

List of Suggested Site Visit Questions

(keep in mind that not all programs are created equal, and some questions may not apply in all circumstances)

Housing

1. What are the housing options/arrangements for the proposed program?
2. Are home stays available? Desirable? Who selects the host families?
3. If at a university, are there housing options on campus?
4. Is there any air conditioning? Is it needed?
5. Single, double, or other accommodations?
6. Are there phones in room? Other access to phones? Cell phone service?
7. Shared or private/en suite bathroom? Size of rooms, cabinets, dressers, beds?
8. Furnished, Unfurnished? If furnished, what must students bring?
9. Is access to housing/dormitories secure?
10. Might fire safety be an issue? Are emergency exits available, floor plans posted?
11. Is the facility co-ed or not?
12. Does the facility appear to be clean?
13. Internet access from rooms? Wireless?
14. Is the location of housing safe? Do students have long ways to walk at night?
15. Is there access to public transportation?
16. If student housing, when can students move into the housing?
17. How must the students pay for the housing? By semester, month, daily?
18. How can they pay? Credit Card, cash, check?
19. What are the costs for the different housing options?
20. Will the students be living with host university students, or other international students?
21. Will the facility be open during holidays, vacation periods?

Orientation

1. Is there an international student office or advisor? What is its range of services provided?
2. When students arrive, will they receive an orientation?
3. Who will conduct it? What will the orientation cover?
4. If there is an orientation, when must students arrive for the orientation?
5. Will students be picked up at the airport? By whom? How? What will the costs be?
6. If students are unable to move into their rooms, will the university provide temporary housing?
7. What are temporary housing options for the students?
8. Is there any type of host family program or student buddy program?

In case of Problems.....

1. If students have housing problems, to whom should they speak?
2. If students have an emergency, whom should they contact and what is the availability for this person?
3. If students have academic problems, to whom should they speak ?
4. If students have visa problems, to whom should they speak?
5. If students have health or mental health issues, to whom should they speak?
6. If students have billing questions, to whom should they speak ?
7. If students need help adjusting to the university, to whom should they speak?
8. If students have travel questions, to whom should they speak?

Food

1. Where will the students eat the majority of their meals?
2. Does the university or study abroad location have student cafeterias?
3. How do students pay for them? Monthly pass and unlimited meals? Cash?
4. When are the cafeterias open?
5. Can students cook in their dorms, apartments, home stays?
6. Can the students drink the tap water?
7. Are restaurants and markets for food shopping nearby?

Computer Access

1. Does the university provide computer labs for the students?
2. Is there a fee for this service?
3. Will students receive an email account?
4. What are the hours of the computer labs?
5. Must students complete papers on the computers?
6. What about printers?
7. Should students bring their own computers and if so is it safe?
8. Is there wireless or other internet access?

Academics

1. Will the university provide academic advisors for the students?
2. How are the courses organized?
3. Can students take host country language courses?
4. What are the strengths of the university?
5. What subjects can students take at the university?
6. How many courses per semester do students normally take?
7. How many credits do students take per semester?
8. How many credits is one normal course?
9. When are the courses?
10. What is the makeup of the courses?
11. How can students get detailed information about the courses offered before arriving?
12. Is pre-registration an option?
13. Can we have some current course catalogs?
14. Are all courses in the catalog sure to be taught?
15. Who are the contacts in different departments if students want to ask about particular courses?
16. What is the academic calendar and when are the breaks?
17. Can students stay for 1 year?
18. Are any courses in English? Which ones?

Visa Requirements

1. Do students need to receive a student visa? How long does it take? What is the process?
2. If so, how?
3. What forms must they complete?
4. How much does it cost?
5. Are certain shots/inoculations required to participate on the program?

Application Process

1. What is the application process and what are the acceptance guidelines?
2. When a student wants to participate in a program, what should they do?
3. What are the forms required to participate in the program?
4. Do students need to send a transcript, letter of purpose, resume, and host university application to your office for acceptance into the program?
5. How will the housing be arranged and roommate selected?
6. Can students enroll in courses from the US?
7. Could you give us a timeline so we know what forms to submit and when?
8. How are applications sent? Email, fax, letter?

Field Trips / Excursions

1. Will someone plan trips etc. for the students?
2. Is there a travel agent on campus that can help the student?
3. Are field trips considered an academic component of the program?

Fees

1. Must students purchase the host university insurance?
2. What additional costs must students pay at the host university since tuition and fees are paid at JCU?
3. Is there a library use fee?
4. Is there a housing or application fee?
5. If they have these fees, when and how should they pay for them?
6. What is the average cost of books?
7. What are the costs of routine medical care? Specialized services?

Health and Safety Issues not mentioned above

8. Is there a doctor (or health service) on campus or near the housing/residence facility?
9. How far is the nearest hospital and/or medical facility?
10. Does it conform to U.S. standards of care? If not, what are the alternatives?
11. What is the security environment at the proposed location with regard to: theft, road safety, violent & other crime?
12. What do the State Dept./CDC and other security agencies have to say about this location/country?