

Adjusting to a new culture, environment, and potentially different LGBTQ climate can present students with a variety of thoughts and feelings whether you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or heterosexual.

Levels of tolerance, acceptance, support and laws surrounding LGBTQ students will be different from culture to culture. Preparing yourself is a sure way to ease the adjustment period and cultural shock. A worthwhile study abroad experience is all about researching the country and city you will be living in.



[International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission](#)

[International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association](#)

[Diversity Abroad](#)

[Tips for LGBTQ Students Abroad](#)

[Building a Better World](#)

[LGBT Travelers](#)

[Rainbow SIG](#)

[Global Gayz](#)

[Crossing Cultures Guide](#)

Before You Leave, find out:

- Does your right to be LGBTQ in the U.S. conflict with your host country's religious or cultural values and traditions?
- How will you reconcile your human rights with the cultural values of your host society?
- Are there safety considerations that you should be aware of?
- What is considered typical male and female social behavior in the host culture?
- What roles do transgendered people play in the host culture?
- Does your study abroad program offer LGBTQ friendly housing?

Just as seen here in the United States, attitudes and understanding of LGBTQ individuals and issues vary region by region. Cultural sensitivity is important to keep in mind while living and traveling abroad. In some places you may not be able to express yourself as you do at home so you must be conscious of the social reality that exists in the region you are interested in while choosing your program. Look for blogs, newspaper articles, or books that talk about the LGBTQ attitudes abroad or see if anyone you know may be familiar with this topic. The more you know beforehand will affect how easy the transition will be upon arriving.

-from Columbia University, Office of Global Programs