

# Students With Disabilities Studying Abroad

Texas A&M University-Central Texas (TAMUCT) strives to create an comprehensive environment that responds effectively to the needs of students. Any student planning to study abroad who may need an accommodation based on the impact of his/her disability should discuss their plans to study abroad with Access & Accommodations. This will provide an opportunity early on in the information gathering and application process to discuss, determine, and arrange specific accommodations. While you do not need to disclose your diagnosis or information related to your disability you should consult with the Study Abroad program coordinator about the need and implementation of accommodations.

*Please note: Study Abroad programs are not obligated to meet a request for accommodations without prior notification of the need. Formal notification of need and necessary accommodations would come from the Access & Accommodations office.*

## Steps to Request Disability Accommodations Abroad

1. Meet with the Access & Accommodations office to discuss what types of accommodations may need while studying abroad. *Access & Accommodations: Warrior Hall: Suite 212, (254) 501-5833, [access@tamuct.edu](mailto:access@tamuct.edu)*
2. Have Access & Accommodations document in a letter the accommodations you will need while abroad.
3. Submit your letter to TAMUCT Study Abroad as soon as possible. The earlier accommodation request is made, the more Study Abroad can help you to research and arrange accommodations.

## Students who anticipate specific accommodation requests should consider the following questions:

- If you need to see a doctor or therapist for psychological concerns while abroad, have you established this contact prior to departure?
- Will you need a mobility assistant?
- What is the accessibility of the housing and city (elevators, bathrooms, classrooms, housing, transportation, etc.)?
- What kind of field trips might your program go on? Are they accessible?
- If field trips are not accessible and are required for the course, will alternatives (video footage, online resources) be available?
- Will you need extended time on assignments or exams?
- If you need to take medication abroad, have you checked with the embassies of your destination countries as to prohibited items? A listing of foreign embassies and consulates in the U.S. is available on the [Department of State's website \(Links to an external site\)](#).

**Another factor to keep in mind when preparing for your study abroad experience is how different cultures view individuals with disabilities. Researching and preparing for this beforehand may help you avoid difficulties abroad.**

In addition to the Access & Accommodations office, the following resources may also be helpful:

- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\): Travelers with Disabilities \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Mobility International U.S.A. \(MIUSA\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [U.S. State Department – Traveling with Disabilities \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

**Remember, it is the student's choice to use accommodations. Please carefully consider the needs you may have that will allow you to have full access to the study abroad experience.**

As a *student*, you will:

- Research study abroad programs
- Meet all required deadlines
- Disclose and provide documentation of his/disability to Access & Accommodations within the planning process to study abroad
- Communicate needs to Access & Accommodations, Study Abroad staff as planning accommodations requires extra preparation time to ensure equal access

*Access and Accommodations* will:

- Serve as a resource for students with disabilities that are researching accommodation options for studying abroad
- Ensure the student's right to confidentiality regarding disability-related matters
- Review student's documentation and determine appropriate accommodations for study abroad
- Make any recommendations to the Study Abroad program coordinator regarding the student's need(s)

**Be aware that the ADA does not necessarily apply outside of the United States. TAMUCT Study Abroad can work to provide as many accommodations as possible, but you may not be guaranteed to receive all the accommodations you request. Even so, it doesn't hurt to ask.**

- Disability Rights and Laws Internationally vs. the ADA: [Some information on how to research disability rights in your host country \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund—[List of disability laws by country \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- You can also follow [@DREDF on Twitter \(Links to an external site.\)](#) or on [Facebook \(Links to an external site.\)](#) for up to date information, as well as to ask

country-specific questions.

***For more information and to schedule an appointment with Access and Accommodations, call 254-501-5833 or email at [access@tamuct.edu](mailto:access@tamuct.edu)***