



**CLI 2024**

**Student Handbook**

**Tirana, Albania**

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## General Information

### Welcome to Tirana!

Congratulations on being selected to study Albanian in the Arizona State University Critical Languages Institute Albanian program in Tirana! This program is a cooperative effort between CLI and American Councils Albania and allows students to extend their Albanian education in an immersive and rigorous learning environment over the course of several weeks.

This handbook provides an orientation to the program and reference materials for your use during the program. This handbook is to be used as a guideline only. Information is subject to change. If you have a specific question regarding the program, please reach out to [cli@asu.edu](mailto:cli@asu.edu)



The clocktower of the Albanian beach town of Dhërmi

## CLI-Tirana Important Contacts

The Tirana program is managed for the Arizona State University Critical Languages Institute by American Councils. You will work most directly with their staff, in particular their program director, Linda Mëniku, but you also have constant access to CLI staff and to ASU study-abroad and other support staff during your trip.

### CLI Staff

#### **CLI Main (Arizona) Office**

Phone: +1 (480) 965-4188

Email: [cli@asu.edu](mailto:cli@asu.edu)

#### **James Edmonds**

CLI Director

Phone: +1 (480) 965-5128

Email: [James.Edmonds@asu.edu](mailto:James.Edmonds@asu.edu)

#### **Theresa Zimm**

Sr. Program Coordinator

Phone: +1 (480) 965-7705

Email: [theresa.zimm@asu.edu](mailto:theresa.zimm@asu.edu)

#### **Jafar Zadeh**

Program Coordinator

Email: [jshokrol@asu.edu](mailto:jshokrol@asu.edu)

### Tirana Staff

#### **ASU 24/7 Emergency Overseas Support**

Phone: +1 (480) 965 3456

Email: [studyabroad@asu.edu](mailto:studyabroad@asu.edu)

#### **Vladka Shikova**

American Councils

Program Manager

Email: [shikova@americancouncils.org](mailto:shikova@americancouncils.org)

Phone: +1 (202) 833-7522

#### **Dhurata Shehri**

Local Emergency Contact from June 20 – July 20

Phone: +355 67 201-8058

Email: [dhuratashehri@gmail.com](mailto:dhuratashehri@gmail.com)

#### **Linda Meniku**

Local Health Contact from July 20 – August 13

Phone: 355 69 602 8140

Email: [lindameniku@yahoo.com](mailto:lindameniku@yahoo.com)

### Emergency Numbers

General Emergency.....	112
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## Your Course

8-week courses in Tirana take place over two summer sessions. You will receive two grades, one for each session.

7 + 4-week hybrid courses take place over three summer sessions. You will receive three grades, one for each session.

You will take final exams at the end of each session.

CLI COURSE OVERVIEW	
8-week course Session A, Tirana	June 17 – July 16
8-week course, Session B, Tirana	July 17 – August 09
3½-week course, Session A, Tempe	May 27– June 19
3½-week course, Session B, Tempe	June 20 – July 12
4-week course, Session C, Tirana	July 15 – August 09

*Please note that CLI Session dates do not match ASU Summer Session dates. Please use the dates above, **not** the ASU-wide Summer Session dates published by the ASU registrar's office.*

## Important Dates

8-week classes	Date(s)
Return all CLI forms	March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Arrive in Tirana	June 16
<b>CLI Summer Session A</b>	<b>June 17 – July 16</b>
Add/Drop for Session A	June 19
<b>CLI Summer Session B</b>	<b>July 17 – Aug 09</b>
Add/Drop for Session B	July 19
Last day of class	Aug 09
Depart Tirana	Aug 10 or slightly after

7 + 4-week hybrid classes	Date(s)
Return all CLI forms	March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Arrive in Tempe	May 26
Memorial Day	May 27
<b>CLI Summer Session A</b>	<b>May 27 – June 19</b>
Add/Drop for Session A	May 29
<b>CLI Summer Session B</b>	<b>June 20 – July 12</b>
Add/Drop for Session B	June 22
National Holiday	July 4
Travel to Tirana	July 13
<b>CLI Summer Session C</b>	<b>July 15 – Aug 09</b>
Add/Drop for Session C	July 17
Last day of class	Aug 09
Depart Tirana	Aug 10 or slightly after

### No class in Tempe on:

May 27<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day Holiday

July 4<sup>th</sup> – National Holiday

If you need to arrive a day or two early, please let us know at [cli@asu.edu](mailto:cli@asu.edu).

## Books and Computers

Please make sure to bring a laptop or tablet if you can. Free WiFi is available and hotspots available near the CLI Tirana site.

## **Academic Load and Extracurricular Activities**

CLI classes meet for half of each day. Each class provides the equivalent of a week's regular instruction. Each day, you will be expected to complete a week's worth of homework and learn a week's worth of vocabulary, in addition to participating in program projects and activities. Please keep this in mind. Opportunities for independent travel during the program will be limited and require Program Director approval.

American Councils will arrange weekly cultural excursions and regular afternoon cultural activities. The activity and excursion schedule will include trips to Downtown Tirana, the Tirana Archeological Museum, Grand Park, Sky Tower, Cave of Pellumbus, Kruja and Kruja Fortress, Durres, Durres Amphitheater, and the Durres Archeological Museum. Excursion schedule is subject to change.

## Travel and Visas

### What to Pack

To avoid lost bags, missed flights, and delays, pack light, we advise that you do not check bags and carry only what fits into a backpack. Don't carry things you can buy easily after you arrive.

The lists provide below are meant as guides.

#### Backpack

- ☐ Passport\*
- ☐ Cash, credit cards, ATM card\*
- ☐ Cell phone, charger, earbuds/headphones\*
- ☐ Laptop, charger, adapters
- ☐ Portable power bank (optional)
- ☐ Change of clothes (including undergarments)
- ☐ Extra jacket/sweater/sweatshirt/or light blanket
- ☐ Travel pillow, ear plugs, eye mask for sleeping
- ☐ Toothbrush, floss
- ☐ Comb/Brush
- ☐ Glasses/contacts with case/sunglasses (inexpensive)
- ☐ Essential medications and prescriptions (Make sure your prescription meds are not controlled substances in-country)
- ☐ Toiletries, including deodorant, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, contact lens solution, nothing over 3 oz, all should fit into 1 quart-sized Ziploc bag
- ☐ Small medicine kit (Imodium, Advil/Tylenol, Pepto Bismol (tablets), band-aids, thermometer, Neosporin, cold medicine, Benadryl)

- ☐ Reusable Water Bottle (empty)
- ☐ Snacks for flight
- ☐ Printed flight confirmations
- ☐ Printed boarding passes (in case your phone is lost)
- ☐ Copy of passport/visa
- ☐ Photocopies of bank cards/credit cards
- ☐ Pen (for filling out customs entry form)
- ☐ Reading material or e-reader
- ☐ Face masks, 2-3 (just in case)
- ☐ Sanitizing Wipes (optional)
- ☐ Small Kleenex Packet
- ☐ Small purse for everyday use
- ☐ Feminine products if necessary

**\*Keep these on your person while traveling**

#### Airplane Outfit

Wear comfortable clothes, and dress in layers. You may decide to wear your pair of comfortable shoes on the flight or your hiking boots, depending on suitcase space.

### Carry-On Suitcase (should you want/need one)

- ☐ Pants/Skirt (2-3)
- ☐ Shorts (2-3)
- ☐ Short-sleeve shirts/blouses (5)
- ☐ Long-sleeve shirts/blouses (3)
- ☐ Nicer shirt (button down or blouse) (1)
- ☐ Sweatshirt/Light sweater (1)
- ☐ Socks (5 pairs)
- ☐ Undergarments (5 pairs)
- ☐ Sleepwear (1)
- ☐ Belt (1)
- ☐ Comfortable Walking Shoes (1 pair)
- ☐ Hiking Boots (1 pair)
- ☐ Sneakers (1 pair, optional)
- ☐ Ball cap (optional, non-military design or insignia)
- ☐ Rain Poncho
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Razor (not electric)
- ☐ Small shampoo/conditioner/soap (only enough for 1 week) - put in sealed quart-sized bag to protect the contents of your suitcase.
- ☐ Cosmetics
- ☐ Feminine Products
- ☐ Passport-sized photo for local ID card
- ☐ Trinkets/Small gifts for your host family/teachers (optional)
- ☐ Headphones with microphone (for OPI testing)
- ☐ Laptop (for OPI testing)

### Do Not Pack (Buy in Tirana)

- ☐ Towels
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Umbrella
- ☐ Additional Soap / Shampoo / Detergent

### Suggestions

Roll clothes and/or use packing cubes to save space. Also, don't bring anything you care about and don't over-pack. You'll want some space for souvenirs on the way back and you also won't feel bad if you must leave a few things behind.



## Arrival and Departure

CLI students arrange their own travel.

**8-week** students should plan to arrive at Nënë Tereza International Airport, TIA, on or before **June 16<sup>th</sup>** and to depart on or slightly after **August 10<sup>th</sup>**.

**4-week** students should plan to arrive at Nënë Tereza International Airport, TIA, on or before **July 13<sup>th</sup>** and to depart on or slightly after **August 10<sup>th</sup>**.

Tirana's Nënë Tereza International Airport (<http://www.tirana-airport.com/>) lies 6 miles northwest of downtown Tirana. CLI staff will meet you at TIA, but the airport is easily accessible by taxi.

## Visas

Visas are not required for entry into Albania nor for stays that last less than one year. Passports should be valid for at least three months beyond the last day of your stay.

## Pick-Up

A CLI representative will meet you at the airport and take you to your housing. Please inform CLI, by phone and/or email, of any changes to your itinerary.

## Carrying Your Passport

While not required by law, it is recommended you carry your passport with you (or a copy with a note explaining where the original is) at all times. You are required to have a form of identification on you at all times.

## Financial Matters

### Billing Schedule

All CLI-related charges will be billed to your ASU student account, accessible through the main student portal, <http://my.asu.edu>, on the following schedule:

FEE	POST DATE <sup>1</sup>
<b>8-week program</b>	
\$500 (non-refundable)	When you enroll in class
Remainder of Program Fee	Second day of summer session 1
<b>4-week overseas program</b>	
\$500 (non-refundable)	When you enroll in class
Remainder of Study Abroad Fee	2 <sup>nd</sup> day of class in Tirana
<b>All fees <u>non-refundable once posted</u></b>	

<sup>1</sup> The Post Date is the date the charge appears on your student account. Payment is due on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the post date (and is indicated in your student account on line).

## Insurance

All participants are covered under Cultural Insurance Services International's insurance through Arizona State University's Study Abroad office. You may access an overview of ASU's CISI resources [here](#), and read plan information and coverage details [here](#).

One month before you depart, you will receive a welcome e-mail from CISI providing an insurance card and online access. Once you receive that welcome email information, you can login to the [myCISI Portal](#). Register online with the login information from the email to access your electronic ID card, locate trusted providers, and arrange direct payments to your provider.

If you have not received a welcome email from CISI one month prior to departure, please contact [studyabroad@asu.edu](mailto:studyabroad@asu.edu).

We strongly recommend you download the *myCISI* app to your smart phone to have the most up-to-date list of trusted providers.

CISI does not have preferred providers in Albania so students must keep all receipts for medical coverage received in Albania and apply to CISI for reimbursement through CISI so that a Guarantee of Payment (GOP) can be placed to cover medical expenses. CISI should also be contacted to assist with arranging appointments, however students should always proceed to the Emergency Room or call local Emergency Responders in the event of an emergency. A list of recommended providers and instructions on how to contact CISI On Call may be found the 'Personal Illness' section of this handbook.

## Academic Information

### Transcripts, Credit Transfer, Auditing

Participants in 8-week courses receive 8 credits.

Participants in 4-week courses receive 3 credits.

All CLI courses must be taken for credit. You cannot audit a CLI class.

To request a copy of your ASU transcript, visit <http://my.asu.edu> and click on the “Grades and Transcripts” tab in the “My Classes” section of the homepage. You will need your ASURITE username and password.

Please consult your university’s registrar’s office regarding fees and procedures for transfer of ASU credit.

### Your ASU Student Account

Every student receives an ASU e-mail account, even students studying abroad. It is important that you check it or set it to forward to an account that you check.

***Past students who failed to check their ASU mail have missed events and incurred late fees because they did not receive the messages sent to them by the ASU system.***

You can configure your ASU account to forward using the MyASU. (<http://my.asu.edu>; Click the “profile” tab, then look in the “Contact Details” section for the “Update Email Forwarding” link).



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## Housing and Logistics

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### Housing

You will live in Tirana with a fully vaccinated host family. Since this is an immersion program, your host families are prohibited from communicating with you in English or any other language. You, in turn, are expected to communicate with them solely in Albanian, except in emergencies.

CLI will distribute housing information during pre-departure orientation, including information about food, laundry and general expectations. Participants will be provided with breakfast for each day of their program. Participants are responsible for their own lunches and dinners.

If you have any concerns about your housing, please do not hesitate to bring them to the attention of the CLI-Tirana staff.

### Cell phones

CLI staff and staff in Tirana will review cell phone policies and instruct students on how to add minutes to their phones during in-country orientation.

### Code of Conduct

You are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct you signed as part of your intake materials as well as the Code of Conduct for students staying with host families, which all students sign before departure.

## About the Location

### Region, Safety, Etiquette, Resources

#### American Councils

CLI Tirana summer programs are hosted by American Councils, a U.S.-based training center providing Albanian training for foreigners. All classrooms are air-conditioned.

#### The City of Tirana

Tirana is the capital of Albania and the largest city in the country. For an up-to-date overview of the city, see, <http://wikitravel.org/en/Tirana>.

#### Culture Shock

Culture shock is normal and nearly universal. You are virtually guaranteed to experience it throughout your trip (and after your return). ASU will discuss during your orientation the symptoms and stages of culture shock and suggest ways to deal with its effects. As your orientation staff will emphasize, recognizing the symptoms is 75% of the battle. Students who recognize culture shock when they experience it are much more likely to adapt and respond effectively than students who experience culture shock without understanding what is happening to them.

#### Transportation

Public transportation in Tirana is limited to busses and taxis. The buses average 40 lek and run between 05:00 and 22:00 over 12 routes. Taxis run 24 hours a day though the rates increase between 22:00 and 07:00. Few of the drivers speak English. Merr Taxi +3500 0800 55 55 and Speed Taxi [+355 69 642 22 11](tel:+355696422211) are the most common.

Please consult your host family or Program Staff before arranging travel outside Tirana. They can help you find the best and safest options.

#### Banks & ATMS

ATMs are plentiful in Tirana and they are connected to most major networks. Most students carry cash enough for a week or two, but rely on ATMs located within reputable banks to “recharge.” Contact program staff if you have concerns about your bank’s network being present in Tirana.

**Be sure to tell your credit card company that you are traveling to Albania.** Otherwise your card may be disabled for security reasons while you are overseas. Call the customer service number on your card to notify them.

Program staff will organize group visits on Mon & Wed for students who wish to exchange money.

#### Credit Cards

Although credit cards are accepted in some locations, Tirana is largely a cash economy. Bring cash with you and use trusted ATMs (ATMs inside banks) to withdraw additional funds as needed.

Card fraud is a problem in Tirana. There are numerous free-standing ATMs and ATMs in stores, but it is always safer to rely on ATMs in banks.

Do not assume it is safe to pay with a card, even where cards are accepted. Instead, withdraw money from trusted ATMs and pay in cash.

## **Currency**

The official currency of Albania is the Lek. The exchange rate as of December 7, 2023, was ALL 94.15 to 1 USD.

## **US Consulate**

### **U.S. Embassy Tirana**

Rruga Stavro Vinjau, 14

Tirana, Albania

American Citizen Services Phone: (355) 4224 7285

After Hours & Emergencies: (355) 4 2247 285, ask to speak to the duty officer

Fax: (355) 4 2232 222

E-mail: [ACSTirana@state.gov](mailto:ACSTirana@state.gov)

Public Inquiry Hours: Monday through Friday, 08:00 a.m. – 5:00 pm, closed on American and Albanian holidays.

## **Electricity Conversion**

Albania has a 220-240 v/50 Hz current and uses one of the two European standard electrical socket types: The "Type C" Europlug and the "Type E" and "Type F" Schuko.

You can find ADAPTERS, (from Ace Hardware or local electric shops) in some Tirana markets.

CONVERTERS are better to bring from home and can be used to power hairdryers and other devices that don't have a built-in converter (as most laptops do). Remember, U.S. devices run on 110 volts and 60 Hz. The local 220-240 volt/50 Hz current can burn up your devices if a converter is required.

## General Health and Safety

### Safety

Tirana is generally safe, but street crime does occur and tourists can be targeted.

Avoid walking alone after dark, and take normal precautions; don't flash cash, don't dress ostentatiously, etc.

The U.S. Department of State recommends that you change your route and routine frequently, and that you pay close attention to your surroundings.

### Medical Care and Medications

Leave a copy of your insurance information at home with a person empowered to make medical decisions on your behalf (parent, guardian, other named individual).

Keep a copy of your insurance card with you at all times.

Inform CLI staff immediately if a medical situation occurs

Emergency assistance is available 24/7.

### Bring any and all prescription medications with you.

You do not need to bring common over-the-counter products, like cold medicine or vitamins. There are easily available in Tirana.

### Drinking Water

Tap water in Tirana and vicinity should NOT be considered safe. Please drink only bottled water or water that has been boiled. Do not drink beverages with ice cubes. Avoid shaved ice desserts. Be careful not to consume tap water when brushing teeth (use bottled water). When in doubt, err on the side of caution.

### Fitness

There are numerous public gyms and pools available for your use, at your expense. For more information on health and fitness in Tirana consult Linda Mëniku or CLI staff.

### Personal illness

In case of personal illness, contact your resident director or your local health contact. (See contact pages at the beginning of the book.) Your resident director or health contact will accompany you to the doctor's office. If you go to a physician or health clinic, be sure to save the receipts so you can file for reimbursement.

CLI's health insurance is CISI.

For treatment at any of the below listed facilities a case should be opened with CISI On Call so that a Guarantee of Payment (GOP) can be placed for treatment. You can call CISI On Call 24/7/365 at +1 (603) 952-2660 or at +1 (877) 714-8179 and through email at [mail@oncallinternational.com](mailto:mail@oncallinternational.com). Be sure to keep copies of all medical forms and bills.



If you have questions about benefits and coverages, or about submitting claims, please contact the CISI Claims Department (9am-5pm EST, M-F) at [claimhelp@mycisi.com](mailto:claimhelp@mycisi.com) , +1 (800) 303-8120, or at +1 (203) 399-5130.

<b>American Hospital 1</b>	near S.U.T., Rruga Lord Bajron, Tiranë	<a href="tel:+35542357535">+355 4 235 7535</a>
<b>American Hospital 2</b>	Rruga e Dibrës, Tirana 1000	<a href="tel:+35542357535">+355 4 235 7535</a>
<b>American Hospital 3</b>	Rruga Sabaudin Gabrani, Nr. 2, Tiranë	<a href="tel:+35542357535">+355 4 235 7535</a>

## Emergency health care

If you need emergency health attention, call an ambulance, then call your resident director or local health contact. All numbers are indicated on the “Important Contacts” page at the beginning of the book.

## Natural disasters, civil unrest, and public health crises

In case of natural disasters, civil unrest, or public health crisis, you may be required to evacuate. Follow the following steps:

1. Contact your resident director or local health contact for instructions.
2. If you cannot make contact by phone, e-mail or smartphone app, gather your belongs and proceed to the primary evacuation location.
3. If the primary evacuation location is unsafe, proceed to the secondary evacuation location.

## Evacuation locations

- Primary evacuation location: Instituti "Harry T. Fultz" Building A, Mine Peza street, where classes are normally held
- Secondary evacuation location: Office of American Councils for International Education, Ibrahim Rugova street, Sky Tower, 11/3

# APPENDIX A

## Detailed safety and security

### Pre-Departure Preparation

Your safety and security abroad begins with intentional preparation prior to your departure. This handbook has outlined a number of these preparations already, including storing important phone numbers and contact information to take with you, assessing your personal health, and being prepared ahead of time for potential emergencies. In this section, you will learn a little about the steps ASU takes to maximize the safety of our study abroad programs, as well as steps you should follow to take your safety and security into your own hands.

### ASU Risk Monitoring

- U.S. Department of State (DOS) - the Study Abroad Office monitors U.S. Department of State travel advisories and warnings and regular consults the DOS Country-Specific Information to identify known risks in all ASU study abroad program locations.
- My ASU TRIP – ASU's enterprise travel software provides the Study Abroad Office with robust health, safety and security information about every country around the world.
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) - ASU is a member of OSAC, a division of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security in the U.S. Department of State. This gives us access to daily international news digests, as well as a direct line of contact to the U.S. Department of State's regional security analysts.
- ASU Study Abroad Health and Safety Committee - Representatives from the Office of the Provost, General Counsel, and Risk and Emergency Management regularly review study abroad programs in locations of concern, advising CLI on issues related to travel in risky locations.
- PULSE – ASU coordinates with this consortium of security professionals from more than 50 other institutions.

### Student Safety Precautions

- Prior to your departure, register for the [State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). This free service is specifically geared toward students living or traveling in a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about any upcoming trips abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency. By providing your email address, you will also be added to a consular listserv to receive local security updates related to road closures, transportation strikes, civil unrest, etc.
- Review travel websites, consular reports, and the Department of State [country information](#) before traveling. Be mindful that a normally peaceful place can erupt in violence due to protests, elections, or other current events. Public opinion about Americans can change quickly around the world depending on current events and U.S. actions, so keep up on what is going on around your region of the world and back home in the U.S.
- Inquire with the U.S. Consulate before you leave home or as you enter a large city about any local unrest or for advice about areas to avoid.
- If you have the opportunity to travel during your program, e-mail your travel itinerary and details to your Faculty Director and to your Study Abroad Office International Coordinator. If you realize that you will not be back at the time stated on your itinerary or if you get stuck somewhere, contact your Faculty Director and, if applicable, your host family, and inform them of the situation. If necessary, call the Study Abroad Office or the Study Abroad Emergency Hotline.

## Your Travel Safety

ASU takes all reasonable steps to help students be safe during their study abroad program. However, the most important person responsible for keeping safe is you, the student.

- You are responsible for reviewing the safety information provided to you by ASU and your program leaders, providers, and host institutions.
- You are responsible for handling the advice provided by local staff about how to stay safe abroad, particularly when on your own.
- You are responsible for choices you make that may jeopardize your health or safety, or the health and safety of those around you.

## While You Are Abroad

While traveling to another country is not inherently dangerous, it is important to be cognizant of your surroundings and to understand that your host culture might be drastically different than your own. Both before you leave and once you arrive in your program's location, your program leaders will facilitate an orientation, which will offer tips and suggestions for staying safe in your particular location. Though you will often be traveling as part of a group, we hope that you will find time to travel independently, whether that be before, during, or after the official program dates. In this section, we include general safety advice to prepare you in advance for your time abroad.

## Personal Safety

- Be informed. Watch and learn what the locals are doing, and follow their lead. If you have questions pertaining to safety issues in your host country, ask your Faculty Director or Program Assistant.
- Learn the local equivalent to "911" in your host country.
- Exercise extreme caution when swimming abroad, particularly in developing countries where emergency services may not be readily available. In locations that experience heavy seasonal rains, currents can rapidly change in strength and speed. Swim only at designated beaches with clear warning systems, and never swim alone. Swim between the flags only where a lifeguard is present and heed all warning signs/flags. Never consume alcohol before or during swimming activities.
- Each ASU study abroad program will be a little different, but in all cases, keep your passport, credit cards, and travel documents in a safe place. Depending on the situation and your program leader's advice, this might mean keeping these items in a money belt or inside pouch. In other situations, it may be safer to keep these items in a hotel safe and carry copies of these documents instead. If you are unsure, ask your program leaders.
- When traveling on your own, try not to arrive at an unknown town late at night, especially if you haven't made arrangements for spending the night. Make sure you have a reservation before arriving at a hotel or hostel because space can be limited.
- Avoid demonstrations. In many countries around the world, demonstrations occur frequently (sometimes without warning) and can escalate into violence. You are best advised to avoid any demonstration that you may come across while traveling abroad – better to be safe than to be caught in a violent protest (or a violent response from local authorities).
- If traveling on your own before or after your program, be sure to reference the [CLI website](#) for tips on safe housing abroad.

## Tips to for Personal Safety

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times! Anything that could distract your attention (someone asking the time, asking directions, spilling something on you, etc.) is an opportunity for theft.
- Always have everything of value (passport, money, important documents, etc.) on your person in a money belt or inside pouch, and never leave your bags unattended. *Do not carry*

*your passport or large amounts of money in your purse or backpack.*

- When sleeping on a train, keep your backpack by you and wrap the strap around your arm.
- Be especially careful in crowds and in metros where pickpockets are likely to gather.
- Don't bring expensive or irreplaceable jewelry, as well as any other items you would be devastated to lose. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry or clothing, and try not to provide any overt indication of wealth (such as a visible smart phone).
- Be cautious of anyone asking you for money. Some people are in genuine need, but others may not be, and begging children may be victims of human trafficking. Giving money is a personal decision, but use common sense. If you are in an uncomfortable situation, say "no" forcefully and leave.
- Follow the advice of local and international authorities.
- Avoid the vicinity of any public demonstrations.
- Avoid overnight travel by road.
- Avoid travel to any location where the U.S. government has restricted or forbidden U.S. government personnel from visiting.
- Walk with a purpose; try to avoid using maps while walking around – prepare your route before you begin your journey.
- Don't be tied to your smart phone – look up, make eye contact, note driver, license of rideshare cars, be aware of the logistics, people meeting you, where you are going etc.
- Do not accept rides or drinks from strangers.
- Travel with someone, whenever possible – avoid walking around alone in an unfamiliar environment, especially after dark.
- Do not be complacent (even if you have been there before, know everyone etc.) - treat each trip as if your first, be aware of surroundings, know your plans for logistics;
- Consider removing any banking apps from your smart phone (consider also removing any passwords or other sensitive information stored on your phone).
- Consider editing your contact list in your phone (if using personal phone) in case of a lost or stolen phone.

## Road Safety

Traffic accidents are a leading cause of death of Americans abroad, particularly among college students. Contrary to popular belief, this is not just a risk of the developing world

85% of fatal crashes occur in industrialized countries, according to the Association of Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT). Travelers can minimize their risk by assessing the road culture in travel areas and implementing safety precautions before traveling by road.

ASIRT suggests that travelers:

- Select the safest form of transportation in the travel area
- Avoid late-night road travel in countries with poor safety records and/or mountainous terrain
- Understand how seasonal hazards affect road conditions
- Know the dates of local holidays (when road accident rates rise) Additional

Suggestions for pedestrians are:

- Be aware of traffic patterns in the travel area (they may be very different from those in the U.S.)
- Be especially alert at intersections



- Wear reflective clothing if jogging at dusk or dawn (especially in locales where jogging may be uncommon)
- Do not walk where pedestrians cannot easily be seen
- Remember that most road fatalities are pedestrians
- Avoid hitchhiking

Additional suggestions for passengers are:

- Avoid riding with a driver who appears intoxicated, irrational, or over-tired
- Always ride in the back seat of a taxi cab
- Wear seat belts whenever possible

While many travelers may be tempted to rent cars, mopeds, or motorbikes during their time abroad, they often do so without regard to the risks of driving in a country whose rules of the road are unfamiliar. Although it may seem fun or convenient to travel this way, ASU strongly recommends against students renting or driving any kind of motorized vehicle abroad.

Rest assured that your program leaders carefully consider road safety when determining modes of transportation to/from any program activities. Road travel in some developing countries poses additional road risks. Public transportation in some areas may consist of overcrowded, overweight, and top-heavy minivans or buses. Taxis may not appear to be in good condition, and drivers may or may not be licensed. Sidewalks may or may not be lit, or exist at all.

More information about safe road travel is available on the [CLI website](#).

## Water Safety<sup>i</sup>

River and ocean currents have the potential to be swift and dangerous. There may be no lifeguards or signs warning of dangerous beaches. It is critical that you exercise extreme caution when swimming abroad, particularly in developing countries where emergency services may not be readily available. In locations that experience heavy seasonal rains, currents can rapidly change in strength and speed. Oftentimes individuals from non-coastal areas lack experience in assessing ocean currents for riptides and other water hazards related to coastal life. When possible, swim at designated beaches with clear warning systems. Swim between the flags only where a lifeguard is present, and never swim alone. You should not consume alcohol before or during swimming activities. If you are unsure which locations you should avoid, ask your program leaders.

Consider the following in order to keep safe:

- Be clear about your swimming abilities
- Stay in areas designated by program leaders
- Heed all warning signs/flags
- Do not swim in unfamiliar bodies of water or at isolated beaches
- Never swim alone
- Never swim while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Never dive head-first
- Check local information for details of tides, currents, and pollution
- Rip currents and undertows can be very common at many beaches
- Do not swim where there are no lifeguards present, whenever possible.
- Check for possible hazards from jellyfish, sea urchins, coral, sea snakes, sharks, and venomous fish. Saltwater crocodiles live in coastal estuaries in many countries.
- Human sewage and animal feces make some beaches no-go areas for swimming or even wading
- If you find yourself unable to reach shore, wave your arms and yell for assistance

## How to Avoid and Survive Rip Currents<sup>ii</sup>

Rip currents are particularly dangerous for weak or non-swimmers. Rip current speeds are typically 1-2 feet per second. However, speeds as high as 8 feet per second have been measured; this is faster than an Olympic swimmer. Thus, rip currents can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea. The following tips will help you swim safe.

When at the beach:

- Whenever possible, swim at a lifeguard-protected beach
- Never swim alone
- Learn how to swim in the surf. It is not the same as swimming in a pool or lake
- Be cautious at all times, especially when swimming at unguarded beaches. If in doubt, do not go out!
- Obey all instructions and orders from lifeguards. Lifeguards are trained to identify potential hazards. Ask a lifeguard about the conditions before entering the water. This is part of their job.
- Stay at least 100 feet away from piers and jetties. Permanent rip currents often exist alongside these structures.
- Consider using polarized sunglasses when at the beach. They will help you to spot signatures of rip currents by cutting down glare and reflected sunlight off the ocean's surface.
- Pay especially close attention to children and elderly when at the beach. Even in shallow water, wave action can cause loss of footing.

If caught in a rip current:

- Remain calm to conserve energy and think clearly
- Never fight the current
- Think of it like a treadmill that cannot be turned off; instead you need to step to the side
- Swim out of the current in a direction following the shoreline. When out of the current, swim at an angle -- away from the current -- towards shore.
- If you are unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water. When out of the current, swim towards shore.
- If you are still unable to reach shore, draw attention to yourself by waving your arm and yelling for help

If you see someone in trouble, do not become a victim too:

- Get help from a lifeguard.
- If a lifeguard is not available, have someone call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number
- Throw the rip current victim something that floats -- a lifejacket, a cooler, an inflatable ball
- Yell instructions on how to escape
- Remember, many people drown while trying to save someone else from a rip current

## Safety and Diversity

We are proud to send a diverse population of ASU student ambassadors abroad, but we want you to recognize that certain groups of people may be treated much differently in a different culture than in the US. Be aware of how you identify yourself or may be identified as by people in your host country (gender, religious affiliation, LGBTQIA, race, etc.), and educate yourself as to appropriate behaviors. Find out what non-verbal messages (eye contact, tone, gestures, dress) to avoid, and strive to follow the etiquette of your host country.

Always socialize in pairs or groups, be aware of your surroundings, and have the phone number and enough money for a taxi home.

If you are verbally hassled on the street, doing anything but ignoring it may worsen the situation. If you feel harassed and ignoring does not de-escalate, if you are touched, or if your safety is threatened, it may be appropriate to yell out, defend yourself, and inform the local authorities and your program leaders. Again, your program leaders will cover issues relating to safety and diversity at both your pre-departure and on-site orientations.

Additional advice for various diverse populations is available on the [CLI website](#).

## **Compliance with Local and National Laws Abroad**

Students must comply with local rules and expectations as with national laws. Most host countries have laws similar to the laws governing the U.S., and law-abiding students need have no fears. However, law enforcement and court procedures may differ sharply, and students should not assume that offenses largely ignored in the U.S. are also taken lightly abroad. Some laws (often drug laws) are more strictly enforced for foreigners than they are for locals, and harsh penalties often govern drug possession and trade. American students may be particularly vulnerable to accusations. Those who sell drugs to Americans are often those who inform. Punishment for drug offenses that may be considered minor by U.S. law may be as severe abroad as life in prison or death!

## **Make Copies of Important Documents**

One more way to help protect your security prior to departure is to make copies of your important documents including your passport, visa (if applicable), credit and debit cards, your CISI insurance card, and any other necessary travel documents. Leave one set of these copies at home with a loved one, and take one set with you in case you lose one of your important documents.

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<sup>i</sup> Water Safety information from Northwestern University and the University of California Education Abroad Program. <sup>ii</sup> Additional Water Safety information from [http://www.weather.com/activities/recreation/boatandbeach/ripcurrents\\_avoid.html](http://www.weather.com/activities/recreation/boatandbeach/ripcurrents_avoid.html)