Global Opportunities & Exchanges

LGBTQ+ students
Who am I?

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Bisexual, non binary
Pronouns he/him
Who are Global Opportunities?

- **Claire Hunter** – International Partnerships & Global Opportunities Officer
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Agenda

• What are the options?
• How to apply?
• Safety and risk awareness
• You are insured!
• How much does it cost?
• Tuition fees and loans
• Scholarships
• How to find out more
What are the options?

Available through Global Opportunities & Exchanges and your department
- Erasmus+ (study exchange or work placement in Europe)
- Study Abroad (exchange outside Europe)
- Summer school (not in term-time)

You will have to organise yourself
- International volunteering/work placement abroad
How do I apply?

**Study Abroad**
Online application through Study Abroad Blackboard organisation
Opens 11am 6th November 2019
**Deadline 5pm 1st December 2019**

**Erasmus+**
Check with your departmental adviser what the deadline and procedure is

**Summer Schools**
Applications depend on each individual summer school
Deadlines are usually in spring semester
Safety

Where is safe to go as an LGBTQ+ student?

- **Resources:** sheffield.ac.uk/globalopps/lgbtq
- Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) advice on local laws and customs in **225 countries:** www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice
- Stonewall Global Briefings: www.stonewall.org.uk/global-workplace-briefings
  (includes details of local LGBTQ+ organisations, Prides, websites and other resources)
Guidance
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender foreign travel advice

Advice for LGB&T tourists travelling abroad.

Published 22 March 2013
Last updated 4 December 2017 — see all updates
From: Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Contents
— Overview
— Where you can find information
— Advice for LGBT travellers while overseas
— What you should do if you have a problem overseas
— Passport identity of transgender travellers
— Useful links

Overview

Attitudes towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) travellers around the world can be very different from those in the UK. However, you’re unlikely to have problems if you prepare well and research your destination before you go.
Risk awareness

Legal factors

- Criminalisation of same sex relations
- Lack of protection (not covered by discrimination laws)
- Lack of recognition (e.g. trans people’s gender not recognised)
- Lack of other rights (e.g. trans people banned from gender assigned facilities that correspond to their gender, affecting access to public spaces)
- Restrictions of other rights (LGBTQ+ related topics are illegal to discuss in the presence of minors)

Based on material provided by Stonewall 2017 – Studying Abroad – A guide to supporting LGBT students in higher education
Risk awareness

Non-legal factors

• Treatment by state authorities (e.g. police harassment has been reported)
• Societal attitudes towards LGBTQ+ people (e.g. open hostility to out LGBTQ+ people)
• Lack of LGBTQ+ community (no known LGBTQ+ neighbourhoods, venues or support groups)
• Visibility of LGBTQ+ people (either not visible or negatively portrayed)
• Lack of LGBTQ+ inclusive services (e.g. health professionals are not trained on LGBTQ+-inclusive health services)

Based on material provided by Stonewall 2017 – *Studying Abroad* – A guide to supporting LGBT students in higher education
Things to consider

Some partner universities have LGBTQ+ spaces on campus and online.

Local laws and attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community are not necessarily the same as the UK (where there is still discrimination) or uniform across a country or region (e.g. differing state laws in the USA, comparatively conservative attitudes in Asia).

Be aware of local laws. Take common sense precautions, especially on nights out and when going to new places.
Things to consider

Identity documents – trans students may have issues at the border if their gender is not perceived to match what is on their passport.

Healthcare – if you are required to take out health insurance (required for Australia and New Zealand, commonly required for Canada and the USA), check that it will cover you adequately as an LGBTQ+ person for your needs (e.g. PrEP, hormones).

Accommodation – you may have to share a room and may have no choice in the allocation. Complain if your roommate is causing problems. Alternatively consider a flatshare.
Being out

Who are you out to currently? (e.g. family, friends, your personal tutor, lecturers, your employer?)

Not everyone is cis-passing or straight-passing

Consider what you can control that might out you:

- Choice of clothing in more conservative society
- The apps on your phone
- The places you go
- Your social media use
- What you tell other people
If things don’t go so well

- You can still access support from Sheffield (e.g. Big White Wall, DDSS, financial hardship)
- [www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/students-going-abroad](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/students-going-abroad)
- Ask the local British Embassy or consulate for help. They won’t make generalisations, assumptions or pass judgement
- Tell your host university and use local assistance
- Talk to friends / family / tutors
- Don’t expect everything to be brilliant all of the time! You are likely to experience culture shock.
Insurance

The University of Sheffield has a free travel insurance policy: https://finance.shef.ac.uk/insurance/

It does not cover mobile phones!

Inform insurance@sheffield.ac.uk if you are making any trips abroad so they can confirm if you are still covered.

RSA Travel Assistance app – can give you country specific travel alerts
How much does it cost?

• Living costs vary by institution, so there is no simple answer – information is online at www.sheffield.ac.uk/globalopps

• Additional costs to consider:
  • Flights (potential for coach/train for Europe)
  • Visas (application costs, travel to Embassy)
  • Health insurance (mandatory for some countries)
  • Tourism

Wherever you go, you will spend more than a year in Sheffield, where it’s estimated to cost £1,015 per month.
Tuition fees

- Your tuition fees to Sheffield are reduced if you spend a semester or year abroad
- You do not pay tuition fees to the host university as it is an exchange. You may have other fees to pay (health insurance, lab fees, administration fees)
- You are likely to have fees for a summer school, as they are outside term-time.
Student loans

- UK students still have access to the Student Finance tuition fee and maintenance loans

- Students whose maintenance loan application includes evidence of household income for assessment are eligible for a **travel grant** – can claim back certain costs with receipts (e.g. flights, health insurance, visa application fees)
Scholarships

- Bursary students on study (not on placement/year in industry/year in practice) still receive their Sheffield bursary and those on Study Abroad are invited to apply for scholarships worth £2,000.

- External scholarships (e.g. BUTEX)

- Global Opportunities has scholarships and bursaries for summer experiences, including £750 - £1,000 for partner summer schools and £500 for independently organised travel.

- Many summer schools at our partner universities offer scholarships or discounts. Details are advertised by Global Opportunities & Exchanges each year, usually from December onwards (website, social media, emails).
Affordability

- It may be possible to work part-during your time abroad, depending on visa restrictions
- Try to save up as much as possible beforehand
- Plan your finances, work out a budget and when you will have big spends
- Consider shorter options – does your department allow for a single semester of exchange? Would a summer school be easier to afford?
Points of contact

Global Opportunities & Exchanges
globalopps@sheffield.ac.uk / 0114 2226269 or 2221253
sheffield.ac.uk/globaloppps / Blackboard organisation

Global Ambassadors
sheffield.ac.uk/globalopps/seap/profiles/index

Support
sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/support-and-guidance

Department
Personal tutor / lecturers
Exchange contacts (see sheffield.ac.uk/globalopps/)
Social media

@uosglobalopps
@UoSGlobalOpps
@uosglobalopps

https://uosstudyingabroad.wordpress.com/
Come to the Global Opportunities Fair!

**When?**
Wednesday 6\(^{th}\) November 2019, 11am to 3pm

**Where?**
in the Octagon

**Why?**
Speak to students who’ve studied abroad and find out about opportunities to study, work and volunteer overseas!