



UC San Diego
International Center
9500 GILMAN DRIVE, #0018
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0018

Dean's Office: (858) 822-0464
International Students & Programs Office: (858) 534-3730
International Scholar Office: (858) 534-3730
Programs Abroad Office: (858) 534-1123

April 2, 2012

Dear Confirmed **Global Seminar Participants**:

We hope you had a nice break and that your plans to go abroad are progressing. The Global Seminar program is often considered a highlight of the UCSD undergraduate experience. What follows are some key details to assist you in preparing for this opportunity.

It is always a good idea to be informed of world events as you prepare to go abroad. For this reason, we recommend that you periodically check the State Department website at <http://travel.state.gov> and <http://www.OSAC.gov> for up-to-date recommendations and information. International health information is available at <http://cdc.gov>.

- If you have any last minute questions, please contact one of the Global Seminars coordinators in our office.
- Tell your parents that there will be a Parents' Orientation on Saturday April 21st. A formal invitation will be sent to you by e-mail, and more details are available at <http://icenter.ucsd.edu/pao/parents/index.html>. If your parents are interested, please encourage them to RSVP.
- Plan to attend World Travel 101 on Wednesday, May 2, at 6:30 pm in the International Center Lounge to learn more about successful travel tips.

Mandatory General Orientation

You must complete the General Orientation requirement online before the end of spring quarter. It will take approximately two hours to complete. For more information go to the following web site:
<http://icenter.ucsd.edu/pao/pre-departure/orientation.html>

Mandatory Global Seminar Orientation in April or May

Attend your country specific pre-departure orientation for all Global Seminar students. This is your chance to learn about class registration, billing and payment policies, and your obligations under the UC code of conduct. You will also learn important details about your destination, including the airport pick-up, housing, classroom, what to pack, and other logistics. Your professor will discuss the two courses and how to begin preparing for them. There is no on-line option for this orientation. We will e-mail you the exact time and location, or you can check the calendar at <http://icenter.ucsd.edu/pao/pre-departure/gs-req.html>.

Submit the following paperwork ASAP

1. **UCSD selectee forms:** Global Seminars selectee forms for UCSD are available online at <http://icenter.ucsd.edu/pao/pre-departure/gs-req.html>.
2. **Program partner forms:** Our program partner will have additional forms for you to complete. We will e-mail you a link to these forms, which you should be sure to complete by the deadline listed by the program partner.



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Other Pre-Departure Items

- 1) Financial aid for summer only participants:** If you are a financial aid recipient, you may be able to use financial aid from the current academic year towards your summer program. In addition, summer UCSD grant money may be available for eligible GS summer students. The summer aid application will be available in mid-April. Interested students should contact the Financial Aid Office and meet with a study abroad advisor as soon as possible. **You must apply by May 15 in order for funds to be disbursed before summer session fees are due.**
- 2)** Make sure you have a **valid passport** (your ID abroad) and, if necessary, a **visa** (permission from a foreign government to be in their country, obtainable from the country's embassy or consulate). You can get passport application forms and information on the web at <http://travel.state.gov>. The program partner will usually provide you with information about obtaining a visa.
- 3)** Take care of any other necessary travel arrangements, **INCLUDING HEALTH INSURANCE**. Most Global Seminars include insurance in the program fee, but always check to be sure. One of the Global Seminars coordinators can assist you. Prior to your departure, you are required to register for free UC travel insurance at <http://www.uctrips-insurance.org/>.
- 4) STA Travel Exclusive for financial aid recipients:** STA Travel is offering a special arrangement for UC study abroad students who are financial aid recipients. If you purchase your airline ticket through them, all you will pay at time of purchase is a \$300 non-refundable deposit. Full payment for the remainder of the ticket will not be due until seven days prior to departure. If interested, contact STA Travel at 957 Garnet Ave, San Diego, CA 92109 (Pacific Beach), 877-211-4351. We have flyers and brochures in the Programs Abroad Office.
- 5)** Take time to learn as much as you can about your host country. See <http://www.statravel.com> and <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/> for travel-related information. In addition to talking to returnees, many printed resources are available in our Programs Abroad Library, other libraries, and bookstores. The U.S. State Department Consular Information Sheets, Travel Warnings and health information are also available at <http://travel.state.gov>.

Please let us know if you have any questions or problems. On behalf of all the Global Seminars staff, we look forward to staying in touch and working with you to plan the best possible experience abroad!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jim Galvin'.

Jim Galvin
Director, Opportunities Abroad and Faculty Led Programs