



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

National Institute of Education
Academic Year 2011-2012
Program Guide

National Institute of Education (NIE)
<http://www.nie.edu.sg>

Preparing for Study Abroad

- To maximize the study abroad experience, students should prepare themselves by learning about their host country, its history, and culture. Students might want to begin with: www.economist.com/countries or <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Know what is happening in the news in the host city by reading the local newspaper at: <http://www.newspapers24.com>
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. Students may find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before they leave home: <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>
Customs and traditions in the host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions, students may want to visit the following website: www.hthstudents.com
- Students and their parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website (www.bc.edu/international) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the abroad experience.
- Prior to departure, students will meet with their International Study Advisor at an orientation to help them further prepare for their study abroad experience.

On-Site Contact Information

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Travel Information

- Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements.
- NIE recommends arriving a few days (up to one week) earlier than the start of the term so that students can familiarize themselves with and explore Singapore.
- **Visa Information:** Students will be asked to supply the necessary information and forms to Hovey House so that NIE can register them with the Immigration and Checkpoint Authority of Singapore (ICA). After the registration is completed by ICA, students will receive an email with further instructions. When applying for the visa, ICA stresses that students use the exact name (in both order and spelling) that appears on their passports.

Academics

Program dates and Academic calendar	
Fall 2011	Spring 2012
August 8: Classes begin	January 9: Classes begin
TBD: Orientation	TBD: Orientation
	February 25-March 4: Semester Break
November 11: Classes end	May 4: Classes end
December 2: Winter vacation begins	May 5: Summer vacation begins

- For course selection information, please refer to:
<file://localhost/Users/oiplaptop/Downloads/BEdHandbookPri2011-2012-1.pdf>
- Course approval information will be found at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about transcripts and grades is available at:
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>

Housing and Living

- Upon arrival students will be picked up from the airport by on-site program staff and transferred to their housing. Students arriving at irregular times may take a cab.
- BC students are housed on campus. Linens, bed sheets and pillowcases are not provided, so you will need to bring your own or buy them in Singapore. You will collect keys to your room at the Admin Office of the Halls of Residences during office hours (8:30 AM to 5:30 PM).
- Double occupancy rate for housing is \$165-\$210/per month.
- A buddy will be assigned to each BC student through the NIE Travel Club who will accompany and orientate the BC students to NIE and Singapore.
- Orientation will take place after the start of the semester and is organized by the parent university - Nanyang Technological University (NTU).
- **NIE Sponsored Activities:**
NIE has many student clubs and international students are welcomed to join/participate in their activities. During the semester, The Foundations Office will also arrange for a heritage tour for the international students.

- **Meals:**
Meals are on a pay-as-you-go basis and there is no meal plan option. The University recommends that students budget approximately \$300-\$400 for food per month.

Wellness, Health and Safety

- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.
- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by our blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- Students are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. Students will have a smoother transition by making sure that they prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad:
http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html
<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>
<http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>
- Be sure to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
BC emergency contact information:
OIP (617) 552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
BCPD (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)
- Alcohol and Drugs
In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. Students are subject to the laws of their host country, so if students choose to drink alcohol abroad, always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about their host country's laws by visiting:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses

Finances

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad:
http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2011-2012_estimated_student_budget_w_housing_June_2011.pdf
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:
http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/Scholarship_Opportunities.html

Returning to BC

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of their program, OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation.
- Mentor an exchange student from the host university by contacting oiexchange@bc.edu
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting the International Study Advisor, Christina Dimitrova at dimitroc@bc.edu
- It is not uncommon when students return from studying abroad to experience “reverse” culture shock. The following may help students transition back to home:
<http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

References

- **Useful websites:**
<http://www.roughguides.com/> travel guidebook
- Student and parent guides at <http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/index.html>