

Trip Planning

In your planning to go abroad, you will need to consider your travel logistics, finances, and accommodation. Consider the reservations and arrangements you will need to make prior to your departure to ensure that your arrival and stay abroad will run as smoothly as possible.

Some things to remember:

- Inform your bank that you will be leaving the country for an extended period of time
- Research and apply for awards or bursaries to help offset the costs of your study abroad experience
- Research methods of payment in your host country
- Arrange your accommodation prior to leaving on your trip
- Plan and book your travel to your host country

Money

Money Matters *(Slide Presentation)*

<<http://www.slideshare.net/SafetyAbroad/money-matters-2?ref=http://safety-abroad-go-global2.sites.olt.ubc.ca/travel-and-accommodation/>>

Banking: Let your local bank know that you will be out of the country if you are leaving for an extended period of time. Inform them of your plans, the timing of your travel itinerary, and your individual needs. In some instances, your bank may ask you to prepare a Power of Attorney.

Before you leave, ask the following questions:

- Does your bank have a branch or an affiliation with another bank in the destination country?
- What is the most convenient bank to use in the destination country for transferring funds (especially in an emergency)?
- How much does it cost to wire money or transfer funds?
- How do you replace debit or credit cards while abroad?
- What is the best way to communicate with your bank while away?
- What are your banking options abroad? What is the process for obtaining an account abroad?

Awards and bursaries: [International learning awards](http://www.students.ubc.ca/global/awards) < <http://www.students.ubc.ca/global/awards>> can help offset the costs of your study-abroad experience. Research and apply for any [awards or bursaries](http://www.students.ubc.ca/finance/awards.cfm) <<http://www.students.ubc.ca/finance/awards.cfm>> that you may qualify for, including [external awards](http://www.students.ubc.ca/finance/awards.cfm?page=scholarships&view=external) <<http://www.students.ubc.ca/finance/awards.cfm?page=scholarships&view=external>>.

Credit cards:

- Research methods of payment in your host country. While you can use debit and credit cards easily in North America, you might find that these forms of payment are not as readily accepted in your host country.
- Be sure to bring local currency in addition to credit cards.
- Prepare to be cautious when using your credit card. Before leaving, inform your credit card company of your travel plans, and be sure to get their world-wide contact number.
- Familiarize yourself with their terms for cash advances.

Travel

Travel Planning (*image and details*)

- **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 website](http://travel.gc.ca/) <http://travel.gc.ca/> 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](http://www.hihostels.ca/179/membership_join_now.hostel) <http://www.hihostels.ca/179/membership_join_now.hostel> 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](http://www.travelcuts.com/isic/) <http://www.travelcuts.com/isic/> from Travel Cuts in the Student Union Building (SUB) 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 \(IDP\)](http://www.bcaa.com/wps/portal/BCAA/travel/road_trips?rdePathInfo=xchg/bcaa-com/hs.xsl/2281.htm)** <http://www.bcaa.com/wps/portal/BCAA/travel/road_trips?rdePathInfo=xchg/bcaa-com/hs.xsl/2281.htm>. 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 website](http://travel.gc.ca/) <<http://travel.gc.ca/>> for country-specific details on driving regulations.

ISIC

ISIC Card for Travelers

UBC suggests that students obtain an International Student Identity Card (ISIC), the only internationally accepted proof of full-time student status. Students can take advantage of countless benefits and discount with their ISIC card while abroad. For more information about the ISIC card and to learn how to get one, visit the [ISIC](http://www.isic.org) <www.isic.org> website.

Accommodations

Some programs will provide housing but others will not. You may need to arrange your own accommodation prior to leaving on your trip. Plan your short-term accommodation upon arrival to your destination and any additional overseas travel you may do prior to departure.

Begin your search early! Find out as much as you can about the neighbourhood you will be staying in and the local transportation services. Your host university or organization may be able to make recommendations, so look on the institution's exchange website for accommodation suggestions.

3rd Party Authorization

Power of Attorney

You may wish to assign Power of Attorney to someone you trust so that, while you are away, they can act on your behalf for such matters as:

- Signing your student loan documents
- Filing your income tax
- Signing bank documents

The granting of this power is simple – you and your designate co-sign a form at your bank or at UBC, where you also present the Power of Attorney letter.

[Check Forwarding Request Form](http://www.students.ubc.ca/mura/finance/index.cfm?LinkServID=106BF8CA-C295-9743-F3A9FE6D2BC1386C&showMeta=0)

<<http://www.students.ubc.ca/mura/finance/index.cfm?LinkServID=106BF8CA-C295-9743-F3A9FE6D2BC1386C&showMeta=0>>

[Third Party Pickup Form](#)

<<http://www.students.ubc.ca/mura/finance/index.cfm?LinkServID=626AEB66-C295-9743-FEC994CAB62059EF&showMeta=0>>

Third Party Authorization

As per the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, UBC is not able to disclose any information relating to a student without their consent. In many cases, students will require assistance from a family member or friend acting on their behalf while they are abroad. In order for UBC to be able to release information to this person, you must provide authorization.

Complete the Third Party Authorization Form online at the [Student Service Centre](#)

<<https://ssc.adm.ubc.ca/sscportal/servlets/SRVSSCFramework>> under “Personal Information.” Be sure to submit a request for each of the campus units for which you wish to grant Third Party Authorization, including Go Global.

Quicklinks

[Trip Touch](#) <<http://www.triptouch.com/>>

A travel guide website that compiles travel information, weather, events, photos, maps and more of your destination city.

[Numbeo](#) <<http://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/>>

The world’s largest database of user contributed data about cities and countries worldwide. Compare cost of living, health care, travel, and more.

[Dopplr](#) <<http://www.dopplr.com/>>

Create an itinerary of your trip and share your travel plans with others. Send Twitter updates about your travel plans directly from Dopplr.

[Hostelling International](#) <<http://www.hihostels.ca/>>

[Virtual Tourist](#) <<http://www.virtualtourist.com/>>

What do you think?

Which resources will allow students to receive discounts and reduced travel fares while abroad?

- International Driving Permit
Try again. The IDP is used for driving or renting vehicles abroad. Click on the Trip Planning image for more details.
- International Student Identification Card

Correct! To learn more about this resource, check out the ISIC card section.

- UBC Student ID Card
Try again.
- Youth Hostel Membership card
Try again. This card can help you with your accommodations. Click on the Trip Planning image for more details.

Poll: Have you planned your trip budget?

- No – I'll figure it out when I arrive at my local destination
- Yes – I've been planning for months to ensure I have the necessary funds to support myself while abroad
- Somewhat – I have a rough budget in mind but could spend more time saving or planning my expenses in advance