

DISCLAIMER ON AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES

There may not always be a Title IX Coordinator on your study abroad campus. Find a reliable and trustworthy staff person at your university that you can ask questions. Remember, no matter where you are, you are not alone and you always deserve to feel safe and respected.

To college and university staff abroad: Even if this is not your job, try to figure out what the processes for support and reporting are for students in case they need your help. Who is the police authority and where are the hospitals in the area? Where is your embassy?



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GENDER RELATIONS
& STUDY ABROAD

RESOURCE GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

FACTS & FIGURES

1. 28% of female identifying students who study abroad experience sexual assault while abroad.
2. 6% of students studying abroad have reported rape.
3. Regions where the main language is not the student's first language show increased risk of sexual assault. 81% of students who study abroad attend programs in countries where they do not speak their first language.
4. About 1 in 10 sexual assaults reported abroad have been perpetrated by other students.

Being in a new place can be both exciting and make us nervous at the same time. With new surroundings, new people, and possibly a new language, it is important to have conversations early on about gender relations and sexuality in your temporary home country.

Gender relations and sexuality may be perceived differently by your host country. Make sure you are aware of cultural norms, stereotypes, and any other factors that may affect the way people approach you in a new place. As you review each question with the group, make sure to contextualize and think about ways the answers might affect the way people may see or treat you in this new setting.

Host a workshop with students who may go abroad or already are participating in a study abroad program to discuss gender relations and safety abroad. These questions can be used to start the conversation. Each part below can be read out loud, used as powerpoint slides, or in any format that works for the structure of your conversation.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Question: How do you identify yourself?

- Description: Identity is the qualities, beliefs, personality, looks and expressions that make a person who they are. For example: I identify as a cisgender first generation Latina American from Bolivia.

Question: Think about barriers for language access. Can you identify yourself in the language of the country you where you are studying versus in English?

Question: How might you/your identity be perceived in your new surroundings?

- Description: Individual identity is extremely important. It is helpful to think about how you may be perceived in a new country for your safety and wellbeing. For example, some countries may not be familiar and react differently to your self expression.

Question: How does this country perceive:

- Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation
- Intimacy and Sexuality
- Race
- Description: Certain factors may influence the way others interact with you in a new country. For example, in the US kissing on the cheek is seen as intimate or sexual, while in Spain it is a cultural norm to kiss on the cheek when you greet someone.

Question: Is this country more traditional when it comes to gender roles? What are common stereotypes associated with your nationality? How does your nationality perceive this new nationality?