



ACCESSIBILITY & STUDYING ABROAD



At AIFS, we support all students in their study abroad journey, regardless of their gender, race, religion, age, physical ability, or sexual orientation. Everyone has a complex identity, and as a student with a disability, this piece of your identity can be an important factor when deciding on a study abroad location. We encourage you to use the information here as you review your options in order to select the location that will be the best fit for you.

Use the questions on the other side of this handout and the Student Resources section of the AIFS website to help you **research locations** that best fit your needs and interests.

Remember that **everyone's experience is unique**. Although there are some locations that are more accessible, **students with disabilities can and do study abroad all over the world**.

If you have questions about physical access or availability of accommodations, visit our Student Resources site and complete the applicable **access forms** and return them to us. This information will allow us to better assist you throughout your study abroad process.

AIFS offers scholarships for **students from underrepresented communities** in study abroad (including students with disabilities). Students can also utilize funds from outside sources, such as Diversity Abroad and the Fund for Education Abroad.

Spend time thinking about what it means to have **your disability in a new context** and the opportunities and challenges this experience might provide. This will better prepare you for your time abroad.

You can **connect with program alumni** through the AIFS student portal or by emailing alumni@aifs.com and letting us know your location of interest.

Additional information and resources can be found on our website at <https://www.aifsabroad.com/student-resources.asp>.

Please contact us at studyabroad@aifs.com or at (800) 727-2437 so we can discuss your specific interests and needs for your time abroad. We look forward to hearing from you.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

What are the laws regarding disability in your host country? Are there protections against discrimination for persons with disabilities?

What are the social attitudes towards persons with disabilities in your host country?

Are there any current news stories about people with disabilities? Are there any publications, advocacy organizations, or accessible establishments in the area?

Are disabilities openly discussed or more taboo in your host country?

What are the physical environments like in your host country? How accessible is the host institution? Is the AIFS office accessible to you?

What equipment will you need to bring with you or have access to in order to successfully participate in the program?

How are the assignments different? Is learning mainly from lecture, readings, independent research, etc.?

What accommodations can be made for your class and home needs? Will you need to register with an office at the host institution to access these accommodations?

Do you want/need to be part of a supportive disability community?

Do you need to do your own laundry? Your own cooking?

Will you need to have an assistant in-country with you?

Do you have a service animal that will accompany you abroad?

Is transportation available and accessible?

How do new situations affect your condition?

What types of housing options are available?

If you regularly utilize any health or counseling services at home, will these be available and covered by insurance abroad?