**Getting There**

Getting to the country where you will study abroad is your responsibility.

So is getting to the airport—even if you are leaving from Berea. Please plan ahead.

**Now:**

* Clear up any outstanding visa questions/issues.
* Make 100% sure the airline will accept the documentation you are planning on taking with you.
* Purchase your ticket if you have not yet done so (I can pay up front for you).
* Check with your airline to learn about their baggage weight, size and content restrictions and any accompanying fees so that you will know how to pack.

**As you are packing:**

* Separate your liquids. Remember, liquids weighing less than 3 ounces can go in your carryon in a quart-sized, see-through plastic Ziploc bag. Larger liquid containers should go in checked baggage (also wrapped in plastic in case they leak). No weapons, flammables, aerosols, etc.
* Take clothes that match each other and that you can layer for colder weather. Don’t assume homes/halls/classrooms will be heated as heavily they are here.

**24 hours before you fly:**

* You are often allowed to check-in on the airline’s website 24 hours ahead. Take advantage of this feature because it will get you/keep you in a good seat/boarding zone.
* You may or may not be able to print out a boarding pass at this time because they will need to check your passport. Don’t worry, you will need to check bags at the desk anyway.
* Print your electronic ticket at this time if you have not done so already.
* Check your itinerary to see which meals you will get on flights and pack (non-liquid) snacks accordingly.
* Drink a lot of water and get enough sleep the night before you fly.

**On the day you are leaving**:

* Drink a lot of water again today. Wear comfortable clothes.
* Go to your departure airport as early as the airline recommends (typically between 2-3 hours ahead for international flights).
* Check the airline’s website before you leave to make sure there are no delays or cancellations.
* Make sure to have a printout of your electronic ticket on your person. You usually only need the confirmation code or an ID card to claim your boarding pass, but it pays to have the entire itinerary with you in case there are problems.
* Make sure you have your important documents on your person: passport/visa, ISIC, ATM, driver’s license, etc.
* Have cash in hand for any needed meals, incidentals and emergencies

**Once you get to the airport:**

* Keep all your belongings attached to you, and don’t accept any envelopes/packages from anyone.
* Take yourself, your itinerary, your bags and your passport to the ticket counter of your airline and check in and check your big bags. Ask to join the airline’s frequent flyer program if you have not done so already.
* Once they give you your boarding pass, take your carryon and go to the nearest security gate. This is where you say goodbye to family and friends. You’ll need to have your boarding pass, passport and small liquids out, your pockets empty, your shoes off, and your laptop ready to pull out and place in a separate bin as you go through the scanners.
* Go from security directly to your departure gate and be ready to board when they call your row/zone.
* Call your credit card companies and banks if you have not done so already to make sure they know you are leaving the country.
* *Bon voyage!!!*

**Coming Home:**

* Extremely important: you will need to confirm your tickets with the airline about 48 hours before you fly.
* Check more than once to make sure you have the correct departure date, time and airport.