/No Credit Course Request.** Each semester, you may request to have one course (for a maximum of six units per year) reported to your home campus as a CR/NC except for non-English language courses IF the language is the official language of the host country. Refer to your home campus catalog for restrictions governing CR/NC. If you are interested in this grading option, complete the *Credit/No Credit Course Request* form at least ONE MONTH prior to the final examination of the course and return the form to the IP Coordinator at

Academic Tip: To access necessary academic information and forms while you are abroad, visit the IP website.

your HOST university who will forward the form to the OIP on your behalf. Late requests will NOT be approved. (See Credit/No Credit, above, for more information.) This form is provided at the end of the IP Bulletin (following this section).

Finally, make sure that your **transcript from your host university** will be sent directly to OIP at the end of the year. Once we have received the above forms and your transcript from your host university, an IP "Academic Report" (similar to a transcript) will be prepared by this office and sent to your home campus where it will be posted on your permanent record. See the following sections for more information.

IMPORTANT: Remember to check your emails on a regular basis to receive messages regarding your academic studies.

Academic Reporting

At the conclusion of the student's study abroad experience, the OIP evaluates and translates courses taken abroad, converts units and grades to CSU equivalent unit values and grades, and reports all courses attempted, and units and grades earned to the student's home campus, which is an essential academic function of the OIP. Since courses are posted to the student's CSU transcript and become a permanent part of the student's CSU academic record, courses must accurately represent the courses taken abroad.

To ensure accurate reporting, OIP will often report courses by using a special course designation number, which will allow the student to receive CSU resident credit in the subject area in which the course was taught. This is particularly true for courses taken in certain countries, e.g. Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. The title of the course taken will also be reported to the CSU campus and posted to the student's CSU academic record. This method of reporting means that students will need to furnish course descriptions, syllabi and other course materials to their advisors in order to apply for credit towards specific major, minor or general education requirements. If courses are not needed for specific degree requirements, then it is usually not necessary to complete any other forms at your campus.

Depending on the CSU campus, the host university and the specific course being reported, OIP also reports courses taken abroad using CSU course numbers but **ONLY** if the courses are exactly equivalent to the CSU home campus course. In cases when CSU campus course

numbers are used to report courses, documents are used including the students' transcripts, Academic Advisement form, Student Program form, home campus catalog and course information from the host university. In order for a course to be considered and reported as an equivalent to one offered at the home campus, it must be equal in course content, course level, and unit value.

Academic Tip:
Save course syllabi, exams, papers, and other coursework until you graduate in case you are questioned about any courses taken abroad or you wish to submit a petition or course substitution request at your home campus.

If the course differs in any of these areas, courses cannot be considered equivalent to a home campus course and it will not be reported as such. In these cases, students are encouraged to submit a request at the home campus to substitute the course taken abroad for the one at the home campus using the appropriate forms and procedures at the home campus.

For more specific information about reporting, see the IP Bulletin (following section).

Graduating seniors: Seniors who plan to graduate in their last semester abroad and who have taken courses abroad to fulfill degree requirements should plan to return to campus if needed, to submit petitions (or course substitutions requests). This is especially true in cases when courses taken abroad differs from what had been agreed upon between the student and the advisor prior to the student's study abroad experience.

At the conclusion of the academic year, the OIP prepares an "Academic Report," similar to a transcript, showing coursework and grades. This is the official—and the only—academic record of the entire year since mid-year reports are not provided. All courses and units attempted are reported, including failed courses. A grade will be reported for EACH course attempted. Grades earned while on IP will be averaged in the cumulative grade point average on the student's CSU transcript.

When to Expect your Academic Report

Since the grade reporting practices of international institutions operate differently than the CSU campuses, IP students will not receive their grades as quickly as they do at their home campus. Students are advised that it can take a **minimum of four months** (and sometimes longer depending on specific circumstances) for courses taken at their host university to be reported to their CSU campus after they have completed their study abroad.

The OIP sends the Academic Report to the student's permanent home address and the Registrar's/Records Office of the student's home campus. Once the home campus receives the Academic Report, it can take several weeks for the campus to post courses and grades to the student's CSU transcript.

Students also receive a cover letter attached to the Academic Report which contains useful information about the Academic Report. It is important that students **READ** this letter and keep it with their Academic Report for future reference.

Students who have not received their report or have received an email about their report by the end of the fourth month after they have completed their year abroad and are concerned may contact OIP at (562) 951-4790 to check on the status of their Academic Report. Until this time, students are expected to be patient.

Due to the delays with receiving grades for some countries (e.g. France, Germany, and Ghana), graduating seniors might have to postpone their graduation date depending on when the Academic Report can be sent to their home campus.

Graduating Seniors: Academic reports for graduating seniors are given priority processing but seniors should understand that it still can take a minimum of four months to process reports. For this reason, it is often not possible to graduate in the term following their last semester abroad. Students who plan to apply to graduate schools following their year abroad can still apply for graduate programs as long as they inform the institutions to which they are applying of a possible delay in the posting of their degree.

IMPORTANT: If students have an outstanding account related to their international studies, the Academic Report will NOT be released to their home campus until the debt has been cleared. Notification of outstanding accounts will be sent to the student's permanent home address.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Am I required to take the equivalent of 15 units each semester abroad even though I don't need the extra units to graduate? **Answer:** Yes.

Question: I want one course to be reported as a Credit/No Credit to my home campus. Can I take this course on a Pass/Fail basis at my host university? **Answer:** No. You must take the course for a regular grade but if you complete the *Credit/No Credit Course Request* form and your request is approved, the course will be reported to your home campus as a Credit/No Credit.

Question: Someone told me that if I don't take an exam in one course while I am on IP, the course would not show up on my CSU transcript. Is that true? **Answer:** No. The OIP receives a list of all completed and uncompleted courses from all institutions where our students are attending. If a student does not complete a course for any reason, the course will be reported as a WU to the home campus. This is equivalent to an F in GPA calculations.

Question: I have been abroad for one semester and I would like a mid-year report of the work that I've done. Will the OIP provide this to me? **Answer:** It is not our policy to issue mid-year Academic Reports. Reports are only provided after ALL grades for the entire year have been submitted to the OIP.

Question: I am going to a university which doesn't have a Resident Director or a person employed by the CSU International Programs. Who can I contact if I have academic questions? **Answer:** If your question relates to IP Academic Policy, reread the Academic Arrangements section of this Participant Guide which is also available online. You can also go to the International Office of your host university. If they are unable to answer your questions, they will contact our office for assistance.



General

In recent years, the academic institutions in South Africa have undergone a restructuring process. Many institutions have merged together to form new universities as part of a government plan for the further development and sustainability of South Africa's higher education system.

The International Program is affiliated with two universities in South Africa: The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Opened on January 1, 2005, NMMU was the result of a merger of three academic institutions and offers a range of academic, professional and technical programs. NMMU enrolls approximately 20,000 students. Their website is: < <http://www.nmmu.ac.za> >. Students attend the Port Elizabeth campus.

University of KwaZulu-Natal

On January 1, 2004, the University of Durban-Westville and the University of Natal merged to form the new University of KwaZulu-Natal. It has five campuses and enrolls over 40,000 students. Their website is: < <http://www.ukzn.ac.za> >. Students attend the Pietermaritzburg campus.

Academic Calendar

The academic year in South Africa is divided into two semesters. As the seasons are reversed from those in the Northern Hemisphere, the first term begins in February and runs until the mid or late June. The second term begins late July and ends in late November or early December.

Academic Culture

Academic expectations are high, particularly at the upper levels, at the South African universities. Instruction takes a more independent approach and academic expectations are less well defined than what students usually experience at CSU. Assigned readings and other class requirements may appear deceptively light. Lectures may be less structured than is usual at CSU; normally lectures do not repeat or review the reading material. Students are expected to set their own pace of mastering the subject matter and to incorporate readings and lectures into their sched-

ule without detailed syllabi from instructors. Science courses include strong practical lab requirements and an advanced level of research technique skills.

Students should have good reading, note-taking, and creative-thinking habits. Written work is expected to demonstrate strong writing skills, critical interpretation of oral and written sources, and the clear and cogent expression of understanding of the subject matter. Students should not make assumptions about a lack of academic rigor based on the seeming lack of English language skills by some students in lower-level courses. Former students have reported that some classes require more homework and considerably more reading than their CSU courses. Top grades require evidence of independent learning, originality of insight, familiarity with additional reading, and exceptional formulation and expression of ideas.

Students must make a special effort to find out the requirements and adapt to the pedagogy of their classes and not assume that they will be the same as they are at CSU. Fourth-year courses ("Honours" courses) are taught at a substantially higher level than second- and third-year courses; consequently the standard of student work is expected to be much higher and students are expected to have mastered academic research and writing skills.

The schedule for class meetings at universities in South Africa is somewhat different than at CSU. Most courses involve four 45-minute lectures each week for the duration of the 13-week semester, with additional 45-minute discussion classes ("tutorials") held on a weekly or biweekly basis. Given the British background of higher education in South Africa, students may find that the relationship between students and instructors is more formal than what they have been accustomed to at CSU. IP participants are encouraged to introduce themselves to their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Advising

The South African system of higher education is similar to the British model in that undergraduate students enroll in a program of study that is relatively fixed and highly focused within the particular subject. Most degree programs take three years to complete. CSU students will enroll in courses within the approved field of study in which they

are placed, following the same general plan as their South African counterparts.

Students should be aware that there is a distinction between first, second and third year courses (called “modules”). First year courses are usually introductory courses and taken by students in their first year of university study. Depending on course content, these are generally considered lower division courses. Second and third year courses are more advanced and considered equivalent to upper division courses. American students will find that second and third year courses can require more prerequisites and students are expected to have met prerequisites if they wish to take the course. If in doubt about whether the course is a first, second or third year course, students should look at the course description or ask their advisor at their host university during their academic advising sessions after arrival.

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Unit Conversion Guidelines	
NMMU Credits	CSU Semester Units
4 - 5	1
6 - 8	2
10	3
15	4
20	5

Students are required to take a minimum of 15 CSU units EACH semester.

University of KwaZulu-Natal

Unit Conversion Guidelines	
UKZN Credits	CSU Semester Units
8	2
16	4
32	8
64	16

At the University of KwaZulu-Natal, a normal course load for a semester is 64 credits, which is equivalent to 16 CSU semester units.

Academic Program

All students, regardless of the curriculum they are following, are required to take:

- the equivalent of 15-16 CSU units each semester (but no more than 18 units per semester);
- language course(s) EACH semester;
- two to three courses in their major EACH semester.

Assessment and Grading

Grading systems used in South Africa differ from the system used at CSU, so students should not be shocked by the numerical marks that they receive on their papers and exams. Assignments and exams are given a percentage grade that in most cases is much lower than what would be expected according to the usual CSU scale for comparable work done at home. For example, excellent work, which would earn an A at CSU, may be given a grade of 75 percent. It is quite normal for average work to be marked 60-65, and marks in the 60s are considered indicative of good, solid work.

The numerical grades are converted into CSU equivalent letter grades by the OIP before being reported to student's home campus registrar.

Exams

Most South African universities place considerable emphasis on the final written exam given at the end of each semester course. Permission to take the final exam may require a certain percentage of class attendance and a certain level of achievement on assignments and classroom performance. Final exams are held in designated locations, not in the rooms where classes are held.

The university sets the exam schedule and the faculty offices publish individual schedules. Students must take the initiative to check the draft and especially the final schedule of exams; students cannot expect anyone to tell them to do so. **The exam schedule is not flexible.** Exam dates cannot be changed to accommodate travel plans, so students should not make travel plans until they are sure of the date of your last exam. Arrangements for early exams are not permissible for any reason. **All exams must be taken at the host university.**

In humanities and social science courses, final exams typically take the form of a three-hour exam in which students are given a set of questions and are required to write essay answers to three or four of them. Some courses use multiple-choice questions for at least part of the exam. The grade obtained on such an exam typically counts for about 67 percent of the final grade for the course; assignments and tests during the semester make up the remaining 33 percent. In other courses continuous assessment, is conducted throughout the semester and takes the place of final examinations.

IP participants are required to meet all academic requirements as determined by the host university departments. They must take all examinations, meet all course requirements, and carry out all laboratory/field work. It is also important that students become familiar with the test-taking policies by reading these policies when you arrive at your host university and again, before taking exams. CSU students are expected to comply with the policies implemented by their host university.

Grading

Grading is done through a percentage system. Students can get a general idea of the grading scale and grade conversion by reviewing the table below.

South Africa	CSU Grade
75-100	A
70-74	A-
67-69	B+
63-66	B
60-62	B-
57-59	C+
54-56	C
51-53	C-
50	D
00-49	F

Academic Reporting

To ensure accurate reporting, OIP will report courses taken in South Africa by using a special course designation number, which will allow the student to receive CSU resident credit in the subject area in which the course was taught. The title of the course taken will also be reported to the CSU campus and posted to the student's CSU academic record. This method of reporting means that students will need to furnish course descriptions, syllabi and other course materials to their home campus advisors in order to apply for credit towards specific major, minor or general education requirements. Students should expect to complete campus-based forms (petitions or course substitution requests) with the assistance of their advisor(s). If courses are not needed for specific degree requirements, then it is usually not necessary to complete any other forms at your campus.

Academic Reports for students attending the South African universities can take a minimum of six months to finalize, and sometimes longer. Graduating seniors should take this into account when planning for their graduation and submitting their graduation forms at their home campus.

Course Planning and Registration

Students will concentrate their studies in one field (occasionally two), studying in their major.

IP participants are also required to take one language course during the first semester as follows:

- At Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University: Students are required to take a Xhosa culture and language course.
- At University of KwaZulu-Natal: Students are required to an introductory Zulu language course.

Below is an example of the academic schedule for the year in South Africa.

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Semester 1	CSU Units
Xhosa for Beginners 1A	2
Xhosa for Beginners 1B	2
Courses in your major	<u>11</u>
Minimum number of units required	15

Semester 2	CSU Units
Xhosa for Beginners 1C	2
Xhosa for Beginners 1D	2
Courses in your major	<u>11</u>
Minimum number of units required for Spring	15

University of KwaZulu-Natal

Semester 1	CSU Units
Beginning IsiZulu Language 1A	4
Courses in your major	<u>12</u>
Minimum number of units required	16

Semester 2	CSU Units
Beginning IsiZulu Language 1B	4
Courses in your major	<u>12</u>
Minimum number of units required for Spring	16

These courses listed above must be taken for regular grade, which means that students must take all exams and complete all requirements of the course.

Handbooks (catalogs) for the individual faculties contain course descriptions. The individual departments publish schedules of classes. Most courses are offered during only one semester each year and some courses are not offered every year. Most departments issue or post syllabi, course outlines, reading lists, and assignments. Faculty members are generally available through open-door access and after-class consultation, and sometimes during posted office hours.

While in South Africa, IP students are required to take the equivalent of 15 CSU units each semester (comparable to the host university's normal load for its own students). Serious financial aid and academic consequences may result if less than the minimum required units are undertaken.

Students are required to complete and sign a Registration Study List, provide information for Course Approval Requests, and otherwise follow instructions regarding academic procedures. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program.

Course Offerings

To find course descriptions, students are encouraged to consult the university's web sites. Admission to courses is subject to approval of the host university and the particular department's prerequisites.

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU)

Course information can be found in a booklet known as a "prospectus". Each academic division (or "Faculty") publishes a prospectus which can be found in the NMMU website: <http://www.nmmu.ac.za/default.asp?id=3644&bhcp=1>

Click on the Faculty in which you will take most of your courses. Then click on "Programme" which is one of your choices on the menu located at the top left hand side of the webpage. In most cases, you will find the prospectus at the bottom of that webpage.

Note: The 2009 prospectus for each faculty was not available at the time of this publication was printed. Students

should check the NMMU website periodically and search for Prospectus 2009.

Students must only select courses offered at the Port Elizabeth campus.

University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)

Course information can be found in a booklet known as a "handbook". Each academic division (or "Faculty") publishes a handbook which can be found in the UKZN website: < <http://www.ukzn.ac.za/handbooks/> >

Note: Handbooks for 2009 was not available at the time this publication was printed. Students should check the UKZN website periodically and search for handbooks for 2009.

IP participants should also review information on the website which is especially for enrolled students: < <http://www.ukzn.ac.za/Student/student.asp> >.

Students must only select courses offered at the Pietermaritzburg campus.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

CREDIT/NO CREDIT COURSE REQUEST

This form is to be used by CSU International Programs (IP) participants who are requesting to have a course taken abroad reported as a Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) to their home campus in compliance with regulations governing CR/NC, which are explained in the Participant Guide and listed below. Once completed and signed, give the form to the Resident Director or Resident Coordinator. If there is no Resident Director/Coordinator at your host university, give this form to an official from the International Office at your HOST university who will forward the form to the Office of International Programs on your behalf.

I, _____ having read, understood, and agreed to comply with the
PRINT: First name Last name
regulations governing Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) listed below, wish to have the following course(s) reported to my home campus as a CR/NC:

Course number	Course title	Term the course was taken	Final Exam Date (Day/ Month/Year)

I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that I comply with the regulations governing Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) for the course above with my home campus and that once this form is approved by the Office of International Programs, this decision is final.

My host university is: _____ My home campus is: _____

IP Policy on Credit/No Credit:

1. All courses must be taken for a letter grade at the host university, however, via this form, students may designate one course per semester for a maximum of six semester units for the year to be reported to the home campus as a CR/NC.
2. Approved requests will be reported to the student's home campus as a CR/NC and appear on student's CSU academic record but it has no effect on the grade point average.
3. Language acquisition courses in countries where the national language is not English cannot be taken CR/NC but must be taken for a letter grade.
4. Requests must be consistent with CR/NC regulations set by the student's home campus and major department. Normally, courses fulfilling major requirements must be taken for a letter grade.
5. CR/NC requests must be submitted to the Office of International Programs at least one month prior to the final examination date of the course.
6. CR is awarded for grades A through C- in undergraduate courses, and A through B- in graduate courses. NC is assigned for D+ through F in undergraduate courses, C+ through F in graduate courses, contingent upon compliance with #4, above.
7. Incomplete forms, which omit the course information requested above and/or requested signatures below will not be considered.

Student's signature

Date (Day/Month/Year)

Form was received by:

Resident Director/Coordinator or Host University Official
(Printed name and signature)

Form was received on: (Day/Month/Year)

To Resident Director/Coordinator/Host University Official: Please forward this form to the Office of International Programs. International Programs, CSU Office of the Chancellor, 401 Golden Shore, 6th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802-4210 USA Fax: (562) 951-4983



Finances

Financial Planning

A crucial ingredient of a successful year overseas is a sound financial plan. This point cannot be overemphasized. Without adequate funds, you simply cannot manage to live and study overseas. This section should give you the information you need to plan your finances for the upcoming year overseas.

During the time you were applying to IP, you were carefully considering the costs as described in the *Financing Your Year Overseas* pamphlet. By now you should have a good idea of your resources for the coming year and should have applied for financial aid, if necessary. The amounts shown on the Program Cost Estimate sheet (attached to the Agreement) are based on the experience of the current year's students. These **estimates** are useful for planning purposes, but are subject to changes due to currency fluctuation, inflation, and costs out of OIP's control.

You should understand that in paying these costs you have not purchased a "package tour" which guarantees that all your expenses will be paid and all services delivered. Tour companies can do this because they add a healthy profit margin for themselves. If their prediction of costs is too low, they have to take the difference out of their profit. If it is too high, their profit is higher.

IP does not make a profit. The money you pay to us is used solely for your own expenses. If there is anything left over at the end of the year, you will receive it back as a refund. If costs are excessively higher than expected, it might be necessary to ask you to pay the difference, as you agree to do in the Agreement you sign before participating. We do not like to ask our students to pay more money and, understandably, they do not like to do it. This situation is a rare occurrence.

Costs usually vary somewhat from the previous year. Check the figures carefully so that you understand the anticipated costs for this coming year, as each item is explained in this document. In particular, look at the "Estimated Out-of-Pocket Expenses" on your Program Cost Estimate sheet, which are the items you will pay for individually while overseas. These amounts are **estimates only**, but should be considered **minimum** amounts. Do not expect to get by on less.

Since you ordinarily cannot work legally overseas, you should not plan on earning any money during the year.

After reading this section and reviewing your Program Cost Estimate sheet, if you still have any questions about finances, please feel free to contact OIP about them. It is far better to resolve any questions or problems now, rather than to wait until you are overseas. Before you depart, make sure that you will have sufficient funds for the entire year.

Explanation of Cost Estimates

You have decided to participate in the California State University International Programs. IP does not generate profit for the CSU, but rather provides students with affordable, academically enriching international opportunities. Your decision to be an IP participant means that you are aware that the Office of International Programs (OIP) will be making some arrangements for you and that OIP will therefore have control of some of your program-related costs.

There are many benefits to participating in a study abroad program managed by a central office such as OIP. OIP takes care of numerous things for you that you would otherwise have to manage yourself if you were going abroad independently. For example, OIP assists you with such things as information about how to obtain your student visa, temporary housing arrangements, admission to and registration at a foreign university, health insurance, orientation before departure and upon arrival, and, in some cases, flight arrangements.

You may hear from others that you can get a "better deal" if you make your own arrangements. However, we caution you to remember that, more often than not, making your own arrangements can be extremely time consuming and costly if you have to do them yourself, especially if you do not speak the language of the host country fluently. And sometimes, students who attempt to make their own arrangements to "save money" end up paying for extra things that they forgot to account for at the outset. OIP takes care of the "BIG things" so that you can focus on the little things that will make your trip more memorable for you. By and large, students appreciate the plans made by OIP, especially at the beginning of the year when they are still unfamiliar with their new surroundings.

OIP has been operating study abroad programs since 1963. The staff is very familiar with the intricacies of international travel and living. Our unique insights and our combined years of experience give us an advantage when it comes to making arrangements overseas. We do our best to keep costs as low as possible and to make practical decisions to keep you safe and comfortable. We believe that you will be happy with the arrangements we make for you.

Program Cost Estimates are those costs which are paid by you, the student, and are divided into two categories: "Pre-paid Costs," which you pay in advance to OIP, and "Out-of-Pocket Expenses," which you will pay individually while overseas. Refer to the Program Cost Estimate sheet to see when certain payments are due. The separate costs are further described below:

State University Fee - This fee covers home campus enrollment. Please note, students seeking a second undergraduate degree will be charged the graduate rate.

IP Study Abroad Fee - Mandatory fee for all IP participants. Fee covers costs related to overseas operational expenses including student on-site support and operating costs of the program.

Insurance - A mandatory group health and accident insurance plan ordered by OIP and paid in your Program Cost Estimate.

Departure Processing - Includes orientation and materials sent to students prior to departure.

On-site Orientation - Both universities provide an orientation shortly arrival. Students at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University will be charged a fee for this orientation.

Academic Year Housing and Meals - Shared, minimally furnished, off-campus flats. Students purchase or prepare their own meals.

Health Insurance - Local health insurance coverage is required of all international university students by the South African government. Students must register with one of the approved Medical Aid providers before or upon arrival.

Personal Expenses - Estimates of personal expenses can at best be only a rough guess, but the amounts indicated are based on the average for last year's students. Included are such items as clothing, postage, entertainment, books, etc. Please bear in mind that estimates for personal expenses, as well as for other out-of-pocket expenses, are minimum amounts. Do not expect to get by on less.

Roundtrip Transportation - The cost of transportation to and from the overseas center.

WARNING: Vacation expenses are NOT included in the Program Cost Estimate sheet. Vacation/travel expenses have not been estimated because the amount students spend on this item varies so greatly. In the past, average expenses have ranged from \$500 to \$2,000 and the individual variation is so great that it is hard to make sound predictions. If you plan to travel before your return to the States, you will need to add even more to your travel budget.

The State of California Keeps Costs Down by Contributing toward the Program Costs

It is useful for you to know that the cost of providing education at any California State University campus is approximately \$12,567 per year per student. The student only has to pay about \$3,864 per year, and the State of California pays about \$8,703 per year toward each student's education.

IP programs are more affordable than most study abroad programs of comparable quality, duration and academic value because the State of California supports study abroad by contributing to the IP program costs. When you study abroad with IP, you are still only required to pay the same university fees that you would pay if you were attending at your home CSU campus (about \$3,048 plus graduate and summer fees where applicable per year).

The State of California wants CSU students to study abroad to broaden their horizons and to acquire international, linguistic and multicultural skills, and therefore contributes toward the cost of study abroad, instead of passing those costs on to students. The costs that are covered by the State of California include such things as the host university tuition, academic and logistical program arrangements, overhead for operating office facilities, and staff salaries in California and overseas.

Changes to Program Cost

The Program Cost Estimate sheet shows the **estimated** standard costs for a single IP student at your host country. This information must be adjusted for students with dependents and those students who arrange their own housing. **Request for changes to your program cost should arrive at OIP by ◀ November 1.** Once an adjustment has been approved which will affect your prepaid costs or payment schedule, OIP will send you an official revised Program Cost Estimate sheet.

Financial Data Form

To be assured that IP students have sufficient funds for the year overseas, OIP requires that each student complete a Financial Data form and return it by ◀ **October 15.** If your financial situation changes before departure, you must inform OIP.

W-9S

Students enrolled in the International Programs may be eligible for the Lifetime Learning credit, which provides for a credit of qualified tuition and fees per tax year. In order for us to file the appropriate reports/claims, we request that you (or the person claiming you as a dependent) complete Part I of the W-9S *Request for Student's or Borrower's Social Security Number and Certification* form and return it to our office by ◀ **October 15.** For more information please see: <<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9s.pdf>>.

Payment

The total Prepaid Cost should arrive at OIP by ◀ **October 15**.

You may send your check or money order payable to:

CSU INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Mail to:

CSU International Programs
401 Golden Shore, Sixth Floor
Long Beach, California 90802-4210

Make sure your name and host country are clearly indicated on the check. This is particularly important if someone other than you is making the payment. Otherwise we may not be able to credit the proper account. If you wish to pay using your Visa or MasterCard, please complete the required information on the Program Cost Payment form and return to OIP by ◀ **October 15**.

No receipts will be given for personal checks; your cancelled check will serve as a receipt. A \$10 fee will be charged for all returned checks.

Deferment of Prepaid Cost

Your entire Prepaid Cost is due by ◀ **October 15**. However, if you are unable to pay the full amount you may choose one of the following options:

Financial Aid - Prepay \$500 and defer the remainder until your financial aid is disbursed. If you choose this method of payment, you should indicate so on the Program Cost Payment form and return **with your \$500 deposit**.

By November 15—or before you leave for your study center (which ever comes first)—you will need to provide OIP with an award letter or a letter from your financial aid counselor stating that sufficient aid to cover your remaining payment due will be awarded. The amount due will be deducted from your financial aid.

Parents' Payment Schedule - Prepay \$500 and parents make payments for the balance due. If you choose this method of payment, you should indicate so on the Program Cost Form and return **with your \$500 deposit**. The balance due should be paid in not more than six monthly installments with the final payment arriving in OIP no later than May 30, 2009.

Parents should be aware, any refunds due will be returned to the student.

Note: At the end of your academic year if you have a financial obligation it may result in a financial hold being placed on your academic records. If the obligation continues, your name will be given to the Franchise Tax Board for collection.

Financial Aid - Procedures

Except for Federal Work Study, IP participants continue to be eligible for all student aid programs such as Cal Grant A or B, Pell Grant, SEOG, SUG, Perkins Loan, EOP Grants,

Stafford Loans, and scholarships. We expect that, if you require financial aid, you have already filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and that you are complying with your campus financial aid office's requests and deadlines.

US Department of Education FAFSA:

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>



If you have just determined that you will need assistance, we recommend that you contact your campus financial aid office immediately. Most campus financial aid offices have designated a counselor to work specifically with IP students.

1. Visit your financial aid office and complete the application materials as instructed. Inform the counselor that you will be an IP participant. Many campuses will ask you to indicate this on your application and on all documents to make it easier to process your award and to handle your checks properly while you are overseas.
2. Make sure that you have submitted all required paperwork. This is **YOUR** responsibility.
3. Complete and submit the Financial Data form to OIP. The Authorization for Transmittal of Financial Aid (part of the Financial Data form) permits your home campus to send OIP what may be owed on your program cost or send your financial aid to OIP.
4. A few weeks before you depart, contact your financial aid counselor to verify that your file is complete.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students who will rely on financial aid during periods of study abroad must confirm with the financial aid office that they will be eligible for aid during the period of planned enrollment.

If you are a financial aid recipient you must also confirm with your campus financial aid office that you are currently making satisfactory academic progress and that you will not exceed the maximum time frame for receiving financial aid during the period that you are abroad.

Financial Aid - Disbursement

WARNING: It is your responsibility to remove all CSU home campus "holds" on your records before you go abroad. A "hold" on your records will prevent you from receiving financial aid. This includes Library holds, and all other campus holds including the Records Office, Financial Aid Office, your own academic department and any other campus office that may put a "hold" on your records. Before you leave, be sure to clear all "holds." This is your responsibility and will prevent problems in the future.

In order for you to receive your financial aid efficiently, your home campus may disburse your financial aid directly rather than through OIP. Most campuses are able to do this, but a few are not. If your campus is disbursing your aid, the campus should follow the same disbursement procedure it

would use if you were to remain on campus. If you have deferred any portion of your program costs with financial aid, the amount due will be deducted and sent to OIP each quarter/semester with the balance disbursed to you. **It is your responsibility to make sure your home campus has your disbursement instructions on hand prior to your departure. Double check that your mailing address is current at your home campus.**

If your campus cannot disburse financial aid directly to you, they will send it to OIP and you will need to tell OIP where you want it sent. Again, any deferred program costs will be deducted each quarter/semester prior to disbursement. If you have questions about where your financial aid check is being sent, please contact your campus financial aid office and if you have questions about your deferred program costs, please contact OIP prior to departure.

When Can You Expect Your Financial Aid?

Every year, IP students are very anxious about receiving their financial aid overseas. Please read this information carefully so that you will not be financially unprepared (stuck overseas without any money).

The first thing you must understand is that it will take time for you to receive your first financial aid check. **You are advised to have enough money to cover your first two months worth of expenses.** It may take that long for your financial aid to reach you.

Second, you need to know where your financial is being sent.

Third, you need to have a back up plan in case your financial aid is delayed.

OIP Emergency Loans

Students may borrow money from OIP as follows:

1. In an emergency, students may borrow up to \$300.00 at a time through August 31; this date is subject to change.
2. Students may borrow funds against late receipt of financial aid **if** OIP can determine status of the financial aid disbursement.
3. Students may borrow money to pay for medical expenses such as extended hospitalization. These loans must be for a covered illness and backed up by insurance claims payable to OIP.

Certification of Enrollment

While OIP can provide certification/verification of concurrent enrollment to scholarship donors, insurance companies, etc., please remember that it is not OIP's responsibility to make sure your campus processes the forms--this is still your responsibility.



Health and Safety Abroad

As you prepare to spend a year abroad, health, safety and security are important issues for you to consider. Each year hundreds of students study abroad and return safely. This does not mean that you should ignore this aspect of your preparation, studying abroad is not "risk free." In preparing you should first realize that there are a wide range of potentially serious situations that may or may not apply to you. In one country, traffic accidents may pose (statistically) the largest danger to you, while in another country the AIDS virus may be a more serious threat. Perhaps the most important variable is you—your health situation, personal habits, the activities you choose to engage in or the places you choose to go.

No orientation can alert you to every potential difficulty. We will provide you with some background and additional information sources so that you can make informed decisions both as you prepare and while you are abroad. Read this *Guide*, attend the Predeparture Orientation, and learn as much as you can about the country to which you are going. Explore additional sources if you have more questions.

Health & Medical Issues

The Health Examination

In order to prepare physically and emotionally for living and studying overseas for a year, you are required to have a medical checkup before you go. Your medical record will be on file overseas for reference purposes in case of emergency. You and your physician must complete the Health Status Report and return it to OIP by **October 15**.

This report also verifies the physical condition of the applicant for insurance purposes and alerts the OIP and overseas staff of any special physical and psychological factors that may affect your performance, comfort and safety while an IP student. It is vital that this examination be thorough and accurate. It is intended to be a general survey of your health and should be completed by a general practitioner, unless your specific health situation requires reporting by a specialist. Reports completed by chiropractors are not acceptable.

You should make an appointment immediately in order to meet the deadline. Many campus health centers will complete the form for enrolled students if arrangements are made well in advance of the end of the term.

Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs, such as physically disabled students, or students with learning disabilities, will have the opportunity to make their needs known after selection. IP makes every effort to accommodate such students in cooperation with host institutions abroad. Students with special needs are encouraged to identify themselves to make adequate planning possible. In some cases, adequate facilities or services for students with specific types of disabilities may not be available at their chosen overseas study centers.

Preparing for Other Health Issues

You can also prepare for the year ahead by reviewing the following:

Medical/Dental Work - We advise taking care of any existing medical problems and dental work before departure. Routine dental care is not included in IP insurance coverage. Lists of doctors and medical facilities are available from the IP office overseas.

Inoculations - Although specific shots may not be required for all IP countries, depending upon your personal situation, it may be a good idea to be immunized against major communicable diseases. If you are planning to travel to other countries while overseas, check to see if any inoculations are required. **Consult your physician for advice.**

HIV - HIV infection in South Africa is extremely high. IP participants going to South Africa must be prepared to refrain from all activities and behaviors associated with the transmittal of HIV.

Eye Glasses/Contact Lenses - Take a copy of your prescription, as well as an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses with you. Routine eye examinations are not included in the IP insurance coverage. Consider taking a supply of cleaning solution for contact lenses if your eyes are especially sensitive as overseas products may differ.

Medications - If you can, take along a year's supply of any prescription medications and any nonprescription medicines (e.g., aspirin, allergy medicine) that you use regularly. Local products may differ. In addition you should be aware that adjustments to unfamiliar food and water may create intestinal problems; ask your doctor to recommend an anti-diarrhea treatment.

Students currently taking medication for an ongoing medical condition should consult with their physicians regarding their ongoing care. Ask your doctor if the medications you take are available in the country you are going to and whether the drug is known by another name. You may be able to continue treatment under a physician's care overseas. If you determine that you will need to have medications shipped to you overseas, you must observe any laws enforced by your host country regarding shipment and receipt of medication. The best resource for information about such regulations would be the host country's embassy in Washington D.C. Contact information is on the Web. For example, "the Embassy of Italy in the United States."

Students should note that the CSU insurance policy does not cover "pre-existing conditions." Therefore, students with chronic medical conditions who know that they will need ongoing care while living abroad would be wise to continue coverage with their current health insurance company. Any questions you have about this should be directed to Somerton Insurance before departure. Telephone: (800) 853-5899 or (916) 314-5500.

Health Conditions Overseas

Do not expect conditions to be the same as in California. Health issues will also be a topic during your on-site orientation. Regardless of your host country, most IP students will probably have a few minor stomach upsets due to adjustments to food and water. During vacation travel to other countries you will probably be faced with unfamiliar health conditions. The following sources have helpful information about staying healthy overseas:

- *Health Information for International Travel*. Centers for Disease Control. Available for a fee from the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 or may be obtained from your local and state health departments. This publication should be available at your local library and the section on "Health Hints" includes interesting and important information.
- *Staying Healthy in Asia, Africa and Latin America* by Dirk Schroeder (Volunteers in Asia, Inc., 1988). Paperback guidebook for travelers who visit less-developed countries.



Centers for Disease Control:
<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>

- **International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers (IAMAT)**

IAMAT is a non-profit organization that was established in 1960. IAMAT's objective is to advise travelers about health risks, the geographical distribution of diseases worldwide, immunization requirements for all countries, and to make competent medical care available to travelers by western-trained doctors who speak English besides their mother tongue.

International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers (IAMAT)

<http://www.iamat.org/>



Medical Facilities Overseas - Nearly all students overseas experience some difficulty in adjusting to different diets, climates, sanitary facilities and other conditions that may temporarily affect their physical well-being. Most of these problems are of short duration. Adequate medical facilities are available at all centers in the event of more serious illnesses and staff overseas can refer you to appropriate doctors and medical facilities.

Health Insurance

CSU policy requires that all study abroad students be insured. Therefore, all IP participants are covered by Accident and Sickness Insurance for CSU Students Studying Abroad, included in your IP program costs.

This insurance is only valid outside the US and is considered an "excess" policy. This means that if you have other insurance coverage with another company outside of IP (e.g. through your parents), then you must file the claim with the other company first, then with the IP insurance carrier. Carefully study the policy exclusions and limitations provided in the brochure in the packet. This policy does not cover pre-existing conditions, nor does it cover all medicines or drugs prescribed for outpatient treatment. You may need to maintain your current insurance policy or purchase a new policy that will provide coverage. The policy includes a major medical provision with a deductible, and an accidental death benefit. We should also mention that many of the host countries require students to purchase local coverage, which provides students with additional coverage.

Please note that the CSU policy requires that you pay for medical services up-front, and subsequently file a claim form for reimbursement. If you have a large medical expense, such as hospitalization, OIP is prepared to lend you the funds to cover your expenses until the insurance carriers reimburse you.

The required insurance goes into effect the day before you are asked to arrive overseas and remains in effect as long as you are enrolled in classes with IP. No insurance premium refund is given once you depart the US for your study center. If you withdraw or are disenrolled from IP prior to the end of the academic year, you forfeit participation in the health and accident insurance plan effective on the date of withdrawal as established by OIP. Although the health insurance coverage has proven adequate for most IP participants, it is not a comprehensive policy. **You should carry your insurance card with you at all times.**

Insurance Brochure & Claim Forms:

<http://www.csuhealthlink.com>

(Select "CSU IP" from the drop down list of Schools, then click on "submit". Once there click on the link to the Brochure or Claim Form.)



Europ Assistance USA - Your CSU student health insurance policy includes emergency travel assistance coverage administered by Europ Assistance USA. This is a supplemental part of your health insurance policy valid around the world and can assist you if you should need emergency medical care while traveling abroad, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. To access their benefits, you MUST contact Europ Assistance USA and let them make all arrangements for any services that you need. The kinds of services they provide are listed in the insurance pamphlet that we included in your packet.

Upon request, Europ Assistance USA can also provide pre-trip counseling for any countries you will be traveling to. They can also answer questions you may have about your prescription medications before departure or help you replace a prescription while traveling.

For further information on the services provided by Europ Assistance USA, please see the Wells Fargo Student Health Insurance pamphlet provided in your packet, or contact Europ Assistance USA at: (800) 243-6124 (*Toll-free within the United States*) or (202) 659-7803 (*Collect from outside the U.S.*).

Adjustment & Personal Safety

During your time abroad, you will be required to make adjustments to the people, organizations and culture of your destination. Students going to the United Kingdom often underestimate the number of differences they will encounter. Students going to Asia may tend to underestimate the number of similarities they will encounter. Cultural differences show themselves not only in our relationship to other people but also in the systems people create and the way they operate those systems. Our purpose here is not to open a discussion of intercultural communication, but to point out how these differences may cause miscommunication and affect you, your adjustment and your personal safety.

While you are abroad you will take the opportunity to do and see many things. As you undertake these activities you should always try to be aware that you are in another country. You should also try to make informed and reasonable decisions concerning the safety and advisability of your activities. The list of possible choices is virtually limitless and you will decide what you do and you must accept the consequences. Please read the "Student Conduct" section of this *Guide* for program policies. Three areas seem worth a special mention here.

Alcohol - Attitudes about alcohol and customs surrounding its use can be very different abroad than they are at home. Alcohol abuse can be a danger and it contributes to other dangers as it impairs your judgment.

Illegal Drugs- In addition to the inherent dangers in the use of illegal drugs, drug use abroad can present serious legal problems. Drug laws abroad may be much different than those in the US and penalties can be severe for foreigners. Avoid illegal drugs. US laws and legal procedure do not apply in other countries. While a guest in another

country you are subject to their laws. The US Embassy can provide only limited assistance in locating legal help.

Drugs Abroad: You Can be Arrested

http://travel.state.gov/travel/livingabroad_drugs.html



Political Activity - Students in other countries are often more likely to demonstrate for and against a variety of causes. You may sympathize with the students and be tempted to join the demonstration. The dangers in becoming involved, intentionally or unintentionally, are real. Demonstrations can unexpectedly become violent and authorities are not sympathetic to foreign participation. IP students should not get involved in demonstrations abroad.

US State Department Travel Information - A copy of the Consular Information Sheet for the country you will be going to is included at the end of this section. Consular Information Sheets are produced by the US Department of State and provide an overview of the conditions related to traveling to a particular country. Consular Information Sheets generally do not include advice, but rather present information in a factual manner so that the traveler can make his or her own decisions about travel to a particular country. They include such information as minor political disturbances, currency and entry regulations, crime and security information, drug penalties, health conditions, and the location of the US Embassy or Consulate. Travel Warnings are issued when the State Department wishes to warn people about a specific threat or to recommend that Americans avoid travel to a certain country. It is relatively rare for the State Department to advise that a country be completely avoided.

You may access updated US State Department Consular Information Sheets and Travel Warnings on the Internet at the address provided below. We suggest that you read the information provided for any of the countries you might be visiting while you are abroad.

For US State Department Travel Information:

http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html



Final Note

We expect that you will have a productive and challenging year abroad. As we have indicated above no location in the US or abroad can be considered risk free. By informing yourself and acting responsibly, you can help make your stay abroad a safe one. Nevertheless, changing circumstances that pose risks to students may require OIP to act. In those cases, that action may include evacuation, relocation or suspension of the program. While this is extremely rare, it remains a possibility of which you should be aware.

**U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs
Washington, DC 20520**

**Consular Information Sheet
South Africa**

June 26, 2008

COUNTRY DESCRIPTION: South Africa is in many respects a developed country, but much of its population lives in poverty. All major urban areas have modern, world-class hotels and tourist facilities. Game parks and areas most often visited by tourists have a wide range of facilities. Food and water are generally safe, and a wide variety of consumer goods and pharmaceuticals are readily available. The capital is Pretoria, while the seat of parliament is located in Cape Town. Johannesburg is the financial capital and largest city in South Africa. Durban is home to Africa's busiest port and is the number one tourist destination for South Africans. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on South Africa for additional information.

ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS: PLEASE NOTE: We recommend the passports of all travelers to South Africa contain at least two completely blank (unstamped) visa pages each time entry is sought. These pages are in addition to the endorsement/amendment pages (as many as four) at the back of the passport. While South African statutes require one, completely blank visa page, this rule has been applied inconsistently by South African immigration officials. In addition, any trip to a neighboring country would necessitate another blank page upon return. Travelers lacking adequate blank pages in the passport may be refused entry into South Africa, fined, and returned to their point of origin at the traveler's expense. South African authorities have denied the diplomatic missions access to assist in these cases. As a general precaution, all travelers are advised to carry a photocopy of the photo/bio information page of their passport and keep it in a location separate from the passport.

Visitors to South Africa for tourism, short business meetings, or those in transit do not require visas for stays of up to 90 days. In the event that a traveler overstays that period without a permit issued by the South African Department of Home Affairs, they may be subject to a fine of up to 3,000 rand (approximately 415 US dollars). All others, including academics, students on educational trips, and volunteers, may need visas. Americans who intend to work in South Africa must apply for work permits before arrival; otherwise they risk being refused admission and returned to their point of origin. It is strongly suggested that all travelers check the latest requirements with the nearest South African Embassy or Consulate before traveling.

Travelers entering South Africa from countries where yellow fever is endemic are often required to present their yellow World Health Organization (WHO) vaccination record or other proof of inoculation. If they are unable to do so, they must be inoculated at the airport in order to be permitted entry.

Visit the Embassy of South Africa web site at <http://www.saembassy.org> for the most current visa information. Information about [dual nationality](#) or the prevention of [international child abduction](#) can be found on our web site. For further information about customs regulations, please read our [Customs Information](#) sheet.

SAFETY AND SECURITY: Travelers are encouraged to be vigilant and avoid any large gathering, particularly protests and demonstrations. The possibility of violence, including threats against American interests, should not be discounted, particularly in times of heightened world tension.

South Africa has seen a number of attacks directed at foreigners - particularly refugees or immigrants from other African nations. Many of the attacks were centered in Johannesburg and the province of Gauteng in low income neighborhoods and informal settlements, but incidents of mob violence have taken place throughout the country. Many individuals have been killed in these incidents and many more, both targeted victims and bystanders, have been injured. While there have been no reports of Americans or other non-African visitors being targeted, these incidents of mob violence have sprung up quickly and proven difficult for local authorities to control. American residents and visitors are advised to listen to local media for reports of such incidents and to avoid areas (including but not limited to townships) where they may be likely to occur.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs' web site at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current [Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts](#), as well as the [Worldwide Caution](#), can be found.

Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S. and Canada, or for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll-line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The Department of State urges American citizens to take responsibility for their own personal security while traveling overseas. For general information about appropriate measures travelers can take to protect themselves in an overseas environment, see the Department of State's pamphlet [A Safe Trip Abroad](#).

CRIME: Although the vast majority of visitors complete their travels in South Africa without incident, visitors should be aware that criminal activity, often violent, occurs routinely. Notwithstanding government anti-crime efforts, violent crimes such as armed robbery, carjacking, mugging, "smash and grab" attacks on vehicles, and other incidents are regularly reported by visitors and resident Americans.

Visitors and residents are advised of ongoing criminal activity involving organized crime gangs targeting individuals at shopping centers and in particular at the OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg. Once a victim has been identified, he/she is followed back to his/her residence and robbed, usually at gunpoint, although the use of force is generally reserved for those offering some form of resistance. These gangs tend to target more "affluent" individuals, including people driving expensive cars, wearing eye-catching jewelry, flashing large amounts of cash, and/or making high-value purchases. Criminals also gravitate towards "soft" targets - people who appear preoccupied and do not pay attention to their immediate surroundings. Tourists have been targeted in a similar fashion at the airport. It appears that criminals may view certain incoming travelers as suitable targets (due perhaps to dress, jewelry or use of an ATM) and notify confederates who follow the travelers to rob them at their destination or even en route. Visitors who believe they are being followed should drive directly to a police station or other public location.

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) have increasingly been targeted by criminals. The use of commercial explosives to blow up ATMs is a relatively new phenomenon in South Africa. In 2006, 54 such attacks were recorded. In 2007, the number of ATM bombings jumped to 387. While statistically affecting only a small percentage of machines, in the first half of 2008, the number of attacks was nearly 200. ATM bombings have usually taken place in the early hours of the morning in remote or isolated areas although recent attacks have taken place at gas stations and shopping complexes. Criminals also loiter near ATM machines and target persons withdrawing cash. Based on these threats, the following security precautions are recommended: Avoid using ATMs in dark, remote, or isolated areas. ATMs located inside shopping malls, hotels, and banks are preferred since they are normally high-traffic areas, and monitored by security guards and cameras. Avoid using an ATM with a cord or other foreign object attached to it. Should you notice a suspicious device on an ATM, immediately leave the area; take cover, and notify the police. Shrapnel and debris from an explosion can travel long distances and cause serious injury or death. Before withdrawing money, scan the area for any suspicious persons or activity. Should anyone approach you while you are withdrawing money, immediately cancel the transaction and leave the area. Should you be confronted by an armed individual - immediately comply, avoid making sudden movements, and do not offer any form of resistance. Any hesitation on your part could be perceived as a threat which may result in unnecessary violence. Criminals do not discriminate. Members of the international diplomatic community have recently been included as targets of crime.

Motorists are urged to be extremely cautious when approaching intersections and to hide bags, cell phones, and other valuables from view. Criminals are on the lookout for valuable items they can see through the car windows (see mention of "smash and grab" under traffic safety). Doors should be kept locked and windows rolled up at all times. Crimes against property, such as carjacking, have often been accompanied by violent acts, including murder, when victims resist or are slow to respond to attackers' demands. South Africa also has the highest incidence of reported rape in the world. Foreigners are not specifically targeted, but several have been the victims of rape. Victims of violent crime, especially rape, are strongly encouraged to seek immediate medical attention, including antiretroviral therapy against HIV/AIDS. Questions about how to receive such treatment should be directed to the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Criminal activity, such as assault, armed robbery, and theft is particularly high in areas surrounding many hotels and public transportation centers, especially in major cities. Theft of passports and other valuables is most likely to occur at airports, bus terminals, and train stations. A number of Americans have been mugged or violently attacked on commuter and metro trains, especially between Johannesburg and Pretoria. Several American travelers also reported theft of personal belongings after strangers whom they invited into their hotel drugged them. In at least one instance, an American died after being drugged and robbed in this manner.

There is a serious baggage pilferage problem at OR Tambo, Johannesburg and Cape Town International airports, particularly affecting travelers changing airlines and those flying on smaller airlines—passengers flying on major international carriers may not be affected to the same degree. Travelers are encouraged to secure their luggage with Transportation Security Administration (TSA) approved locks, use an airport plastic wrapping service, and avoid placing electronics, jewelry, cameras or other valuables in checked luggage. Make an inventory of items in checked baggage to aid in claims processing if theft does occur.

In the Western Cape, police resources have been strained by continuing gang conflicts and vigilante violence in the low income areas and informal settlements in Cape Town. The Cape Flats area, surrounding townships, and squatter camps adjacent to the city center, should be avoided by people unfamiliar with the area. Additionally, travelers should be aware that muggings have become common along many popular routes on Table Mountain, a prime tourist destination in Cape Town. Visitors to Table Mountain should be vigilant, hike in groups, and not carry valuables.

Armed robbery of cash-in-transit vehicles and personnel occurs throughout South Africa and peaks during December and January due to the increase in cash flow from commercial stores to banks. These attacks have also included incidents at major malls and in large grocery stores. Individuals should raise their level of situational awareness while in the vicinity of cash-in-transit vehicles and personnel and should avoid areas where they are located to the maximum extent possible.

Credit card fraud, counterfeit U.S. currency, and various check-cashing scams are frequently reported. Do not accept "assistance" from anyone, or agree to assist others with ATM transactions. Travelers should try to avoid using ATMs after bank business hours or in remote locations. When giving your credit card to a store or restaurant employee for processing, do not let them take the card out of your sight. Visitors should also beware of telephone or email schemes, which attempt to win the confidence of an unsuspecting American who is persuaded either to provide privileged financial information or travel to South Africa to assist in a supposedly lucrative business venture.

To check on a business's legitimacy while in the U.S., contact the International Trade Administration, Room 3317, Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, telephone: 1-800-USA-TRADE or 202-482-5149, fax: 202-482-5198. If you are abroad, contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

The local equivalent to the "911" emergency line in South Africa is 10111.

See our information on [Victims of Crime](#).

MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION: Private medical facilities are good in urban areas and in the vicinity of game parks, but they may be limited elsewhere. Pharmacies are well stocked and equivalents to most American medicines are available.

While most of South Africa is malaria free, malaria risk exists throughout the year in rural low-altitude areas of Northern (Limpopo) and Mpumalanga provinces, including Kruger National Park and neighboring game reserves. Risk also exists in the coastal lowlands of KwaZulu-Natal north of the Tugela River (including in Zululand, but excluding urban areas of Richards Bay). In all risk areas, risk is much lower from June to September. Visitors should prepare accordingly and use malaria prophylaxis. For information on malaria, its prevention, protection from insect bites, and anti-malarial drugs, please visit the CDC travelers' health web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/index.htm>.

Tuberculosis is an increasingly serious health concern in South Africa. For further information, please consult the CDC's Travel Notice on TB at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/yellowBookCh4-TB.aspx>. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad consult the World Health Organization's (WHO) web site at <http://www.who.int/en>. Further health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ith/en>.

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747) or via the CDC's website at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad consult the World Health Organization's (WHO) web site at <http://www.who.int/en>. Further health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ith/en>.

MEDICAL INSURANCE: The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. Please see our information on [medical insurance overseas](#).

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS: While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning South Africa is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

Visitors intending to drive in South Africa are strongly encouraged to obtain an international driver's permit prior to their departure from the U.S. You may wish to contact the nearest South African Embassy or Consulate for up to date information about driver's license requirements. While South African law does not normally require International driver's licenses for stays of less than six months, insurance companies for both long-term residents and rental car customers often require proof of a South African or international drivers' license in order to honor an insurance claim, even when such proof was not requested at the time the policy was secured.

Unlike the United States, where traffic moves on the right hand side of the road, traffic in South Africa moves on the left. Care must also be taken when crossing streets as a pedestrian. Travelers should use caution at all times when driving, and especially avoid nighttime travel outside major cities. Road conditions are generally good in South Africa. However, excessive speed, poor lighting on rural roads, and insufficient regulatory control of vehicle maintenance and operator licensing have resulted in a high and rapidly increasing number of traffic fatalities. Drivers should also take care to avoid pedestrians crossing roads, which frequently occur on major highways.

'Smash and grab' robberies are common throughout South Africa, particularly in urban areas, at traffic lights, and on highway off-ramps. In these cases an individual, often appearing to be a vendor or beggar, will walk down between lines of vehicles waiting at an intersection, surveying the contents of vehicles, especially on the passenger seat, for targets of opportunity. Once a promising candidate is located, the perpetrator will quickly smash the window and grab the item off the seat, departing at a run, often before the driver can even decipher what has happened. In another scenario an individual (or two working in tandem) may indicate to a driver an apparent flat tire or other problem and wait for the driver to pull over or exit the car before grabbing exposed valuables. Drivers should be particularly careful of this problem and avoid carrying anything of value (e.g., briefcases, purses, cell phones, etc.) inside the car that could attract potential assailants.

Travelers are advised to carry mobile phones. U.S. mobile phones may not work in South Africa, but rental mobile phones are widely available and may be rented from kiosks at major airports. The nationwide emergency number for the police is 10111, and the nationwide number for ambulance service is 10177. It is not necessary to dial an area code for these numbers. Callers from mobile phones may not necessarily be connected immediately to the nearest emergency service. The rate of response varies from area to area, but is generally slower than response to 911 calls in the United States.

Please refer to our [Road Safety](#) page for more information. Visit the website of the country's national tourist office and national authority responsible for road safety at <http://www.nra.co.za/live/index.php>. You may also contact South Africa's national tourist office at 1-800-593-1318.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: Approximately one-quarter of the population of South Africa is infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Public awareness in the country as to how to protect against infection is increasing. However, travelers are advised to exercise appropriate precautions if engaging in sexual activity, or if they become exposed to a blood source other than that supplied by a hospital for transfusion purpose.

While visiting game parks and reserves, it is dangerous to leave one's vehicle or otherwise be on foot, even in the presence of a guide. Several incidents of wild animal attacks on tourists in the region have resulted in death or serious injury. If visiting South Africa's expansive coastline, be mindful of the possible presence of sharks when swimming or engaging in water sports. In 2005 and 2006, in the False Bay area of the Western Cape, several people were attacked by sharks; some of the attacks were fatal. Should a shark be spotted close to the shore, local authorities will sound a warning siren to notify the public.

Eskom, the major supplier of electricity in South Africa, has reported that the demand for electricity may exceed the available supply from time to time. In order to manage the situation Eskom periodically interrupts the supply to certain areas in rolling blackouts termed "load shedding." Although information about possible outages is available on Eskom's web site <http://www.eskom.co.za>, they do not always adhere to the published schedule.

Unexpected power outages may strand individuals in extremely difficult or vulnerable circumstances such as in elevators or, in recent instances, on board the Table Mountain aerial cable car in Cape Town. Power failures may result in considerable inconvenience as most tourist sites are not equipped with generators and may be closed without prior notification. Blackouts may also contribute to traffic congestion, traffic signal failures and hazardous intersections. Please be mindful of any situation in which a sudden break in power could result in potential harm.

Please see our [Customs Information](#).

AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT: The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has assessed the Government South Africa's Civil Aviation Authority as being in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards for oversight of South Africa's air carrier operations. For more information, travelers may visit the FAA's web site at http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/iasa.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES: While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating South Africa's laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in South Africa are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime, prosecutable in the United States. Please see our information on [Criminal Penalties](#).

CHILDREN'S ISSUES: For information see our Office of Children's Issues web pages on [intercountry adoption](#) and [international parental child abduction](#).

REGISTRATION / EMBASSY LOCATION: Americans living or traveling in South Africa are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the [State Department's travel registration web site](#) so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security within South Africa. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency.

The U.S. Embassy is located at 877 Pretorius Street, Arcadia in Pretoria, telephone (27-12) 431-4000 (from South Africa 012-431-4000), fax (27-12) 431-5504 (from South Africa 012-431-5504). The U.S. Embassy web site is <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/>.

The U.S. Consulate General in Johannesburg provides consular services for Americans in the Pretoria area. The Consulate General in Johannesburg is located at No. 1 River Street (corner of River and Riviera Road), Killarney, Johannesburg telephone (27-11) 644-8000 (from South Africa 011-644-8000), fax (27-11) 646-6916 (from South Africa (011-646-6916). Its consular jurisdiction includes Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, and Free State provinces. The Consulate General in Cape Town is located at 2 Reddam Avenue, West Lake 7945, telephone (27-21) 702-7300 (from South Africa 021-702-7300), fax (27-21) 702-7493 (from South Africa 021-702-7493). Its consular jurisdiction includes Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Northern Cape provinces.

The Consulate General in Durban is located at the Old Mutual Building, 31st floor, 303 West Street, telephone (27-31) 305-7600 (from South Africa 031-305-7600), fax (27-31) 305-7691 (from South Africa 031-305-7691). Its consular jurisdiction is KwaZulu-Natal Province.

* * *

This replaces the Country Specific Information for South Africa dated December 7, 2007 to update sections on Country Description, Entry/Exit Requirements, Safety and Security, Crime, Information for [Victims of Crime](#), Traffic Safety and Road Conditions, and Special Circumstances.



Agreement

As a participant in the International Programs, you are a representative of the CSU, the State of California, and the United States. As such you are bound both by the normal requirements of social behavior which apply at home and by additional requirements related to maintaining the reputation and interests of the program overseas. This section features the legal and policy requirements that apply to your year overseas.

As a condition of participation in IP, all students are required to sign a program Agreement, a copy of which follows for your records. A separate copy for your signature is included in Packet #1 online. You should read the Agreement carefully, sign it and return it to OIP by **October 15**. Particular attention is directed to paragraph 9.

This form constitutes the basic agreement between you and the Trustees of the CSU. It is important to understand that this agreement legally binds you to abide by all IP rules and regulations, which are described in this Guide, the IP Bulletin, and elsewhere.

Students are expected to comply with IP requirements before departure and while overseas and to give OIP staff and host university officials their full cooperation. Actions such as disruption of the administrative process or physical or verbal abuse toward any member of the IP community are not acceptable. Regarding the academic process, unacceptable conduct includes cheating or plagiarism, failure to attend class, failure to maintain the prescribed minimum unit load, unauthorized absences from the study center (e.g., leaving early for vacations or not returning on time), or violation of IP academic policies.

Normally, common sense will dictate acceptable personal conduct outside the classroom. Examples of behavior considered unacceptable are: disregard for the laws or customs of the host country, theft, failure to pay debts, trading in, consumption, or use of illegal or dangerous drugs or narcotics, or violation of any local law or ordinance with respect to these substances, involvement in illegal or offensive actions of a political nature as defined and interpreted by the lawful authorities of the host country, or engaging in any act which represents a potential danger or an embarrassment to the program or to others.

Failure to abide by these rules and regulations may result in one of several sanctions, depending upon the seriousness of the problem. In order of severity these include a verbal and/or written reprimand by the Resident Director or host university representatives, a written reprimand from the Director of International Programs, probation, and disenrollment.

We expect that you will have a productive and challenging year abroad. As we have indicated previously no location here in the US or abroad can be considered risk free. By informing yourself and acting responsibly, you can help make your stay abroad a safe one. Nevertheless, changing circumstances that pose risks to students may require OIP to act. In those cases, that action may include evacuation, relocation or suspension of the program. While this is extremely rare, it remains a possibility of which you should be aware.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Gender (Title IX)

The California State University does not discriminate on the basis of gender in the educational programs or activities it conducts. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, and the administrative regulations adopted thereunder prohibit discrimination (including harassment) on the basis of gender in education programs and activities operated by California State University. Such programs and activities include admission of students and employment. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX to programs and activities of California State University International Programs may be referred to the Director of the Office of International Programs or to the Regional Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Region IX, 50 UN Plaza, Room 239, San Francisco, California 94102.

Disability

The California State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability (including AIDS) in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the regulations adopted thereunder prohibit such discrimination. Inquiries concerning compliance may be addressed to the Director of the Office of International Programs.

Race, Color, or National Origin

The California State University complies with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the regulations adopted thereunder. No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program of The California State University.

Age, Ethnicity, Religion, Sexual Preference, Marital Status, Pregnancy, or Vietnam Veteran Status

California State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, ethnicity, religion, sexual preference, marital status, pregnancy, or Vietnam veteran status in any of its programs or activities. California State University International Programs complies with all applicable federal laws, state laws and Trustee policies in this area. These statutes and policies also prohibit sexual harassment. Inquiries concerning compliance may be addressed to the Director of the Office of International Programs.

Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989

California State University is committed to achieving and maintaining a campus community that fosters personal and institutional excellence and strives to provide conditions under which the work of the University can go forward freely, with the highest standard of quality and integrity. In keeping with this commitment, all faculty, staff and students are urged to ensure that the learning environment is free of the problems of substance abuse and dependency. For information regarding the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, please contact the Director of the Office of International Programs.

Privacy Rights of Students in Education Records

The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 12329) and regulations adopted thereunder (34 C.F.R. 99) set out requirements designed to protect the privacy of students concerning their records maintained by the Office of International Programs. Specifically, the statute and regulations govern access to student records maintained by the campus, and the release of such records. In brief, the law provides that the campus must provide students access to records directly related to the student and an opportunity for a hearing to challenge such records

on the grounds that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise inappropriate. The right to a hearing under the law does not include any right to challenge the appropriateness of a grade as determined by the instructor. The law generally requires that written consent of the student be received before releasing personally identifiable data about the student from records to other than a specified list of exceptions.

The Office of International Programs is authorized under the Act to release "directory information" concerning students. "Directory information" includes the student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student. The above designated information is subject to release at any time unless the Office of International Programs has received prior written notice from the student specifying information which the student requests not to be released. Written objections should be sent to the Director of the Office of International Programs.

The Office of International Programs is authorized to provide access to student records to campus officials and employees who have legitimate educational interests in such access. These persons are those who have responsibilities in connection with the campus' academic, administrative or service functions and who have reason for using student records connected with their campus or other related academic responsibilities. Disclosure may also be made to other persons or organizations under certain conditions (e.g., as part of accreditation or program evaluation; in response to a court order or subpoena; in connection with financial aid; to other institutions to which the student is transferring).

Important Note: While you are abroad you will be encountering cultures which have values and standards of behavior different from your own. Such differences are reflected in the educational system, in social relationships and the legal system. Attitudes surrounding the use of alcohol and drugs, for example, have social as well as legal implications. You need to know that while United States and California law continue to apply to you and Trustees with regard to your participation in the international education program, you are also subject to the laws and customs of the foreign country where you study, and your relationship with foreign nationals and foreign institutions will be governed by the law of the host country.

**THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
AGREEMENT**

This agreement is entered into by and between the State of California through the Trustees of The California State University, hereafter called "Trustees," and _____, hereafter called "Student."
(enter your full name)

WHEREAS, the Trustees intend to provide an international education program in _____ for selected students of The California State University and _____ (overseas center)

WHEREAS, Student desires to participate in the program under the terms and conditions hereafter set forth,

NOW, THEREFORE, Trustees and Student agree as follows:

1. Student shall qualify for admission as a student for credit in the International Programs of The California State University by satisfying all requirements, including payment of fees.
2. Student shall pay to Trustees' Office of International Programs by the dates specified the amounts set out in the Program Costs sheet which is attached hereto and by this reference made a part of this agreement. Refund of amounts which Student pays to the Office of International Programs and assessment of charges shall be as provided in the Program Costs sheet.
3. Student shall pay to Trustees' Office of International Programs sums in addition to those specified in the Program Costs sheet as may be necessary due to increases in charges by the host university or housing authority, fluctuation in United States dollar exchange rates, or commitments made by Student while overseas that are subsequently discharged by Trustees, and increases in fees or other charges relating to enrollment in the CSU International Programs. Student shall pay to the Office of International Programs any additional sums within 30 days notification by Trustees.
4. Student shall obtain and provide all materials, meet all deadlines, and otherwise comply with all participation requirements established by the Office of International Program.
5. Student agrees to expend his or her best efforts in successfully completing the academic requirements of the courses in which Student enrolls.
6. Student understands and agrees that acts, omissions, occurrences, or events beyond the control of the parties hereto may make necessary or desirable the modification, relocation, or cancellation of the program contemplated by this agreement. Trustees shall be authorized to modify or relocate the program contemplated by the agreement with respect to cost, dates and times, and academic content so long as any such modification or relocation is a reasonable substitute for the originally contemplated program. Student acknowledges that courses may be added, cancelled, or changed by the host institution as well as by the Trustees.

Furthermore, Trustees reserve the right to suspend or relocate a program in a host country if, in their judgement, it is deemed advisable to do so in the event of civil disturbance, hostilities, potential hostilities, or warning from the U.S. State Department. Student acknowledges and agrees to cooperate and follow any instructions from the Trustees in connection with a suspension or relocation of a program.

7. Trustees shall enroll Student in the International Programs of The California State University if Student otherwise qualifies for enrollment and shall provide appropriate academic credit for the courses that Student successfully completes.
8. Trustees shall provide or arrange for the provision of those services and benefits stated in the Program Costs sheet.
9. It is understood that the international implications of this agreement are such that the conduct of Student during the course of the program is of utmost importance. Student, therefore, agrees to conform to standards of conduct consistent with the maintenance of a positive reputation of The California State University and to conform to all applicable rules, regulations and policies of The California State University International Programs. Student understands and agrees that in the event the Director of International Programs, in his or her discretion, shall determine the conduct or academic standards of Student are detrimental to the best interests of the International Programs, the Director may terminate the participation of Student in the International Programs. Such termination shall not diminish or otherwise affect Student's obligation to make to Trustees any payments specified in this agreement. Trustees in no event shall be required to refund to Student any payment made by Student to Trustees, but may make such refunds as are consistent with Trustees' policy.
10. Student understands that there are dangers, hazards, and risks inherent in international travel, living in a foreign country, and the activities included in the international education program including but not limited to air, land and sea travel, dietary differences, diseases less common in the United States, differences in legal expectations and protection, building code and other safety differences, any of which could result in serious or even fatal injuries and property damage. Student agrees to assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding student's participation in the international education program, and understands and agrees that the Trustees cannot and do not assume responsibility for any such personal injuries or property damage.
11. This agreement is subject to all applicable laws and regulations. If performance of this agreement involves violation of applicable law or regulation thereby making it legally impossible to perform and such illegality is not the fault of Student, Trustees shall refund to Student those payments made pursuant to this agreement which are authorized to be refunded in Section 41802 of Title 5, California Administrative Code. Upon payment of said refund, all rights of Student and Trustees are waived under this agreement.
12. Student agrees that the State of California, the Trustees of The California State University, the International Programs of The California State University, and each and every officer, agent and employee of each of them (hereafter in this paragraph 11 and in paragraph 12 collectively referred to as "the State") shall not be responsible for any injury, damage, or loss to Student or Student's property which occurs from any cause beyond the control of the State, or which does not occur from the sole negligence of the State.

International Programs Agreement

13. Student further agrees to hold harmless, defend and indemnify the State from any and all claims, injuries, damages, losses, causes of action, and demands, and all costs and expenses incurred in connection therewith (hereafter in this paragraph 12 collectively referred to as "liability") resulting from or in any manner arising out of, or in connection with any negligence on the part of Student, his or her agents, or employees, in the performance of this agreement, irrespective of whether such liability is also due to any negligence on the part of the State.
14. This agreement contains the sole and entire agreement between Trustees and Student and shall supersede any and all other agreements between the parties. Trustees and Student acknowledge and agree that any statements or representations that may have heretofore been made by either of them to the other are void and of no effect and that neither of them has relied thereon in connection with his or her or its dealings with the other.
15. No alteration or variation of the terms of this agreement shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the parties hereto.
16. The laws of the State of California shall govern the interpretation of this agreement. Any action brought to enforce any right or obligation under this agreement or any action which arises out of or in connection with this agreement shall be brought in the courts of the State of California.

By signing below, Trustees and Student manifest their agreement to these terms and conditions.

TRUSTEES OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT

Tom Roberts, Director
Procurement and Support Services Officer

Student's Copy

Student's Signature

Date

Student's Printed Name

Date

**THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
PROGRAM COST ESTIMATE
2009 South Africa**

PREPAID COSTS - for the year abroad

Amount student pays to OIP covers these items ONLY:

State University Fee	\$ 3,126.00*
IP Study Abroad Fee	500.00
OIP Mandatory Insurance	250.00
Departure Processing	70.00
On- site Orientation	70.00

TOTAL PREPAID - PAYMENT DUE BY OCTOBER 15, 2008 \$ 4,016.00

ADDITIONAL/OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES

Student pays directly for these items as they occur during the year overseas:

Housing and Meals	\$ 4,240.00
Health Insurance	550.00**
Round-trip Transportation	2,500.00
Personal Expenses	1,575.00

TOTAL ADDITIONAL \$ 8,865.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROGRAM COST (Prepaid+Addt'l) \$ 12,881.00

*An additional \$818 is due from graduate/postbaccalaureate students.

** Must register for health insurance before or upon arrival.

Withdrawals

A student who wishes to withdraw from International Programs must complete a *Predeparture Withdrawal Notification* form and submit it to OIP as soon as possible so that alternate students may be offered the opportunity to participate.

Prior to Departure

Students who withdraw from OIP before departure retain their status as continuing students at their home CSU campuses.

After Departure

Because of the extensive commitments made by the State on each student's behalf, withdrawal after departure is a very serious matter. Students who request withdrawal at any time after arrival at the overseas site must consult with the Resident Director or host university representative and must fill out the required withdrawal form.

Students who discontinue their academic programs without completing the required steps for withdrawal will receive failing grades in all courses. Withdrawal after departure constitutes withdrawal not only from OIP, but also from the student's home CSU campus.

In some instances, a change in visa status as a result of withdrawal from OIP may mean that the former OIP participant will have to leave the host country immediately.

In all cases of withdrawals and disenrollments, students assume full responsibility for their return to their home, and thereby remove all liabilities and responsibilities from OIP representatives and staff and the Trustees of The California State University.

Refunds

Students are entitled to a full refund of all funds paid, less any funds already committed or expended on their behalf, provided that written notice of withdrawal is received by OIP **prior to November 15**.

Students who withdraw or are disenrolled **after November 15**, but before the beginning of instruction, will receive a refund of all monies paid to OIP less \$500 or an amount equal to funds committed or expended on their behalf, whichever is higher.

Students who withdraw or are disenrolled **after the beginning of instruction** will receive a refund of all funds not already committed or expended on their behalf.

State University Fee refunds will be based on the amount paid to OIP, effective withdrawal date, financial aid status (if applicable) and enrollment status at the overseas university.

No refunds will be made for health insurance cancellation after departure.

No refunds will be made for nonparticipation in group activities.

Determinations concerning eligibility for refunds and the amount and date of refunds shall be made at the discretion of the Trustees.

If students who receive financial aid withdraw, they may be required to make immediate restitution of monies awarded for participation in OIP.

Overseas Centers

Australia - Griffith University

c/o Ms. Amy Johnson
Study Abroad and Exchange
Griffith University
International Office
Nathan Campus
Queensland 4111
Australia

Australia - Macquarie University

c/o Mr. Toby Driscoll
Macquarie International
Macquarie University
North Ryde, NSW 2109
Australia

Australia - Queensland University of Technology

c/o Ms. Natalie Pye
Study Abroad and Exchange
2 George Street, GPO Box 2434
Brisbane, Queensland 4001
Australia

Australia - The University of Queensland

c/o Ms. Jan McCreary
Student Exchange Program
International Education Directorate
Level 2, J.D. Story Building
The University of Queensland
Brisbane QLD 4072
Australia

Australia - University of Western Sydney

c/o Ms. Wendy Spinks
Exchange and Study Abroad Officer
UWS International
Penrith Building K1.18
Locked Bag 1797
Penrith South DC NSW 1797
Australia

Australia - Victoria University

c/o Ms. Wendy Martinec
International Officer
International Office
P.O. Box 14428
Victoria University
Melbourne City
MC, VIC 8001 Australia

Chile

c/o Programa California State University
Oficina N°5 Programme California State University
Pontificia Universidad Catolica
Campus San Jaoquin
Av. Vicuña Mackena 4860
Macul, Santiago, Chile

China

c/o CSU International Programs
Peking University
Shao Yuan 2-101
Beijing
People's Republic of China, 100871

Denmark

c/o DIS Study Program
Vestergade 7
DK-1456 Copenhagen K
Denmark

France - Aix-en-Provence

c/o The California State University
5, rue du 4 Septembre
13100, Aix-en-Provence, France

France - Paris

c/o MICEFA
Centre Saint-Jacques
26, rue du Faubourg Saint-Jacques
75014 Paris, France

Germany - Tübingen

c/o Dezernat für Internationale Beziehungen
University of Tübingen
Wilhelmstrasse 9
D-72074 Tübingen
Federal Republic of Germany

Ghana

c/o University of California Study Center
University of Ghana
P.O. Box 356
Legon, Ghana
West Africa

Israel

Suspended

Italy

c/o The California State University International Programs
Via G. Leopardi 12
50121 Firenze, Italy

Japan

CSU International Program in Japan
c/o School of International Liberal Studies (SILS)
Waseda University
Nishi-Waseda Bldg.
1-21-1 Nishi-Waseda
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0051
Japan

Korea

c/o Division of International Education and Exchange
Yonsei University
134 Shinchon
Seoul 120-749
Korea

México - Queretaro

c/o Programas Internacionales
Tecnologico de Monterrey
Campus Querétaro
Ave. Epigmenio Gonzalez No. 500
Col. San Pablo CP
76130 Querétaro, Qro
Mexico, DF

New Zealand - Lincoln

c/o International Centre
Lincoln University
P.O. Box 94
Lincoln 7647
Canterbury, New Zealand

New Zealand - Massey

c/o International Student's Office
Massey University
Tennant Drive
Private Bag 11-222
Palmerston North, New Zealand

Quebec

c/o The California State University
Office of International Programs
401 Golden Shore, Sixth Floor
Long Beach, California 90802-4210

South Africa - Durban

c/o Student Exchange/Study Abroad Coordinator
Room 409,
Rick Turner Students' Union Building
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Durban 4041
South Africa

South Africa - Port Elizabeth

c/o Office of International Education
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
P.O. Box 77000
Port Elizabeth 6031
South Africa

Spain - Granada

c/o The California State University
Cursos de Extranjeros
Placeta del Hospicio Viejo 1
Granada 18071, Spain

Spain - Madrid

c/o The California State University International Programs
Facultad de Geografía e Historia, Edificio B
Ciudad Universitaria
28040, Madrid, Spain

Sweden

c/o Office of International Affairs
Uppsala Universitet
Box 256
S-751 05 Uppsala
Sweden

Taiwan

c/o Dr. Li-ling Tseng
Foreign Languages and Literatures
National Taiwan University
1, Sec 4, Roosevelt Road
Taipei 106
Tawian, Republic of China

United Kingdom - University of Bradford

c/o International Office
University of Bradford
West Yorkshire BD7 1DP
The United Kingdom

United Kingdom - University of Bristol

c/o Study Abroad Office
International Centre
University of Bristol Union
Queen's Road
Bristol BS8 1LN
The United Kingdom

United Kingdom - University of Hull

c/o International Services Division
The University of Hull
Hull HU6 7RX
The United Kingdom

United Kingdom - Kingston University

c/o Visiting Student Programme
Kingston University
Millenium House
21 Eden Street
Kingston Upon Thames
Surry KT1 1BL
The United Kingdom

United Kingdom - University of Sheffield

c/o International Office
The University of Sheffield
8 Palmerston Road
Sheffield S10 2TE
The United Kingdom

United Kingdom - University of Swansea

c/o American Studies Exchange Office
University of Wales, Swansea
Singleton Park
Swansea SA2 8PP
The United Kingdom

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University - Port Elizabeth

Arrival

There should be a student from the International Office waiting to pick you up at the airport. It is a very small airport so you can't be missed. These students are always happy and helpful.

Housing

Hopefully you will be taken to your new residence, which will probably be Annie's Cove. Some students (not Americans) expected Annie's Cove housing, but ended up sharing houses with other students; still not a bad deal. At Annie's Cove you have your own room and share a bathroom and kitchen with another student. There is no oven, but there are hot plates and cooking utensils supplied. It's a decent set up. Annie's Cove is a convenient 15 minute walk from the campus. It is very easy to meet people and there are a bunch of international people from all over the world.

Sheets and towels are not supplied for you, you'll need to buy them when you get here. There is a large mall called Greenacres that you can get everything you need for reasonably inexpensive prices.

Weather

When you first arrive in January it will be hot hot HOT. It takes a bit of getting used to, but you will. Don't let this fool you though, winters do exist in Africa and they are very cold. If you are coming to Port Elizabeth, let me just say they don't call it the windy city for nothing!

Registration

Registration is a pain. It is all done in person, they say they are trying to have it done over the internet for next year, but apparently they say that every year. Just be willing to have patience and have things change often, in the end it all works out.

Cell Phones

Cancel or put on hold your American cell phones and buy one when you get here. You can get a cheap one for around R250, approximately \$45 and then everything works on Pre-Paid airtime so there are no contracts or anything like that. It is cheaper to buy a cell phone in the shopping center instead of the airport.

Internet

Internet is also a pain. I personally was never able to get it in my room, but the students who have come for the second semester have gotten it much easier. If you do get it, it will be slow. There are also two full computer labs on campus that are open 24/7 all year round. You won't be able to get access to the school Internet labs until after you register.

Money and Banking

Check with your American bank to see what the overseas fees are to use your credit card and ATM cards. You might have to open up an account with a bank here because the fees can be costly. Then you just transfer the money to your new account.

Travelers' checks - Bring some for easy exchange in the beginning and then keep a little around for emergencies, should they happen.

Everything is relatively cheaper here than in the states, but watch your spending. Remember you will have second semester payments before financial aid is disbursed at your home campus, so budget accordingly.

Food

There are grocery stores, restaurants, banks, hair salons, cafes, internet cafes all within walking distance. There is food on campus and you are equipped to cook at home.

Transportation/Getting Around

There is a bus system and a mini-bus system. The mini-bus follow a shorter route back and fourth calling out "Town Town" and you just hop on one going the direction you want to go. The buses work on a schedule and for school you either walk or some people bought bikes when they arrived. Cabs are also fairly cheap for evening excursions.

Travel

Traveling is a must. There are long holidays and weekends that if you plan well you can see a lot. Traveling has been safe in my experiences, but it's always good to have travel companions. I have been able to go to six other countries outside of South Africa since I have been here. There are buses, tours, BazBus and cars to rent. Backpackers are cheap spots to crash in at any city.

Sports

Cricket, rugby, futbol...it's all big here. Very fun. Tri-Varsity is in August and if you're interested in a sport, join a team. It's a great way to meet South Africans.

Cultural Differences

Make an effort to step outside the group of international students (there are a lot) and meet people from South Africa and other surrounding countries. It's worth it. Also endeavor to get involved in some volunteer work, there are many opportunities.

Health

Just take care of yourself. When you travel find which areas you will need to take malaria pills in. You can get them here easily. There is an on-campus doctor's office and also one near by off campus.

What to bring and not to bring:

Only bring the necessities. Most things you can buy here such as hair supplies, bathroom and kitchen supplies. Bring both warm and cool clothes, maybe some pictures of home, and you should be set.

University of KwaZulu Natal

The following is from a 2007 student studying at the Pietermaritzburg campus of KwaZulu Natal

I am at a UKZN campus in a town 45 minutes (driving) north of Durban called Pietermaritzburg (usually just called Maritzburg or PMB by locals). PMB is in the midlands between the Indian ocean and the Drakensberg Mountain range. I'm at this campus because they don't offer fine art classes in Durban. I know there's engineering in PMB, but they might have it in Durban also. Check out the UKZN website at www.ukzn.ac.za for info. You can download the handbook and check out all the classes for your major.

As far as wildlife is concerned it's beautiful here....rolling green hills, tons of birds, lizards, bugs, frogs, trees, flowers, etc, etc, etc. There's a park not far from campus...15 minute drive or so...where I got to see my first wild giraffes, zebras, springboks and monkeys. It was incredible, a life long dream turned to reality. I have met some amazing people so far and am starting to develop some long lasting friendships. I've met a few other international students from other countries in Africa and have really bonded. My neighbor at the dorms is from Zimbabwe and I can already tell I'll miss him terribly when I go back to California. Some parts of PMB and the surrounding areas remind me of butte county...the landscape, the weather, etc. It's neat, but makes me a little home sick at times. I'd lived in chico for 3+ years before I came here, and grew up in Lake Tahoe. I really appreciate natural beauty and am happy it's so lovely here. The university has been great too. My art classes are run totally differently than at home, but I prefer the system here. It's more in-depth and time consuming here...i'm learning a lot more a lot faster. I met another girl from the IP program who goes to CalPoly back home and she's had the opposite academic experience, so I think it depends on your classes, your teachers, and your major. She's an animal science major and said the labs are not as well equipped as at CalPoly. She had to dissect a sheep in a tiny room in 100 degree weather with no A/C and no ventilation! I think that'd be illegal in the US! Anyway.... the campus is beautiful and everyone on campus has been friendly and helpful.

However, it hasn't been all sunshine and roses. On campus the registration process for classes is really nuts. You sign up for the classes you want without knowing the times, a few weeks later they give out the schedules and you have to check if any of your classes conflict with one another. They usually do, so you have to spend more time waiting in lines getting everything changed. Nothing is done online so it's a lot of paperwork and hassle that you're probably not used to...I wasn't! Also, if you have a laptop computer I suggest you bring it. I don't have one, so I'm at the mercy of the computer labs (called the LAN) or the internet cafe. Most of the time the labs are full of students with a line out the door. The internet is REALLY slow and the whole experience is generally frustrating. I've waited for a 1/2 hour while people check their myspace pages, etc...even though I have a paper to write. I've started writing my papers by hand and then just copying them onto the computer as quickly as possible.

The weekends and nights are better for LAN use, but don't stay out alone. If you find yourself at the library or in a LAN after dark have the campus police walk you home. Also, if you bring a laptop, the LANs are wireless hotspots so you can use your own computer for the internet...there's no internet hookup in the dorm rooms.

Off campus, South Africa has a very high crime rate. It is important to travel in large groups and take taxis after dark...even at 6 or 7pm. Everyone here will tell you the same things, but it took a bad experience before I fully believed everyone. It's definitely a good idea to carry small amounts of cash only and don't flash your cell phone or camera...even at clubs. I heard one story of a guy having a seizure on the street, his wallet fell out of his pocket, then 2 little old ladies walked by and stole his wallet! I don't want to scare anyone, but the crime is a reality.

Most of the people have been really nice to me, but racism is still a huge issue here. I've noticed that most groups stick together, black, white, and Indian. For the most part younger people are more willing to interact with one another. I've been to dinner at some young friends houses and can't repeat some of the stuff that's come out of their parents' and relatives' mouths! It's shocking and offensive to me, but I'm a guest here so I usually just change the topic or keep quiet. I've had political/racial/religious debates with people here, but they've been with friends and in an open/understanding situation. I've found a mix of people, of all races, good and bad...some that perpetuate negative stereotypes, some that fight against them, some that are all their own.

It's strange, but I'm more accepted by different groups because I'm a foreigner. I think everyone wants to get their side of the story heard so they'll accept me regardless of my race or gender. They want to teach the American all about the "real" South Africa...even though everyone's "real" SA has been different. As far as their views about Americans...the general consensus is that we're ignorant and arrogant. I fight against those stereotypes by reading the news, informing myself about my host country and the rest of the world, and being open to criticisms about the US. I don't have to agree with what people say about my country, but I will listen to their opinions and explain my side whenever possible.

Although I've had some tough experiences, I wouldn't change it for anything. I'm really happy I came here and know it'll make me a stronger person.