

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Should I take my phone?

Yes. You should definitely plan to take your mobile phone with you. It is good idea to purchase an international data plan (you can also add voice to the plan) so that you can use your phone without generating roaming charges. Not only will your phone be useful in case of an emergency, but you will be able to download and use all sorts of navigational and informational apps. Plus, you'll be able to communicate easily with family and friends back at home.

### What do I do about money?

ATM machines are widely available in most if not all program locations. Typically, pulling local currency out of an ATM offers the lowest exchange rates. Currency exchange bureaus are to be avoided except in an extreme emergency. These businesses charge excessive fees hidden in poor exchange rates (hence their declaration that they do not charge any transaction fees).

If you need to, you can exchange any currency at banks, airports, railroad stations, and sometimes in large hotels. It is recommended that you carry only small amounts of cash on your person or in locked luggage in their your room (without any guarantee of safety, be forewarned). When you are out on your own, you need to be careful when using public transportation, moving through large crowds, or eating in restaurants. A money belt worn beneath clothing is a good way to safeguard money and other valuables being carried such as credit/debit cards or passports.

You should contact your credit card company or bank to inform them of your travel dates and locations. This will also be a good time to enquire about any ATM fees or currency exchange fees that might be charged when using these cards. Be advised that pulling out cash using a credit card may require additional fees or interest.

To check current currency exchange rates, go to [oanda.com](http://oanda.com) or [xe.com](http://xe.com).

### How can I learn more about the culture of my program country?

There are so many resources out there that you really have your pick! Here are a couple of options to consider, though, they both require purchase:

- Culture Smart!* books are short, fairly comprehensive, easy to read, and include a Business Briefing. You can purchase them on Amazon.
- Culture Grams* are available online and provide a brief overview of many aspects of a country. You can purchase them at <http://online.culturegrams.com/>.

You can also go online and access country or city websites that often provide good cultural detail. In addition, many guidebooks such as *Lonely Planet* or *Rick Steves* – available online or in hard copy – offer good cultural information as well as suggestions on what to do during free time.

### What am I supposed to wear on a Global Learning Experience program?

While participating in a Huntsman Global Learning Experience, you will act as an ambassador for Utah State University and the Huntsman School of Business.

Therefore, you are required to wear **business casual (see description below)** for business visits unless a program leader requires business formal attire (typically MBA and MHR programs). Program leaders will provide specific guidance based on location and daily activity. When in transit – i.e., traveling via air or rail between locations as an individual or in a group – it is expected that you will wear **Aggie Casual (see description below)**. Aggie Casual is **required** when traveling between locations as a group.

### ***Business Casual***

Appropriate attire makes a good impression, communicates respect, and signals that an individual is serious about the encounter with the program host. Participants should anticipate needing between three to five outfits of business casual attire, depending on location and season. If clothes need to be pressed prior to wear, hotels can usually provide an iron by contacting the front desk or housekeeping.

See the image below for examples of business attire.



### ***Aggie Casual***

During group transit periods via plane or rail, participants are required to dress in Aggie Casual. This implies wearing a nice shirt (polo, button down shirt/blouse, nice t-shirt without writing or image), chinos/cargo pants/nice jeans (no holes or fraying), sneakers or other closed-toe shoes. Shorts and/or capris as well as sandals and/or flip flops **are not** appropriate except during free time. Shorts are strongly

discouraged even during free time as they signal an individual is a tourist and, therefore, an easy target for pick pockets.

## **What should I pack?**

You are allowed one checked bag, one carry-on, and one personal item. The checked luggage cannot exceed 50 lbs. (23 kilos) or be larger than 27 inches x 17 inches x 10 inches (68.58 cm x 43.18 cm x 25.4 cm). If luggage has “off dimensions”, its total linear dimension cannot exceed 55 inches (139.7 cm). In general, a 24 inch (60.96 cm) suitcase should be more than adequate. It is better to pack light to simplify travel, manage space in small hotel rooms, and reduce the risk of loss. Packing light will also allow you to bring back more souvenirs! Carry-ons should not exceed 11 lbs. (4.9 kilos) or exceed 22 inches x 14 inches x 9 inches (56 cm x 35 cm x 23 cm).

You are cautioned against placing anything of value in your luggage. Note that different countries have different rules about what can be placed in checked bags. China, for example, does not permit knives to be carried in checked or carry-on baggage. It is not permitted to lock luggage unless approved locks are used that can be opened easily by airport personnel. Finally, when luggage is left in the hotel room, you are cautioned against leaving anything of value in your luggage while being sure to lock all bags when absent from the room.

Below is a Suggested Packing List that you may find helpful.

### **Documents**

- Passport, other forms of ID (driver’s license, government identity card), and photocopies of important documents including passport (color copy) and visas (including F1 visa for international students and I-20)
- Tickets (airplane, train passes, public transportation passes)
- Cash (limited amount), credit card, debit card, money belt
- Copy of credit/debit card numbers and contact information to report stolen or lost card(s)
- Emergency contact information and program emergency plan
- Program Field Guide
- Journal or notebook
- Guide book or city/country apps
- Maps or map apps
- ISOS wallet card and program emergency wallet card
- Personal insurance information

### **Medicine/Toiletries (as appropriate to personal needs and program locations)**

- Prescriptions in original packaging, over-the-counter medications in original packaging, vitamins/supplements in original packaging
- Extra pair of glasses (if possible) and copy of eye prescription
- Extra set of contact lenses (as appropriate) plus cleaning solution(s) and copy of eye prescription
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- First aid kit
- Medical alert bracelet (if needed)
- Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, dental floss, makeup
- Shampoo, conditioner
- Hair gel, hair spray

- Contraceptives, condoms
- Pain relievers
- Insect repellent with Deet, anti-itch cream
- Medicine for heartburn and diarrhea (Tums, Imodium, etc.)
- Allergy medications, nasal decongestant
- Motion sickness medication
- Antibiotics (only upon doctor advice)
- Wet wipes, hand sanitizer
- Small amount of laundry detergent to wash clothes in a sink (for programs of 2 weeks or more)
- Water bottle
- Fingernail clippers
- Razor, shaving cream

Any toiletry items packed in the carry-on must be in containers no larger than 3 oz. and must fit into a single Ziploc-type, clear, one quart size plastic bag.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Purse, wallet
- Mobile phone
- iPad or laptop (not encouraged)
- Folding umbrella (if rainy season in location)
- Sewing kit, safety pins, Scotch tape, rubber bands
- Plastic bags
- Plug adapter to charge mobile phone, iPad, laptop
- 220V hair dryer, curling iron
  - Available for purchase at Walmart
- Luggage lock, luggage tags
- Snacks for flight (no dried fruit)

### **Clothing**

Much of the world dresses more formally than Americans. Students should leave ragged jeans and USA t-shirts at home. Students should also remember that they might not be able to do laundry while traveling. Consider below when packing.

#### Men

- Button-down shirts
- Dress slacks
- Tie (advised by program leader)
- Belt
- Solid color t-shirts without images or writing for free time (long sleeve or short sleeve)
- Long pants for free time (shorts are not recommended to avoid looking too much like a tourist)
- Socks, underwear, handkerchief
- Dress shoes (comfortable), sneakers, sandals for free time(seasonal)
- Warm jacket (seasonal)
- Sweater or sweatshirt (seasonal)
- Hat
- Swimming trunks (seasonal)

#### Women

- Blouses or sweaters (seasonal)

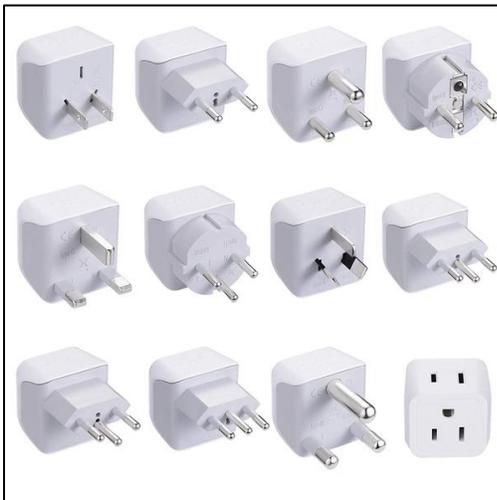
- Dress slacks, skirts, or dresses
- Belt
- Solid color t-shirts without images or writing for free time (long sleeve or short sleeve)
- Long pants for free time (shorts are not recommended to avoid looking too much like a tourist)
- Socks, underwear, handkerchief
- Dress shoes (comfortable, low heel), sneakers, sandals for free time(seasonal)
- Warm jacket (seasonal)
- Sweater or sweatshirt (seasonal)
- Hat
- Swimsuit (seasonal)

## Can I take my hair dryer and laptop with me? How will I plug them in?

In countries outside the United States a variety of plug types are used. There are several websites that describe plugs used overseas such as:

- [World Standards \(https://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/\)](https://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/) or
- [Power Plugs and Sockets \(https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com/\)](https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com/)

Adapter plugs can be purchased at stores such as Walmart or Best Buy. In addition to differences in plug types, different electrical voltages and frequencies are used overseas. Power chargers for laptops, tablets, and mobile phones can typically accommodate multiple voltages and frequencies, so only a plug adapter is needed to connect to an outlet. Appliances such as hair dryers or curling irons are typically designed for a single voltage/frequency. It is possible – and recommended – that individuals purchase a dual voltage appliance for easy use overseas. An adapter plug is still required.



Note: When using converters, electrical appliances tend to overheat or work erratically. This can lead to burning one's hair or a broken appliance.

## Should I take my laptop?

Traveling with a laptop is a personal choice. Questions you might consider before deciding:

1. Do I need to work remotely or do homework while traveling?

- a. Yes: Take it
- b. No: Leave it home
- 2. Will I always be in a secure environment so there is little risk to theft of my laptop?
  - a. Yes: Take it
  - b. No: Leave it home
- 3. Will I be traveling often via air or train to different locations before returning home?
  - a. Yes: Leave it home
  - b. No: Take it

### **Will there be any time to see the sights?**

While the primary purpose of a Global Learning Experience is for you to learn from and interact with business and other leaders, excursions are often included in the program. In addition, there is usually free time in the evening and sometimes on a weekend for participants to explore the sights with at least one buddy from among the program participants. FYI: YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE WITH A BUDDY!!