



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Sogang University
Academic Year 2011-2012
Program Guide

Sogang University
<http://www.sogang.ac.kr/english/>

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/wvs/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

- **Ms. Jin-ok Ahn**
International Affairs Officer
Tel: +82-2-705-8118
Email: goabroad2@sogang.ac.kr

Travel Information

- Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements.
- Students who arrive on the designated arrival date will be offered a pick-up service from the Sogang Student Body. Instructions on submitting your airport pick-up form to Sogang University will be present in the acceptance packet.
- Other transportation options include limousine bus (#602; stop 5B or 12A) which will take students to Shinchon Station, located a 10 minute walk from Sogang University.
- Taxis are also an option, but are usually more expensive than the other transportation methods.

- **Visa Information:** Once students have received their acceptance letters from Sogang University, they should call the Korean Consulate in Boston at 617-641-2830 or visit <http://usa-newyork.mofat.go.kr/eng/am/usa-newyork/main/index.jsp> for information on applying for the visa.

Academics

Program dates and Academic calendar	
Fall 2011	Spring 2012
TBD: Online course registration	TBD: Designated arrival
TBD: Designated arrival	March 2: Student Orientation
	March 2: Classes begin
TBD: Student orientation	TBD: Changes in course registration
September 29: Classes begin	TBD: Easter holidays
August 30-September 23: Changes in course registration	TBD: Final exam period
December 12-17: Final exam period	June 23: Summer vacation begins, first possible departure date
December 19: Winter vacation begins, first possible departure date	

- An updated academic calendar can be found at http://www.sogang.ac.kr/english/academic/01_calendar_u1102.html
- For course selection information, please refer to http://www.sogang.ac.kr/english/academic/03_under_01.html
- 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

- **Housing:**
Students live in either single or double occupancy dorms at Sogang University. Breakfast and dinner are included. Please visit http://www.sogang.ac.kr/english/life/05_housing.html for more information on this multicultural dormitory.
Alternatively, students have the option of making private arrangements to live in “hah-sook” houses off-campus. In the “hah-sook” houses, students receive breakfast; normally all the “boarders” eat together if they are at home during mealtime. These homes are in a residential and small business neighborhood.

- **Sogang Sponsored Activities:**

Through the Student Union Hall, students can join a number of student interest clubs and volunteer service clubs. The International Student Fellowships and Hands Up for Gathering are two examples of clubs that aim to promote interaction among international and Korean students. Information regarding the student clubs and cultural activities can be found on Sogang's Office of International Affairs website.

- **Meals:**

Two meals a day are included in the dormitory fee, but students can get a cheap meal at the University cafeteria for around \$5.

- **Local Transportation:**

Students have access to the city through various methods of public transport, such as the bus or subway. More information and timetables for Seoul's subway and bus systems can be found at <http://english.visitkorea.or.kr/enu/index.kto>.

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>