



## Office of International Programs

201 Wingo Hall  
Charleston Southern University  
Charleston, South Carolina  
843-863-7569



### Miscellaneous Items

1. A laptop computer is a tremendous asset to the Group Leader, almost a must. It will permit you to maintain daily financial records of expenditures, keep accurate trip logs and notes, and easily download and store digital pictures for editing at a later date. It is also essential if you bring a mini-printer along (See # 5 below).
2. The majority of laptop computers, digital cameras, PDA's, CD players, etc. produced within the past five years are set up to operate on both 110 volt (U.S.) and 220 volt (rest of the world) current. This means that a transformer will not be required in order to use electronic equipment safely; but, in order to use U.S. devices overseas it will be necessary to purchase adaptor plugs appropriate to the country being visited. These can be obtained upon arrival as well as purchased from a variety of sources here in the U.S.
3. Hair dryers, curling irons, clothes irons, etc. sold in the U. S. are typically set up to operate on 110v current, which means that if these devices are plugged into overseas outlets they will be destroyed. Best advice: leave them at home.
4. Upon arrival overseas, it may be possible to purchase an "electrical outlet strip" that has U.S. plug receptacles but which is attached to a cord and plug appropriate to the country you are visiting. (This has proven a worthwhile purchase for the students who have visited Ghana.)
5. A mini-printer can be a valuable asset.
  - a. On a recent trip to Ghana, where people are reluctant to have their photograph taken because they feel exploited, Don Clerico was able to print photos on 4x6 photo paper and give copies to many people—to their great surprise and excitement. Distributing the pictures led to many positive connections and relationships with local people.
  - b. Hand-outs can be printed for distribution.
  - c. On-site letters can be created for personal hand delivery to individuals.
6. Passports
  - a. Take digital photos of group members' passports (the personal photo and data pages; and also the Visa stamped page if a visa has been required).
  - b. Save these on your laptop and burn them onto a CD.
  - c. Prior to departure, e-mail these to CSU Administrative Services. They will create a *password-protected* web page within the CSU website that will permit access to this information should anyone on the trip need to replace his/her passport.
  - d. Keep a photocopy of this information in a zip lock baggie.



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7. Telephone Calls Home to the U.S.
  - a. U.S. cellular phones will not work overseas. Those which are sold as world-phones require removal of the cell phone *chip* and its replacement with a suitable chip for the country being visited. In addition to the expense of the country phone chip, cell phone usage for international calls is several dollars per minute.
  - b. Most countries have international phone cards available for purchase at reasonable rates. These cards are used in free-standing public phones and the cost of calls to the U.S. is very reasonable.
  - c. It is best to wait until arrival overseas to purchase international phone cards.
  
8. Internet Cafes
  - a. Use of the internet is worldwide but few people have personal computers and those who do rarely have internet access.
  - b. Most internet access overseas is obtained via *internet cafes* (basically a for profit computer lab which charges a small per-minute fee for usage).
  - c. Internet cafes can be found at universities or as free-standing private enterprise operations.
  - d. Rates are generally quite low and provide the cheapest form of communication with the U.S.
  
9. Medical Kit
  - a. Carrying a basic medical kit is a good idea.
  - b. Purchase a commercial one or create one with a variety of over-the-counter medicines for headache, nausea, diarrhea, heartburn, as well as tubes of antiseptic and analgesic creams, band aids, etc.
  - c. Each participant should have a small personal medical kit.
  
10. Currency Exchanges
  - a. Depending on the country(ies) visited, it will be wise to wait until arrival overseas to convert U.S. dollars into local currency. The exchange rates will be better overseas than they are here.
  - b. If there is access to commercial banks overseas, you may be able to withdraw monies as you need them via university and/or personal credit card. All such withdrawals will be in the currency of the country and not in U. S. dollars.
  - c. Upon exiting the country, exchanges of local currency for U. S. dollars will be at rates lower than what was given when dollars were exchanged for local currency. (It costs more to “buy” dollars than to “sell” them.)



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### **11. Spouses & Adult Children of Faculty Sponsors**

- a. Spouses of faculty sponsors may accompany study abroad trips. They must comply with CSU study abroad procedures and practices, purchase the required insurance coverage, and pay their own expenses.
- b. Children of faculty sponsors who are under the age of 21 are not permitted to participate in study abroad activities.

The exception to this restriction is if the minor child is a registered CSU student enrolled in the study abroad course as a regular participant.