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STUDY ABROAD PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING

November 28, 2012

Alice Cronin, Director
Jennifer McKernan, Assistant Director
Aliko Karagiannis, Advisor
Patty Mead, Administrative Assistant
Peer Advisors



IMPORTANT FORMS

OPEN YOUR PACKET



- ✓ Verify your current information: study abroad location & home address
- ✓ Complete the Registration form
- ✓ Submit both forms at the end of this session

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REGISTRATION: FALL '13

- ✓ If you registered for Stonehill courses for the Spring semester, they will be dropped by the Registrar.
- ✓ **Contact the Registrar if you need to keep your Stonehill courses.**
- ✓ Fall '13 registration will occur in late-March and early April. Notification will be sent via e-mail.



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COURSE APPROVAL



- ✓ All students must have their courses pre-approved prior to leaving campus in December.
- ✓ Some Major or minor courses might need to be pre-approved by your major or minor department chair
- ✓ If course(s) change when you are abroad, e-mail Office of International Programs.

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ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

1. **Complete online abroad notification by Dec. 1st**
<http://www.stonehill.edu/x26488.xml>
2. **Complete Returning Student Application on *myHill***
February 18 - March 22nd
3. **Room selection process will occur in April and May**



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FINANCIAL AID & BILLING



Outside scholarships and awards:

If you are awarded a study abroad scholarship, you must inform the Financial Aid office.

Stonehill Bill:

You or your parents will receive a bill for Stonehill current tuition and housing (meal plan if included in your program) in mid July.

Your Stonehill bill must be paid by Dec. 15th

Student with funds owed to the College will be removed from their program.

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PRE-DEPARTURE SESSION

PowerPoint presentation
www.stonehill.edu/x26591.xml

“Before you Go”

On-line before Final Exams

Share with parents or view from abroad

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STONEHILL is **NOT RESPONSIBLE** for any of the following **FEES**: *(List Subject to Change)*

- **Supplemental housing fees,**
 - including cleaning services (mainly in Australia)
- **Housing/Security deposits**
- **Meal Plan** (some programs have a plan that you can purchase)
- **Library fees**
- **Lab and/or excursions fees**
Example: Food & Wine classes at Lorenzo de Medici, Florence.

- **Cost of laundry**
- **Gym Membership**
- **Round trip airfare**
- **Cost of commute to class**
- **Passport and/or Immigration Fees**
- **Internet access**
- **Cell phone**

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MONEY MANAGEMENT ABROAD

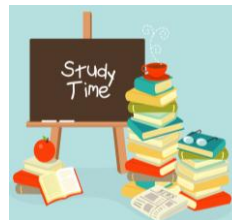
- **ATM Card**
 - Best way to access funds
 - Inform US Bank of travel plans
- **Bank Accounts**
 - Some US banks have branches abroad
- **Credit Cards**
 - MC and Visa
 - Credit limit (daily limit)
 - Pin #
 - Call to inform about travel
 - Visa Travel card



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ACADEMICS ABROAD

- Full-time, normal course load = **15-16 credits**
- Must be enrolled in a minimum of **12 credits**
- Credits are considered **transfer credit**
- Grades are **not calculated into overall G.P.A.**
- Must earn an equivalent of **U.S. "C"** or above to be awarded transfer credit
- Students must not overload courses while abroad
- If you have a learning disability that requires assistance while abroad: inform your program provider.*



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ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

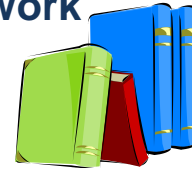
Different Teaching Styles



More focus on Independent work



Assessment



Academic Resources

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TRANSCRIPTS UPON RETURN

- ✓ Arrange to have your transcript mailed Stonehill.
- ✓ Know how to obtain a transcript after program has ended.
- ✓ Most graduate schools will require a transcript from your semester abroad.
- ✓ Stonehill's Registrar's office can not issue your transcript from your abroad program.

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SAFETY ABROAD



- **Stonehill's Community Standards**
- **Office of International Programs Handbook, Policies, and Contracts**
- **Study Abroad program Provider and Host University Policies**
- **Host Country Laws**
- **You can and will be removed from a program**

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HEALTH & ACCIDENT INSURANCE

What happens if I am injured?

- ✓ Seek immediate assistance at closest hospital, medical center.
- ✓ Contact the insurance carrier to open a claim.
- ✓ Pay for cost of services out of pocket & keep all receipts.
- ✓ Fill out a Claims Form as required by insurance carrier.
- ✓ You will be reimbursed if covered under your Insurance Plan.
- ✓ Inform the Office of International Programs (OIP).



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IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY



Emergency Procedures:

1. Contact on-site staff or program provider
2. Inform Office of International Programs
3. Inform your parents of any emergency issues
 - ✓ Lost or stolen items: report to local police
 - ✓ Passport/Visa issues: Local US Consulate/ Embassy

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STAYING HEALTHY WHILE ABROAD

- ↳ Immunizations & Vaccinations
- ↳ Allergies & Allergic Reactions
 - ↳ Discuss with Health Care Provider
 - ↳ Allergic reactions: Always have 2 EPI pens
- ↳ **Current or prior Medical Condition**
 - ↳ Inform your program or program provider in advance of arriving in host country
- ↳ Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- ↳ Visit your doctor & dentist
- ↳ Check legality of Prescriptions
- ↳ Counselors/Health Professionals



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DOCUMENTATION - PASSPORTS



- ✓ Must be valid for 6 months after the end date of your program. **CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE!**
- ✓ Make sure to **sign** FRONT page.
- ✓ Provide a copy to the OIP.
- ✓ Leave copies with family and bring copies with you.
- ✓ Need a passport to begin visa application process.
- ✓ If lost or stolen, report to the local police and request a new passport from U.S. Consulate in host country.

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PACKING TIPS

Golden Rule: Less is More!!!

- You are the one who will be carrying your luggage.
- Bring small amount of toiletries
- Bring small backpack for weekend travel.
- Know what's included in your housing
- Appropriate clothing for the seasons –
 - Layering is key



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CULTURE SHOCK

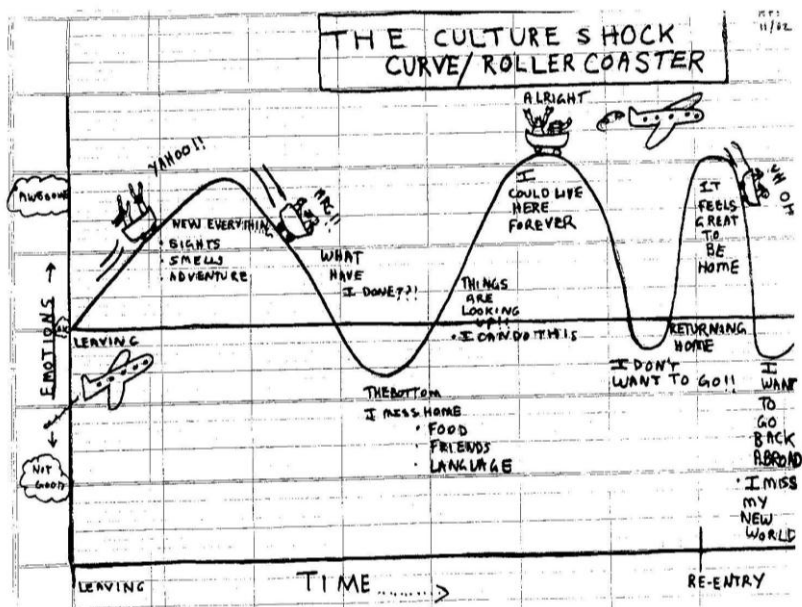
Culture shock happens to many of us when we leave a familiar environment for an unfamiliar one.

• Common Reactions

- Homesickness
- Lack of energy
- Stereotyping of the host culture
- Confusion
- Seeking isolation from host culture
- Only associating with other people from the U.S.



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MANAGING CULTURE SHOCK

- Be tolerant of others
- Set realistic & attainable goals
- Have a sense of humor
- Experience popular culture
- Learn about the likes/dislikes of the local people
- Try the local foods and drinks
- Try to understand the local point of view and the reason behind it



*****Be a sojourner not a tourist**

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MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR EXPERIENCE

- ✓ Do your research! Read up on the place you have chosen to study, places you will visit.
- ✓ **Obtain a map of your adopted country/region.**
- ✓ Research the location of your school, residence, airports, train stations, buses, etc.
- ✓ **Know what's included in your program and take advantage of the services of your on-site staff!**
- ✓ Try something new, challenge your boundaries (i.e.. Volunteer opportunities).

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MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

1. What are the five things that you are *most looking forward to* about studying abroad?
2. **What are the five things that currently worry you most about going overseas?**
3. What are the five things you believe you will miss *most* from home when you are abroad?
4. **What are the five things (people, places, activities, etc.) you believe you will miss *least* from home when you are abroad?**
5. My greatest single challenge overseas will be...

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CULTURAL IQ - QUICK QUIZ #1



1. Who is the president of the United States?
2. What is the capital of the United States?
3. What is the current population of the United States?
4. What countries border the United States?

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CULTURAL IQ - QUICK QUIZ #2

1. Who is the president of your host country?
2. What is the capital of your host country?
3. What is the current population of your host country?
4. What countries border your host country?



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COMMUNICATION FROM STONEHILL

Announcements will be sent to the e-mail address that you provided on your on-line application

First Class mail will be forwarded to your home address.

List of students abroad for the spring semester (including e-mail addresses) will be sent by e-mail in January.

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MAILING ADDRESS

Office of International Programs
Stonehill College
Duffy, 131
320 Washington Street
Easton, MA 02357-4213
Phone: 508-565-1645
Fax: 508-565-1686



Email: international@stonehill.edu

24/7 Emergency Contact Number
1- 508-565-1000 – press “0”



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QUESTIONS???



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FEEDBACK

Please take a few moments to
complete our program
evaluation



Drop completed evaluations
on table at front of room

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THANK YOU!



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