

# EDUCATION ABROAD & LGBTQ STUDENTS

December 12, 2016



# AGENDA & TOPICS

- Intro & Framing
- Advising for LGBTQ students
- Travel Realities
- Ed Abroad Program Realities
- Group Dynamics

# INTRODUCTION & FRAMING

- Introductions - Name, Pronouns (we'll explain), Department, Connection
- Why is this important?
  - Environment for best educational experience
  - Group cohesion
  - General information
  - Principles of Community



# HELPFUL LANGUAGE

- General Guide - provided
- Pronouns
- Learning is okay!



-----Getting to Know Gender-Neutral Pronouns! -----

<b>Traditional Masculine</b>	He laughed	I called him	His eyes gleam	That is his	He likes himself
<b>Traditional Feminine</b>	She laughed	I called her	Her eyes gleam	That is hers	She likes herself
<b>Gender Neutral (Singular They)</b>	They laughed	I called them	Their eyes gleam	That is theirs	They like themselves
<b>Gender Neutral (Ze)</b>	Ze laughed (pronounced: "zee" as in the letter 'z')	I called hir (pronounced: "here")	Hir eyes gleam (pronounced: "here")	That is hirs (pronounced: "here's")	Ze likes hirself (pronounced: "here- self")

# ADVISING LGBTQ STUDENTS

You're not on your own!

- Faculty leaders and Office of International Programs staff can tag team!

And there are resources to help:

- Diversity Abroad Climate Notes
- ILGA Sexual Orientation Laws Around the World Map
- Department of State LGBTI Travel Information



# ADVISING LGBTQ STUDENTS

## Basic Questions Students May Have:

- Can I participate in the program?
- Is housing going to work for me?
- How do you choose roommates?
- Are there scholarships?
- Can I travel after a surgery? Can I bring medications?
- If I need medical assistance or counseling while abroad, is it available?
- How will I be treated by the locals (or for that matter, by the other students)?

# ADVISING LGBTQ STUDENTS

Deeper Cultural and Identity Questions to Consider:

- What is the climate of the society for LGBTQ individuals and communities?
- How 'out' would I want to be? Can I be myself safely in the location or will I choose to adapt to the culture?
- Is there a LGBTQ community and safe spaces?
- Does the society discuss the topic of sex, sexuality, gender?



# TRAVEL REALITIES

## Passports and Travel Documentation

### Gender and Name:

- Travel information and identification should match
- Change options here:  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/lgbt.html>
- Gender expression vs. Gender on documents (borders, program providers)
- Medication or instruments - bring documentation of doctor's orders

### Culture

- Are there relevant laws to be aware of?
- What cultural norms should I anticipate (acceptance, ignoring, interest, disrespect, denial)?
- What about being 'out'? PDA? Sexual relations?

# ED ABROAD PROGRAM REALITIES

## Choices to make with the student

- Will the proposed housing situation work? What options would work better?
- Roommate selection?
- Will you be out to the group? How can I help protect your privacy?
- How should I address you? What pronouns do you prefer?

## Things for the leader to think about

- How can I create a positive group atmosphere for everyone?
- How would I handle a group atmosphere problem?

# GROUP DYNAMICS

- Brainstorm: What makes a good group experience?
- Steps:
  - a. Clear information/expectations
  - b. Group guidelines
  - c. Open communication - make sure they know you're available
  - d. Language matters!
  - e. Individual connections
  - f. Emotional Intelligence
- Hint: It's not that different than any other group!

DISCUSSION TIME!



# HOW TO LEARN MORE...

Association of International Educators

<http://www.rainbowsig.org/international-education-resources/>

LGBTI International Travel Information

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/lgbt.html>

International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association

<http://www.ilga.org>

OutRight Action International

<https://www.outrightinternational.org/>



# Contact Us!

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