

PARENTS WANT TO KNOW

1. Who will direct my student's program?

All Lake Forest programs are directed by either an on-site director employed by the College (Paris, Beijing) or a faculty member who accompanies the group (Greece, Border Studies, May China).

On-site directors for ACM (Associated Colleges of the Midwest) programs may be individuals from the host country employed by ACM or faculty members from one of the consortium colleges. The Chicago programs maintain staff and offices in Chicago.

All non-LFC, non-ACM programs must be approved by the College before credit can be earned. The College has become familiar with many of these programs because of the number of Lake Forest student participants over a period of several years. A list of approved providers may be found on the College web site.

Be sure you understand the program's policies regarding penalties for withdrawal either prior to the beginning of the program or during its term. Most programs also require students to sign an acknowledgment of regulations and conditions under which they might be dismissed.

2. What kind of credit will my student earn?

Lake Forest program participants will earn Lake Forest credit.

ACM program participants will earn Lake Forest credit.

Participants in other approved programs will earn *transfer* credit for courses completed with grades of C or better. Course titles and grades earned for transfer credit will appear on the College transcript, but those grades will *not* be calculated in the GPA.

Students must successfully complete 15 semester hours to earn the equivalent of one Lake Forest semester.

3. What are student living arrangements?

Living arrangements vary from program to program. Some require or include the option of living with a host family. Other possibilities include living in a dormitory or in shared apartments. Do not hesitate to ask the program about the type of housing provided and how it is assigned.

4. What kind of documents will be required?

Students must possess a valid passport for study abroad, and a visa is often required. While some programs completed within a 90 day period may not require a visa, most students choose to obtain one to allow flexibility in travel before or after the program.

Applications for passports can usually be made locally, through a post office or other government office. Visas may require a personal visit to the nearest consulate of the host country. The State Department web site is a useful place to search for information about visa requirements and for procedures to obtain a passport or visa.

<http://travel.state.gov/>

Programs may offer guidance and assistance to facilitate obtaining these documents, but most of the process must be completed by the applicant.

Students should make 2 copies of passports/visas: one to take with them (along with additional passport photos) and keep separately from the actual documents, and one to leave at home with someone who can be easily reached.

Parents/guardians who do not already have a passport may want to consider obtaining one to have in case of emergency.

Students who are not U.S. citizens and who hold a foreign passport may have to obtain further documentation, both to travel abroad and to return to Lake Forest. Our Director of Intercultural Relations can answer questions for those students.

5. What kind of insurance is required?

The College requires that all off-campus study participants provide proof of insurance. Students enrolled in programs abroad must confirm coverage for medical evacuation and repatriation of remains.

Students participating in Lake Forest and ACM programs are automatically covered under the College's consortial insurance policy (EIIA) for up to \$100,000 for these instances for the duration of the program plus 14 additional days. The College also requires for its own programs—and recommends for other programs—the International Student ID card, available on campus for \$22 and valid for one year. This card provides \$300,000 for medical evacuation and \$25,000 for repatriation.

Both above plans also include some coverage for accidental medical and hospitalization. You may wish to check your personal policies to verify coverage while abroad, including coverage for lost luggage and valuables such as laptops or cameras.

6. How much will my student's program cost?

Program prices vary considerably, depending on provider, host country, housing arrangements, food costs, included field trips or travel, additional required fees, and, of course, the current value of the dollar against the host country currency. Travel to and from the host country is usually not included in overall costs, though some programs do offer assistance with airfare.

It is always appropriate to ask for a break-down of costs so that you know exactly what you are paying for. A worksheet to help calculate costs has been included at the end of this brochure. (*Appendix B*)

A student's Lake Forest financial aid will automatically be applied to all Lake Forest College programs. Such aid may or may not be transferable to any other program, and—even if eligible—may or may not be applied to the student's selected non-Lake Forest program.

All students will be billed through Lake Forest College, regardless of program. A \$250 administrative fee will be added to the bill of all students participating in a non-Lake Forest program. This allows the student to remain enrolled as a Lake Forest student, even while off-campus, thus eliminating the need to withdraw from and reapply for admission to the College.

Students who pay the College on the monthly installment plan may continue to do so

There is no Lake Forest financial aid for any summer programs.

7. What is the best way to handle finances while abroad?

Ask your program provider for advice on the best way to access money in the host country. Depending on the country, it may be easier to use a credit or ATM card than to carry traveler's checks. In any case, inform your bank and your credit card company that you will be abroad for a specified period of time, and inquire if there are any regulations or extra charges involved with using your card abroad.

8. What health concerns should we consider?

Some programs may require participants to have a physical exam by a doctor. Depending on where your student will be studying and traveling, certain immunizations may be necessary with proof that they will be current through the full period of time abroad. The Center for Disease Control maintains a website that offers health information for specific countries and regions, including required and recommended immunizations.

www.cdc.gov/travel

Some countries may allow entry of only a limited amount of certain drugs, so students may not always be able to bring with them enough medications to last their entire stay. It is important, therefore, to take copies of all medication prescriptions, listed by generic not brand names.

Don't forget an extra pair of glasses and the prescription for lenses: glasses or contacts.

If medical attention—a doctor or hospitalization-- is needed while abroad, the on-site director should be the first contact. This person should be able to recommend a doctor and see that your student gets to a hospital if necessary. Do not hesitate to ask the program for the phone number and email address of the on-site director or of the appropriate person to contact in case of emergency. Instructions and relevant numbers in case of emergency are often given to students after they arrive on site, so be sure to ask your student to relay this information to you.

A list of equivalent 911 emergency numbers for various countries is included in the Advisory Guide given to all students who study off campus; this document is also on our web site.

In the case of a serious medical problem, please contact the Director of Off-Campus Programs at Lake Forest College so that appropriate campus personnel are kept informed and can be ready to assist with necessary arrangements or coordination of services.

9. Contact information

Most students will carry a cell phone while off-campus. Some Lake Forest College programs include the price of a cell phone—distributed to students upon arrival in the host country--in the program fee. Ask your student to send you this number. *Appendix A* serves as a reference sheet for important numbers to be kept readily available.

Students calling parents: Students are usually able to resolve small problems on their own, with the help of the on-site director and, sometimes, the home institution contact person. Students are asked to identify an emergency contact in the event that the program needs to notify someone on behalf of the student. At Lake Forest, we also ask that students program ICE and the appropriate number into their cell phones; this has become an internationally recognized acronym for In Case of Emergency.

Parents calling students: Because of time differences, you may wish to establish in advance a regular time to call your student. It is not unreasonable to maintain regular communication, but it should probably not be overly frequent. Email may be the easiest way to maintain contact for non-emergency communication. Most programs offer some internet access, and cyber cafes abound all over the globe!

APPENDIX A: IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KEEP READILY AVAILABLE

Student's cell phone: _____

Student's land line phone (dorm/apartment/host family): _____

On-site program director: _____

Local American Embassy/Consulate: _____

Sponsoring (U.S.) Institution office/contact person: _____

Emergency contact at Lake Forest College: Director of Public Safety: 1-847-735-5555
(Security will notify the appropriate personnel)

Non-emergency contact: Director of Off-Campus Programs: 1-847-735-5231

State Department (for information and concerns about overseas travel): 1-888-407-4747

Center for Disease Control (for health information for specific regions): 1-877-394-8747

USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1212.html

http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health_1185.html

www.cdc.gov/travel

COST WORK SHEET

Costs for many programs include:

Application fee: _____

Deposit after acceptance: _____

Tuition: _____

Housing: * _____

Meals: * _____

Books and Supplies: _____

Program related field trips: * _____

Passport application: _____

Visa: _____

International Student ID Card: _____

Immunizations, vaccines, etc.: _____

Airfaire: _____

Local commuting costs: _____

Electronic use fees:
(internet access, etc.) _____

Extra insurance, if necessary: _____

Personal Incidentals:
(laundry, postage, museums) _____

Personal travel: _____

Grand Total: _____

*Some programs list only Tuition (or Academic fee) and Program Fees. Do not hesitate to inquire what is included in "Program Fees." It may include all room and board, room and some board, and may or may not include other fees such as for field trips.