



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Al Akhawayn University Ifrane
Academic Year 2010
Program Guide

Al Akhawayn University Ifrane (AUI)
<http://www.aui.ma/>

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

- **Amy Fishburn**
Director: Office of International Programs AUI
Tel: +212 535 86 2905
Email: oipt@au.ma
- **Meryem Inabi**
Administrative Assistant
Tel: +212 535 86 2065
Fax: +212 535 86 2148
Email: oipt@au.ma
- **24 Hour Emergency Contact**
+212 535 86 333 – Housing Services (24/7 English Speaking staff)
+212 535 85 2000 – University Switchboard (English speaking staff not on duty for nights and holidays)

Travel Information

- Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to fly into the city of Fez before the scheduled orientation.
- Students can be met at the Fez airport or Train Station. Students wishing to use this recommended pickup must complete the arrival information form and return it to the AUI Office of International Programs in Morocco at least one month prior to their arrival. There is a pick-up fee as follows: Fez Airport or train Station 200 Dirhams per student Or 360 Dirhams per university vehicle.
- **Visa Information:** Students just need a passport that is valid at least six months beyond their estimated return date in order to travel to Morocco. Residency documents will be processed during orientation; the cost will be \$15 and the AUI Office of International Programs will advise students on this matter after arrival.

Academics

Program dates and Academic calendar	
Spring 2010	Fall 2010 (Tentative)
January 21-24: International student orientation and registration	August 27-30: International student orientation and registration
January 25: Classes start	August 31: Classes start
March 22-26: Spring break	December 11: Classes end
May 10: Classes end	December 13-17: Final exams
May 11-15: Final exams	

- Check in at <http://www.aui.ma/DSA/registrar/dsa-registrar-academic-calendar.htm> for updated dates and information.
- For course selection information, please refer to <http://www.aui.ma/DSA/Admissions/admission-eng/admissions-catalogue.htm>
- Language courses of various proficiencies are offered in Arabic, French, Spanish, and occasionally Berber. A placement test is required for those students wishing to enter above the beginner level.
- Course approval information will be found at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about transcripts and grades is available at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/transcripts.html>

Housing and Living

- All international exchange and study abroad students are required to live on campus in university housing. Normally, housing is based on double occupancy and every effort is made to pair international students with a Moroccan counterpart. The dormitories at AUI are strictly segregated by sex and there is no visitation of the opposite sex in these residences at any time. Sheets and blankets are provided.
- The housing fee is approximately 4,400 MAD and there is a refundable deposit of 1,000 MAD.

- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at: http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910_estimated_stude.pdf
- Regular mail should be addressed as follows:
 - Office of International Programs
 - Al Akhawayn University
 - P.O. Box 104
 - Avenue Hassan II
 - Ifrane 53000
 - Morocco
- **Local Transportation:**
Grand taxis, busses and trains are readily available.
- **AUI Sponsored Activities:**
There are over 40 clubs offered at AUI; the activities of these clubs range from recreation, music, theater, and arts to humanitarian action and sports. Students can also take day trips to the imperial cities of Fez and Meknès and to the weekly markets of Azrou and neighboring towns. The Office of Student Activities offers a couple of trips each semester to various regions of Morocco. Check with Ms. Amy Fishburn for volunteer and teaching opportunities in Ifrane.
- **Meals:**
Students have the option of purchasing a partial or full meal plan for the campus restaurants. Most students choose the full plan since a refund is issued at the end of the semester. The full meal plan costs 7,000 MAD and there is a 1,600 MAD restaurant access fee.

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/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910_estimated_stude.pdf
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:
http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/financesawards/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>