Experiencing Germany (June 24-July 30, 2022)

Click on A title BELOW to JUMP To that section

Important Contacts.............................................................................................................................................................................. 3
Academics........................................................................................................................................................................................................................ 4
    ACADEMICS MATTER........................................................................................................................................................................ 4
    TUTORING RESOURCES................................................................................................................................................................. 4
    OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (OAS)........................................................................................................................................ 4
    FSU ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS RELATED TO STUDY ABROAD........................................................................................ 4
Airfare......................................................................................................................................................................................................................... 5
    FLIGHT INFORMATION......................................................................................................................................................................... 5
    IN TRANSIT......................................................................................................................................................................................... 5
Arrival & Travel........................................................................................................................................................................................................ 6
    ARRIVING IN GERMANY................................................................................................................................................................. 6
TRANSPORTATION.................................................................................................................................................................................................... 6
    PERSONAL TRAVEL............................................................................................................................................................................. 6
Housing & Climate.................................................................................................................................................................................................... 7
    HOUSING.......................................................................................................................................................................................... 7
    CLIMATE......................................................................................................................................................................................... 7
Packing................................................................................................................................................................................................................. 8
    PACKING.......................................................................................................................................................................................... 8
Communication & Electronics........................................................................................................................................................................ 9
    CELL PHONES & COMMUNICATION................................................................................................................................................... 9
    COMPUTERS.................................................................................................................................................................................... 9
    MAIL........................................................................................................................................................................................................... 9
Currency & Banking...................................................................................................................................................................................................... 10
    EXPENSES WHILE IN GERMANY.................................................................................................................................................. 10
    CURRENCY.................................................................................................................................................................................... 10
    BANKING..................................................................................................................................................................................... 10
Health & Wellness................................................................................................................................................................................................... 11
    INOCULATIONS/MEDICAL CONCERNS................................................................................................................................................... 11
    ALCOHOL AWARENESS & ILLEGAL DRUGS..................................................................................................................................... 11
    MAPPING YOUR IDENTITIES........................................................................................................................................................... 11
Policies & Safety........................................................................................................................................................................................................ 12
    RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES................................................................................................................................................... 12
    SAFETY & SECURITY..................................................................................................................................................................... 12
Tips & Resources..................................................................................................................................................................................................... 13
    TIPS FROM STUDENTS ON WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW....................................................................................................... 13
    ONLINE RESOURCES................................................................................................................................................................. 13
    USEFUL APPS................................................................................................................................................................................... 13
    CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA........................................................................................................................................ 13
Important Contacts

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE
AS500 University Center
282 Champions Way
P.O. Box 3062420
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306-2420

PHONE   850.644.3272
FAX     850.644.8817
EMAIL   IP-Info@fsu.edu
WEBSITE international.fsu.edu
HOURS    8:00am - 5:00pm EST
          Monday - Friday

Dresden Accommodations
International Guest House
Hochschulstraße 50
01069 Dresden, Germany

PHONE
Guest House (001-49-351) 4692781
Emergency Night (001-49-017) 16254968

Classroom Accommodations
German language classes and the German culture class will be held at the Goethe-Institut Dresden, a short tram ride from student housing.

The address is:
Goethe-Institut Dresden
Königsbrücker Str. 84
01099 Dresden, Germany

STAFF CONTACTS
Prof. Tatjana Soldat-Jaffe, Program Leader
tsoldatjaffe@fsu.edu

The international phone number will be provided to students upon arrival

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS
LOCAL POLICE: 110
FIRE: 112
AMBULANCE: 112

US EMBASSY
For the addresses of all American consulates in Germany, visit: https://de.usembassy.gov/

Berlin
U.S. Embassy and the Consular section with American Citizen Services
Clayallee 170
14191 Berlin, Germany

PHONE       (+49-30) 8305-1200
PHONE – After Hours (+49-30) 8305-1215
EMAIL        ACSBerlin@state.gov
WEBSITE      http://germany.usembassy.gov/

Leipzig
Wilhelm-Seyfferth-Straße 4
04107 Leipzig, Germany

PHONE       49-341-213-840
EMAIL        http://leipzig.usconsulate.gov/

INTERNATIONAL CALLS
Making international calls from the US to Germany: First dial “011” (for international call), followed by “351” (the country code), then the specific area code (dropping the first zero) and location number.

Making international calls from Germany to the US: First dial “001” followed by the U.S. city area code and the seven-digit telephone number.

Time Differences: Central European Time (CET) is ahead of Eastern Standard Time by 6 hours, Central Standard Time by 7 hours, Mountain Standard Time by 8 hours, and Pacific Standard Time by 9 hours. Daylight Savings Time changes often occur on different dates in the US than in Germany.
There are a number of tutoring resources available at Florida State University to assist you academically, both in Tallahassee and abroad. Online tutors in many subject areas are available through the following programs:

- **Reading & Writing Center (RWC)** - [http://wr.english.fsu.edu/Reading-Writing-Center/RWC-Online](http://wr.english.fsu.edu/Reading-Writing-Center/RWC-Online)
- **Academic Center for Excellence (ACE)** - [http://ace.fsu.edu/](http://ace.fsu.edu/)
- **University Libraries: Office of Distance Library Services** - [https://www.lib.fsu.edu/department/distance-learning](https://www.lib.fsu.edu/department/distance-learning)

**OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (OAS)**

OAS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Documented disabilities and accommodations vary in nature, and though the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 do not apply extraterritorially, we do our best to accommodate our students. If you anticipate needing to request accommodations for a documented disability, please schedule an appointment with OAS by calling 850-644-9566 (Voice) or 850-644-8504 (TDD). For more information, visit [https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas](https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas).

**CLASSES**

German language classes and the German culture class will be held at the Goethe-Institut Dresden, a short tram ride from student housing.

The address is:
Goethe-Institut Dresden
Königsbrücker Str. 84
01099 Dresden, Germany
Airfare

**FLIGHT INFORMATION**

There is no group flight for this program, and your program fee does not cover airfare.

Traveling on a one-way ticket may not be allowed due to airline restrictions. Please check with your airlines before purchasing a one-way ticket.

Do not purchase airfare until you are notified by International Programs to do so. You will receive a notification in your IP Student Portal. If you choose to purchase airfare before you are instructed to do so, International Programs is not responsible for any fees associated with your flight changes or cancellations.

You should expect to adhere to any entry requirements that may be in place at the time of your program, including submitting proof of a negative COVID-19 test result prior to departure/upon arrival or proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Updates about entry requirements will be provided through the IP Student Portal.

Once you are notified by International Programs to book your travel arrangements, you must submit your flight itinerary through the IP Student Portal. All flight information will be provided to the program staff. It is important that they receive this information in order to monitor student arrivals.

We strongly advise you to purchase airfare and travel insurance directly with the airline when booking your flight; travel insurance typically covers flight cancellation fees, lost luggage, or other losses incurred while traveling, etc. Speak with your airline for details. Click here for more information about travel insurance and trip cancellation policies. Note: Airfare costs are not included in your program fee, and FSU will not reimburse any costs or fees associated with flight changes or cancellations due to COVID-19 should they occur.

**WHILE YOU’RE IN TRANSIT**

- **Keep your boarding pass** until you have landed, cleared immigration and customs, and have collected your luggage.
- **Have your passport** accessible in your carry-on luggage.
- **During your flight** make sure to drink lots of water to stay hydrated. Get up and walk around once an hour to help your circulation. Do simple stretches while in your seat. **Try to sleep**; it will help you combat jet lag. **Wear layers**, as the temperature on the plane and in airports can vary.
- **You should expect to be required** to wear a mask throughout your flight, including in connecting airports. You may also be required to wear a mask upon exiting the plane until you check into your apartment.
ARRIVING IN GERMANY
You should make arrangements to **arrive in Dresden** on the **start date** of the program, June 24, 2022, and **depart from Berlin** on the **end date** of your program, July 30, 2022, as stated on the [International Programs website](#) and [IP Student Portal](#). You may need to depart from the U.S. one day before the program’s start date in order to arrive on time. **The on-site orientation is mandatory for all students.**

Plan to make your own way to the International Guest House from the Dresden Airport. Please contact Professor Soldat-Jaffe upon arrival.

If your flight is canceled, delayed, or you miss a connection, contact International Programs staff via email or phone.

All orientation/welcome activities that take place upon arrival are mandatory.

The final portion of the program is in Berlin. **Please make your program departure arrangements from Berlin.**

For planning purposes, you must check out of Berlin program housing on the morning of the last day of your program. You will be responsible for getting yourself to the Berlin airport in time for your departure.

TRANSPORTATION
Included in your program fee is a **German rail pass** that affords travel on all trains in the nation’s rail network (Deutsche Bahn) for a limited number of travel days during the month you’ll be in the country. We will collectively go to a Deutsche Bahn rail office to validate your passes, which you will always need to have on your person (accompanied by your passport) when traveling by train. These passes are neither refundable nor replaceable, so keep them safe.

Included in your program fee is a **pass for the public transportation system in Dresden**, which gives you unlimited travel on busses and trains within city zones A and B. Note that if you travel outside these areas, you will need to pay the balance of the fare.

There are also several towns in close proximity to Dresden which are nice spots to visit. These include:

- Leipzig (about one hour on the train from Dresden)
- Meissen (45 minutes on the S1 to Meissen). The program will visit Meissen, but there is more for you to explore.
- Moritzburg (short train or bus ride)
- Pirna (short train ride or bicycle trip – you can rent bikes by the hour at several places in Dresden including the train station)

PERSONAL TRAVEL
Due to the uncertain nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, all program elements including the program calendar, weekly schedule, classroom environment, course delivery method, housing arrangements, transportation policies, and international or in-country travel restrictions are subject to modification at any time in order to comply with local public health restrictions as well as the policies and practices of Florida State University.

FSU’s current independent travel policy allows students to travel independently commensurate with any local, national, or international guidance and restrictions. Independent international travel is not recommended.

FSU will continue to review its independent travel policy as conditions abroad change, but there is a possibility independent travel could remain restricted or limited during your program. Failure to adhere to the independent travel policy could have significant consequences, including potential removal from the program.

**Please wait until you have arrived and received your class/program schedule before you book any independent trips.**

Do not plan travel that will cause you to miss classes or other required programming; strict academic standards are maintained on programs. Your grade may be reduced by any unauthorized absence from class.

For safety purposes, you will be instructed by International Programs to fill out a mandatory online independent travel form each time you plan on traveling outside of your program. More information will be provided to you in the [IP Student Portal](#) prior to departure.
Housing & Climate

HOUSING
Dresden Accommodations
International Guest House
Hochschulstraße 50
01069 Dresden, Germany

While in Dresden, program participants will be housed in single accommodations at the Technical University of Dresden’s International Guest House. The modern Guest House is located directly on the university campus, a brief walk from the main train station, the city center, and the beautiful Elbe River. The dormitory-style accommodations include double and single occupancy rooms, private baths, and a full kitchenette for meal preparation. A daily breakfast buffet is included. All apartments are fully furnished with bed linens, towels, quilts and pillows, and also include internet access (Ethernet) and use of coin-operated washers and dryers. Kitchens are equipped with dishes and other kitchen utensils.

All housing accommodations provide comparable facilities; however, we cannot guarantee that each residence will have the exact same amenities. Each student housing facility has safety and security measures, which may vary by location.

Rooming assignments will be made based on a combination of factors such as type of program, housing preference, availability, and special needs as indicated in the information you provide on the Medical, Special Needs, Housing questionnaire in the IP Student Portal. You will receive your roommate assignments during check-in to program housing. Roommate assignments are made by our staff and cannot be changed.

During your on-site orientation, you will be advised of the Housing Rules & Regulations. Violation of any of the housing policies is grounds for dismissal. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the housing rules and regulations for your specific program. Refer to the FSU International Programs Contractual Agreement and the Housing Terms and Conditions for details. You are required to sign the FSU International Programs Contractual Agreement as it outlines your contractual obligations as a participant on our program.

At the end of the program, the housing facilities will be inspected. They should be neat, clean and in the condition in which they were found. If your housing is left in an un-fit state or if any damages are found upon your departure, additional charges may be assessed to your FSU account.

CLIMATE
The average temperatures in Dresden in the summer are High 70s – Mid 50s. Much of Dresden city stands in the Elbe Valley area of eastern Germany, where the overall climate is strongly affected by its fairly sheltered position. Dresden usually enjoys warm and often hot summers followed by pleasant autumn months and mild winters, although frosty nights are not unusual during both December and January. Mid-May until mid-June, however, is a time of transition in the Elbe Valley and can bring with it significant temperature fluctuations. This can range from daily temperatures in the low-50s to high 80s/ low 90s, which means that visitors arriving from Florida may find the weather quite cool in comparison to Tallahassee. The benefit is that the region is a sunny and dry one, so even cool temperatures won’t be a deterrent to enjoying the scenery and outdoor cafes.
PACKING
Past Program Participants have recommended packing the following items:

- A windbreaker/waterproof jacket (one with a zip out lining for warmth is optimal)
- A compact umbrella
- Jeans: Europeans often wear “dressy” jeans to work and to restaurants; these are typically dark denim with little/no hardware, holes, or fraying. These plus a blazer or nice blouse are appropriate attire for many of the evening concerts we will attend.
- Shoes: Limit your shoes to 2-3 pairs at most. You’ll need one dressier pair that can still stand up to cobblestone streets (platform heels are strongly discouraged), one pair of comfortable walking shoes, and perhaps a pair of sandals. Avoid flip-flops. There will be a fair amount of walking, situations when you have to rush to catch public transportation or hurry somewhere, so you won’t be able to move fast and/or comfortably enough in flip-flops. Do NOT wear light shoes on the outdoor excursions in the region: you might have to climb on stony or unpaved natural paths.
- You may encounter some conditions in which closed toe shoes will be most comfortable (cool evenings, concerts, dance halls, rainy weather). You will do a great deal of walking while in Germany, including one day of hiking in the Sächsische Schweiz (Saxon Switzerland National Park). If you are not currently active, you should begin walking each day to physically prepare for the trip. You will frequently walk several (5+) miles a day.
- Comfortable casual wear (shorts, capris, sundresses, t-shirts, silk sweaters, etc.)

Reference the International Programs packing list for more packing tips!
Communication & Electronics

**Communication & Cell Phones**

Staying connected to your family and friends while you are abroad is extremely important. Establish a communications plan prior to departure. Whether it’s setting up a Skype meeting every Sunday night, sending them messages over WhatsApp, or checking-in with them on social media, make sure you keep in touch!

Though it is not mandatory to use your cell phone abroad, consider one of the following options. Do your research to see which option is the best fit for you:

- **Add an international plan through your current service provider.** This tends to be the most expensive option. Talk to your service provider for details. Each provider offers varying international plans.
- **Purchase a SIM card in-country for your current phone.** You will need to unlock your phone and make sure your phone is GSM-capable before departure. You can buy a prepaid SIM plan, either for phone calls only or for calls and data.
- **Purchase an inexpensive phone with a local plan in-country and pay for more minutes/data as needed.** A pay-as-you-go phones are fairly inexpensive, and can be used for local and national calls in your study abroad country, calls to and from the U.S., and calls within continental Europe.
- **Use the Wi-Fi available in program facilities or around the city with your phone in airplane mode.** Make sure to turn off roaming before you leave, just in case. Otherwise you might end up with a large phone bill when you return to the US. Apps you can easily use while connected to Wi-Fi include Skype, FaceTime, GroupMe, and WhatsApp. If you have a smartphone, download these apps before you travel so you will be able to activate the account. Note: Students who plan to purchase a SIM card or phone abroad should use this option in the meantime...or to save on data use!

**Computers**

You will have internet access in your dormitory rooms; it is advisable to bring an extra Ethernet cable with you as the dorms do not have Wi-Fi.

Students should plan to bring a laptop or tablet with them. Students will need their laptop/tablet during any periods of quarantine or isolation that may be required. We recommend doing the following prior to departure:

- **Bring a plug adaptor so your computer can charge on a foreign outlet.**
- **Check your homeowner’s insurance to make sure that your computer is covered when you are away from your primary residence. If not covered by your homeowner’s insurance, you may look into insurance through [http://www.safeware.com/](http://www.safeware.com/), a worldwide insurance provider for all electronic devices (e.g. laptop, digital camera, iPod, etc.). They also have a provision for non-electronic personal property.
- **Do NOT pack your laptop or laptop charger in your checked luggage.**

**Mail**

Please share the following information with those in the US who are interested in sending you mail while you are abroad.

Students may receive mail to the Guest House but should ensure their name is clearly marked and does not arrive before or after program dates. Letters and packages sent by air mail usually arrive within 7-10 days but can take up to three weeks. We do not recommend sending textbooks by mail.
EXPENSES WHILE IN GERMANY
In estimating your financial needs while abroad, calculate the amount of money you will need for meals for the entire period of your stay; costs for your personal entertainment and social activities.

The housing in Dresden provides breakfast, an important meal of which you should take advantage. Breakfast is a deeply cherished cultural experience in Germany and seen as an important social gathering time for family. You will typically be served fresh breads, cold cuts, hard or soft boiled eggs, yogurt, fruits, Nutella, coffee, and juice.

You will be responsible for lunches and dinners. You will have a small kitchenette in your dorm room. There is a grocery store/market within walking distance of the dorms. You can purchase food to make sandwiches, pasta, etc. at this grocery store.

CURRENCY
Germany uses the Euro as the national currency. Exchange some dollars ($75-$100) for euros before you leave the U.S. Don’t exchange more than $100; you just need enough to get you to Dresden and to a bank abroad.

You can reference the current exchange rate online.

BANKING

We recommend you set up online banking for your bank account(s) prior to departure from the U.S. so you can monitor your account(s) while overseas.

You should bring two types of cards with you:

Debit Card
• A debit card can be used to access funds from an ATM or bank.

• Make sure your debit/ATM card is linked to a checking account, rather than to a savings account, so you will have access to your funds.

• If you have a pin longer than 4 digits or based on letters, you may have trouble using it abroad. You will need to change your pin before departure.

• You should contact your financial institution for information regarding ATM transaction fees. You can limit the fees if your U.S. bank has a ‘sister’ bank in the host country and/or if you limit your withdrawals, though we do not advise keeping large sums of money on your person or stored in your residence, even if a safe is provided.

Credit Card
• Credit cards are useful in the event of an emergency. If you need to visit a doctor or hospital, you will likely have to pay prior to the service, and then submit an insurance claim afterward.

• Credit cards are also useful for everyday purchases and offer excellent exchange rates. Mastercard and Visa are the most widely accepted credit cards overseas. A credit card with "chip and pin" technology is recommended, as this is the standard abroad.

• Consider applying for a credit card with no foreign transaction fees/international fees.

Before using an ATM or debit card overseas, we recommend the following:

• Contact your financial institution(s) before you leave the U.S. to make sure your ATM or debit card is activated for international use during the dates and in the locations in which you will be abroad.

• Keep a record of all credit/debit/ATM card numbers and the phone numbers you would need to call, with area codes, if they are lost or stolen. Keep this record in a safe place separate from your cards, and you should provide a copy to family at home.
Health & Wellness

INOCULATIONS/MEDICAL CONCERNS

BEFORE DEPARTURE:
We encourage all students with underlying health issues that may increase the severity of infection should they contract COVID-19 to discuss their study abroad plan with their doctor/specialist.

Florida State University requires certain immunizations prior to your registration for classes. All newly admitted degree-seeking students (freshman and transfer) and non-FSU students will be asked to complete and submit the required Student Immunization Form through the IP Student Portal.

Familiarize yourself with the specific requirements and health matters in your program location. The FSU Health and Wellness Center offers a travel clinic which provides immunizations. Click here for additional information available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s site. Some countries have specific requirements for inoculations based on past locations the traveler has visited. It is the student’s responsibility to confirm whether or not the previous travel requires additional inoculations.

WHILE ABROAD:
Your program fee includes international medical and evacuation insurance coverage through Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI); Click here to access the policy online. The coverage will be effective for participants from the day the program starts until the day the program ends. It includes coverage for treatment of ill students, including those with COVID-19, as well as COVID testing for those who are symptomatic, or those who have had a known exposure to a person who tested positive. It does not cover preventative evacuation due to pandemics or preventative treatments such as vaccinations. There are Teleconsultation Services available. This policy is NOT intended to replace your domestic coverage.

ALCOHOL AWARENESS & ILLEGAL DRUGS
The legal age for the drinking of alcohol in Germany is 18. This means that you will likely have the opportunity to buy and drink alcohol legally. It is in your interest to recognize that this right carries a great deal of responsibility. FSUIP has a strict code of conduct relating to the use of alcohol, violations of which will likely result in a judicial hearing with the possible outcome of being dismissed from the program. In short, know your limits, and drink in moderation if you choose to do so, but not to excess.

Florida State University has a zero-tolerance policy regarding the possession, use, manufacture, production, sale, exchange or distribution of illegal drugs by students participating in FSU study abroad programs. Violation of this policy may result in immediate dismissal from the program and disciplinary action onsite or upon return to campus. International Programs’ policies follow either the U.S. law or local law, whichever is more stringent with regard to drug use. For complete information on student judicial processes, victim rights, and appeals see the Student Conduct Code: https://sccs.fsu.edu/.

MAPPING YOUR IDENTITIES
Our Mapping your Identities guide will help you explore your identities and evaluate your overall wellness to aid in your preparation for a successful and enriching study abroad experience. It will also help you understand others on your program and be better allies for them.
Policies & Safety

RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES
Florida State degree-seeking, transient, and special students are bound by the rules, policies, and procedures set forth in the FSU General Bulletin and Student Handbook. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these before you leave. You may locate the FSU General Bulletin online at http://registrar.fsu.edu/ and The Student Conduct Code at https://sccs.fsu.edu/conduct-codes/student-conduct-codes. The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities updates any changes to the Student Conduct Code.

SAFETY & SECURITY
Our highest priority is the welfare and security of our students, faculty, staff and facilities. We have emergency plans in place for each of our locations and work closely with our insurers and 24/7 emergency response providers to monitor and respond to all situations worldwide. It is our policy to follow guidance from the respective U.S. Embassies, U.S. State Department, as well as local officials and keep students apprised of any new information. For more information on IP’s security policies and procedures, please contact our Director of Risk and Emergency Management, Chris Carroll at 850.644.7823 or ccarroll@fsu.edu.

- **Resources.** Even though you are not on the main campus, you have access to many resources should you encounter issues while abroad. Program staff members are available to support you in a variety of ways, including connecting you with other professionals locally and/or on the main campus.
  - **Victim Advocate Program.** The University takes very seriously all types of victimization, including sexual violence, relationship violence, and domestic violence. Advocates are available and on-call 24 hours a day to provide confidential support services, even for students who are abroad. For more information on the Victim Advocate Program, visit http://victimadvocate.fsu.edu.
  - **Counseling & Psychological Services at FSU.** Counseling and Psychological Services is a welcoming and confidential place to discuss questions and concerns such as homesickness, struggles with relationships, sexual identity, cultural issues, and more. Visit https://counseling.fsu.edu/ for more information.
  - **Center for Health Advocacy & Wellness.** The Center for Health Advocacy & Wellness encourages you to make healthy lifestyle decisions that facilitate academic success and lead to life-long health and wellness. For more information, visit http://chaw.fsu.edu/.

- **The U.S. State Department** maintains a web site of information for Americans studying abroad, including current travel advisory warnings, at: http://studentsabroad.state.gov/.

- **The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)** is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency. We strongly recommend you register here: https://step.state.gov/step/.

- **Waivers.** All IP participants must sign and submit a general Waiver of Liability & COVID-19 Waiver through the IP Student Portal.

- **Be aware that you are subject to the laws of the country in which you are traveling.**

- **Always carry a photocopy of the picture and signature pages of your passport with you.** Keep another copy in your room separate from your passport. Leave one copy at home in the U.S. with your family or a relative.

- **Use the buddy system—try to travel with friends as much as possible and always tell your roommates or friends where you are going and when you expect to return. Bystander intervention is a powerful opportunity and responsibility for those within our community.**

- **Valuables.** Students should not take sentimental valuables on their program. Students should not leave cash, passports, or other items of value unattended in their rooms. If a locker or safe is provided, students are strongly encouraged to use it to store anything of value at all times. Students should plan regular visits to the cash machine rather than leaving large amounts of cash in their rooms. Students are responsible for ensuring their rooms are left secure at all times – do not prop open doors, do not leave doors and windows unlocked, do not give keys to anyone. If students notice others in the building leaving the main entrance door unsecured, they should notify program staff immediately, even if there are others living in the building who are not FSU program participants. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase insurance that will cover their belongings while abroad, whether a standard homeowners or renters policy. The International Programs insurance policy does not cover loss or theft of participants’ possessions.

- **Pickpocketing.** In most large cities throughout the world, pickpocketing is the most common crime and can happen anytime, anywhere! We caution you to always be aware of your surroundings. Beware of strangers who try to distract you with papers, boxes, or strange gestures. Smartphones and purses are often stolen in crowded areas, cafes, restaurants, and pubs. Keep them close to you and within your own sight, but out of the reach of strangers. Secure your valuables when you use public transportation, especially if you are travelling on an overnight train/coach.

- **Weapons.** Students are strictly prohibited from keeping or using firearms, knives, weapons (including pellet, air guns, paintball guns or other dangerous articles or substances). Furthermore, mace and/or pepper spray may be illegal in the countries that you visit. It is your responsibility to know the laws regarding weapons in the host country if you intend to bring any item for self-defense.
Tips & Resources

TIPS FROM STUDENTS ON WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW
These comments came from students who recently attended our study abroad program in Germany:

- Bring a small rolling suitcase for weekend trips.
- Many public bathrooms in Germany require payment (usually less than 1 euro).
- It can get hot in Dresden, so you may want to purchase a fan for your room when you arrive.

ONLINE RESOURCES
The more information you find out about the country beforehand, the better off you will be once you get there. Here is a list of a few web sites that may be helpful as you begin your information search:

https://letsgo.com/ (online travel guide)
http://www.state.gov/travel/ (US State Department’s information for Americans living abroad)
https://nolesabroad.international.fsu.edu/ (FSU International Programs blog with articles from former program participants)

Looking for something to do in Germany? Check out these sites:
http://www.railpass.com/ (Eurail pass information)
http://www.tripadvisor.com (online travel guide)
https://www.roughguides.com/ (travel guide)

USEFUL APPS
Jimo (social recommendation app for local spots)
Dark Sky (With down-to-the-minute forecasts, you’ll know exactly when the rain will start or stop, right where you’re standing)
Mobile Passport (Authorized by US Government to get through customs upon return to the US. Allows you to use the dedicated mobile passport line in 21 participating airports)

(Note: Florida State University is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.)

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
International Programs Facebook
International Programs Twitter
International Programs Instagram

Last Updated 3/16/2022