

Travel

Travel Planning

- **Plan ahead** and remember to bring copies of important addresses and telephone numbers with you, such as the contact information for the person meeting you at the airport or the address and phone number of your first accommodation.
- **Familiarize yourself with any trouble locations or potential conflict areas.** Visit the [Global Affairs Canada](#) website for updates.
- **Bring copies of your passport** with you and leave a copy with a family member or close friend at home. Be careful about sharing your personal information.
- **Arrange travel to your host country and your specific destination.** Be sure to purchase your airline and train tickets (if necessary) in advance. Please note that Go Global students are advised not to purchase airline tickets prior to receiving their acceptance letter from their host university.
- **Arrange your accommodations.** Arrangements will vary depending on the nature of your program. If you will require temporary accommodation upon arrival, you may want to obtain an [International Youth Hostel Membership Card](#), which allows you to stay in hostels for a discounted rate.
- **Get an International Student Identification Card (ISIC Card).** The ISIC Card is widely accepted abroad as proof of your student status and will entitle you to receive discounts at some restaurants, theatres, shops, etc. You may also be eligible for reduced travel fares in several countries. Always ask if there is a student discount before purchasing your tickets for travel by air, sea, or land. You may obtain your [ISIC Card](#) from Merit Travel in the Nest at UBC Vancouver or the UBC Students' Union Okanagan (UBCSUO) at UBC Okanagan.
- **Decide whether to drive and/or rent a vehicle while abroad and apply for an International Driving Permit (IDP).** The IDP is available at [BCAA](#) and is valid for one year from the date of issue. Depending on the length of your residence abroad, some countries may require an IDP and local driver's license. Be sure to educate yourself about the traffic rules in your destination country before you get behind the wheel, and be sure to have the right insurance.

Note: in some countries neither a Canadian driver's license nor an International Driver Permit (IDP) is recognized, and the only way to obtain a driver's license is to pass all local courses and tests, both theoretical and practical. Check the [Global Affairs Canada](#) website for country-specific details on driving regulations