

# ACADEMIC PROGRAMS INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTIVE STUDENT SURVEY



We are delighted that you are interested in studying abroad! Academic Programs International (API) strives to provide students with fulfilling experiences throughout the course of their study abroad program. Please complete the following optional questionnaire so that we may assist you in achieving your study abroad goals.

**Please note: Disclosure of a disability prior to submission of an application is completely optional. Disclosure of a disability allows API staff to work with the student to identify the best program(s) to meet each student's needs and goals for their term abroad.** Information provided on this form will remain entirely confidential and will in no way impact whether you will be admitted to a program.

**Name:**

**Email Address:**

**Phone Number:**

**Home University:**

**Language Proficiency, if applicable:**

**Preferred API location(s) and/or programs:**

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*Special need(s)/disability information:*

In order to identify the sites that are best suited to accommodate your needs, please provide as much information as you feel comfortable sharing regarding your special need(s)/disability(ies) and any accommodations you may require. Identifying information will not be shared with prospective partners abroad (i.e. host university, housing facility) until you have been accepted into the API program, and only then as warranted to make arrangements for special accommodations:

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*Current accommodations provided at your home institution/school/workplace:*

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\*\* Whenever possible, API recommends that an applicant with special needs or requests for special accommodations begin working with API a minimum of twelve (12) months in advance of their desired term abroad. Doing so increases the potential that API can provide the requested accommodations or determine alternate arrangements for the participant to have the most successful experience abroad possible.

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API recommends that future participants with special needs or disabilities complete the OPTIONAL Participant Inquiry Survey prior to submission of an application, and return it to Carolyn Lutes, Senior Director of Student Services & Admissions.

**Note: Disclosure of a special need/disability prior to submitting an application is completely optional, and does not preclude applicants from being accepted to an API program.** Disclosure of a special need/disability allows API staff stateside and coordinators/directors abroad to work with the future participant to identify the best program(s) to meet each individual's needs and goals for the term abroad. Information provided on this form will not be shared with API partners abroad, to include local host institutions, until after the applicant has been accepted into the API program, and only as warranted to make requested accommodations. API will seek to provide potential applicants with special needs a comprehensive picture of the on-site environment, so as to set appropriate expectations, and to allow potential applicants to make informed decisions regarding program participation.

API will provide advice to each individual using our knowledge of the dynamics on-site:

- 1) The accessibility of housing, transportation, and university buildings (for potential participants with mobility limitations);
- 2) The availability of medical facilities and health professionals (for individuals with mental health or medical concerns);
- 3) Academic policies (for students with learning disabilities interested in study abroad programs);
- 4) Cultural perceptions and behaviors. Conditions exist abroad that may be beyond the control of API and its partners (e.g., some host countries have no legislation akin to the American with Disabilities Act that mandates the accessibility of governmental buildings, public transportation, sidewalks, academic institutions, and lodging for individuals with disabilities). Correspondingly, certain sites may not be ideal for all potential applicants. API will work closely with each individual to identify alternate locations that can provide similar academic and cultural learning opportunities if the originally requested location cannot offer adequate accommodations.

**A special note on emotional support animals (ESAs):**

The use of emotional support animals is not as common or widely recognized abroad as it has become in the United States. While API will do everything possible to support a participant who wishes to travel abroad with an emotional support animal, local laws generally do not provide accommodations for having an emotional support animal. API informs participants who wish to travel with their emotional support animal of the following potential challenges:

1. API cannot guarantee that a particular animal, even one classified within the U.S. as an emotional support animal, will be allowed to enter the host country. Individuals who wish to travel abroad with an emotional support animal are responsible for determining specific requirements for bringing animals into the host country; API will provide assistance with determining special entry requirements as time allows.
2. Host universities abroad generally will not allow ESAs in their classrooms. If the individual's home institution accommodations documentation includes authorization to have the ESA in classrooms on campus, that documentation can be submitted for consideration by the host university, but such reviews will not necessarily result in the ESA being allowed to attend class with the participant.

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3. Housing options through API do not generally allow for animals. API recommends that participants traveling with ESAs consider independent housing, though API can attempt to determine with our housing partners if we can identify a placement. Accommodating an ESA may require additional fees that will be the responsibility of the participant to cover.

4. Emotional support animals will not be permitted to participate in API-sponsored cultural events or excursions. A participant will not be able to participate in such activities unless a third party (e.g., a kennel) is identified to care for the animal during the outing/event in question. If the participant is not able to identify a caregiver for the animal during API-sponsored events or does not wish to participate without the ESA, API will gladly refund all related fees to the participant. Decisions regarding participation in API excursions must be made in advance of the participant's arrival on-site to secure a full refund, as arrangements are made and paid for well in advance of each session. Decisions regarding participation in cultural events must be determined a minimum of one week in advance of each event to be eligible for a refund.

5. Individuals wishing to travel with ESAs are recommended to apply a minimum of 12 months in advance of their departure, so that API can work more closely with these applicants to determine limitations and options.

6. Prior to soliciting accommodations on-site with local partners, API reserves the right to solicit documentation in the form of a letter (not issued more than one year prior to submission) from a licensed mental health professional, stating the following:

- a) the future participant has a mental health-related disability;
- b) the individual providing the assessment of the future participant is a licensed mental health professional and the future participant is under their professional care;
- c) the circumstances in which the future participant will need the emotional support animal and how it contributes to the individual's mental wellbeing and treatment; and
- d) the date and type of the mental health professional's license and the state or other jurisdiction in which it was issued.