

## **Berry College International Programs**

### **Tips for studying abroad economically**

#### **Before going**

- Look for programs in countries with lower costs of living than the US, and weigh this factor against airfare.
- Be mindful of exchange rates.
- A semester is usually better value for the money since you can use your Berry aid. It is also more difficult to find scholarships for summer study.
- Instead of going through a provider, look for direct enrollment options.
- If interested in a direct program, look for programs whose room and board costs are lower than Berry's (current prices are usually available on our website)
- Consider an exchange through the International Student Exchange Program, where your Berry aid applies to tuition, room and board.
- Study in a country allowing international students to work (England, Australia, etc.)
- Check out these and other scholarships:
  - The Gilman International Scholarship provides up to \$5000 for students receiving Pell Grants to study abroad.
  - The National Security Education Program (NSEP) provides scholarships to undergraduate students who wish to study languages and cultures considered to be important to U.S. national security.
  - Many providers offer scholarships
  - IP office has an annual competition
  - Check out [www.nafsa.org/students.sec/u.s.study.abroad.scholarships](http://www.nafsa.org/students.sec/u.s.study.abroad.scholarships)
- SAVE or BORROW for this important educational objective and investment. Your return will be far greater than the amount needed to study abroad.
- When there is an upcoming event where friends and relatives give you gifts, (graduations, birthdays, awards, Christmas, other holidays...) ask for them to give to "The (fill in your name) to (study abroad country) Fund" rather than give you a gift.
- Have a personal "Fund Drive." Get pledges in dollar amounts from family and friends. Make it fun!

#### **While abroad** (by Anna Pinnow, fall '07 – Costa Rica)

1. Walk or take a bus or the subway instead of a taxi. Rent a bike!
2. While traveling on the weekends, stay in hostels instead of hotels – look up the cheapest hostels online before you go.
3. Know whether your credit/debit card company will charge you every time you withdraw money. If so, withdraw larger amounts of money less often vs. small amounts frequently.
4. Live like a local! Pay attention to where the locals shop, where and what they eat, how they travel...following their lead will probably be your cheapest route! It's always a good idea to ask a local you trust for advice!
5. Avoid American stuff. Although much of the world is Americanized and will have imported U.S. goods and American-style restaurants and stores, they will almost always be much more expensive than the local alternative.
6. Try to bargain! In many marketplaces vendors will lower the price for you if you play hard to get.
7. If meals are provided for you through your program, avoid eating out.
8. Consider exploring the city where you are living and the surrounding area instead of traveling to other countries every weekend. Students often spend the most money traveling! Once again, ask locals what the cheapest options are!!!
9. Take advantage of excursions offered by your university – they are often subsidized.
10. Ask about Student Discounts. Many Museums and National Parks offer discounts to students.
11. Budget! Make a weekly or monthly budget and stick to it!

