



January 2010

Education Abroad in the News

Outlook has recently run a series on service learning opportunities abroad:

<http://www.ohio.edu/outlook/2009-10/January/globetrotting-service-learning-286.cfm>

<http://www.ohio.edu/outlook/2009-10/January/research-and-aid-in-africa-252.cfm>

<http://www.ohio.edu/outlook/2009-10/January/learning-by-doing-good-in-latin-america-226.cfm>

The Wall Street Journal also recently published an article on the cost of study abroad:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126428304081634289.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_sections_personalfinance#articleTabs%3Darticle

Announcements

Orientation Resources Now Available Online

For those who were unable to make it to our breakfast session on developing orientation materials for study abroad programs, please find the presentation at

http://www.ohio.edu/educationabroad/fac_staff/directors.cfm under "Faculty Development Workshops".

OEA International Photography Contest – Entry Deadline: February 15th!

The OEA is soliciting submissions for its annual International Photography Contest. Faculty, staff, and students can enter up to ten of their photos from abroad in the contest. All entries will be on display at Casa Nueva during the month of May as part of International Week 2010. Official rules and an entry form can be found on our website. Please consider submitting your photos and encouraging study abroad alumni to do the same!

“Get the Scoop” Event a Success

Thank you to those of you who participated in “Get the Scoop on Summer Study Abroad – more than 150 students came to the event to learn about summer programs.

Education Abroad Information System Up and Running

Our online application system is live, and we are directing students to use it wherever possible. Your point person can show you how the system works – please contact us with questions.

Standard Operating Procedure - Exception to Travel Policy

Last fall the Office of Education Abroad submitted a standard operating procedure (SOP) to Mark Hopton, Assistant Vice President for Shared Services, for the procurement of Education Abroad related travel. Here are the details of the SOP:

- A. Travel World and Sky Bird Travel and Tours will have first refusal on all Education Abroad airfare purchased with Ohio University funds. If Travel World or Sky Bird Travel and Tours cannot secure airfare to a specific location at a competitive price, the Office of Education Abroad/faculty director will work to secure the safest and most affordable option available.

- B. In-country travel arrangements are integrally connected with the academic mission of education abroad programs. To this end, they will be chosen by the faculty director/Office of Education Abroad based on the academic and safety needs of the program. If deemed appropriate to the academic mission, Travel World and Sky Bird Travel and Tours will be given an opportunity to assist with in-country logistics.

We have not yet received final approval on this SOP from Mark Hopton or the Travel Office, but we are optimistic that we will have the approval very soon. Unless we hear otherwise we will continue to follow the guidance proposed in the SOP.

Guidance for Cell Phone Purchase and Use for Study Abroad

The Office of Education Abroad has received an umbrella exception to the University's cell phone policy. Study abroad programs have the authorization to purchase cell phones and minutes for programmatic use. There are some record keeping requirements that we will have to adhere to, which are detailed below.

- A. If University funds are used to purchase a cell phone then a detailed call log must be maintained. The call log must include all of the following: the date the call was made, the name of the person making the call, the name of the person called and his or her relationship to the program, the phone number called and the purpose of the call.
- B. The Office of Education Abroad must also maintain a detailed inventory of all education abroad owned cell phones. This inventory must be accurate and current.

The Office of Education Abroad will be requesting the serial numbers, phone description and the date the phone was purchased regarding any cell phones purchased for your study abroad program. If you have any questions about these guidelines, or would like further information please contact Janice Bailey-Magill at baileyj2@ohio.edu or 740.593.4540.

Health Insurance Option for those 65 and Older

As you know, every student and faculty member participating in an OU sponsored study abroad or exchange program is required to have HTH Worldwide health insurance for the duration of their program. The HTH policy offers comprehensive health coverage at very low cost for almost everyone up to the age of 64. However, the cost rises dramatically for participants 65 years and older.

So OU has sourced an alternative health insurance policy for study abroad participants over the age of 64. The iNext Premium Travel Insurance plan offers comparable coverage and currently costs just \$45 for 365 days. All applicants for the iNext policy must make the application themselves. Study abroad faculty must pay using their P-card; study abroad student applicants will have their program fee reduced by \$45. In both cases proof of enrollment in iNext must be submitted to the OEA no later than one week before departure.

Failure to do so will result in the participant being automatically enrolled in HTH insurance and the additional cost assessed to their OU account. In 2010 the cost of HTH insurance for participants aged 65 and older is \$103 per week, or \$353 per month.

CIEE International Faculty Development Seminars

The Office of Education Abroad has awarded Dr. Miriam Shadis, assistant professor of history, and Dr. Scott Titsworth, associate professor of communication studies, funding to participate in a CIEE International Faculty Development Seminar this summer. Dr. Shadis will be traveling to Jordan for a 7-day seminar focusing on the role of Middle Eastern women in contemporary Arab society. Dr. Titsworth will participate in a 13-day

seminar in Thailand focusing on human rights, military coups, social movements and rule of law.

Reporting Incidents Abroad

As a reminder, Ohio University is taking part in a pilot project through February 2010 to provide a better sense of the character and rate of health and safety incidents on education abroad programs. We will be relying on you to keep us informed of the nature of such incidents abroad. Although we are not reporting minor incidents (e.g. stubbed toe, minor illness), we need to report anything that disrupts the running of a program.

Examples include:

- injury or illness that requires professional medical attention or requires that someone not participate in program for a day or longer
- theft of over \$100 or of travel documents
- physical assault of staff or student
- sexual harassment or assault
- motor vehicle accident
- equipment failure that causes injury
- student behavioral or psychological incident that disrupts the program

We ask that you notify us of incidents abroad and fill out an incident report form, available at: http://www.ohio.edu/educationabroad/fac_staff/directors.cfm.