LGBTQ ABROAD FAQS
1. **Will I be accepted? Will I be safe? Will I be able to express myself?**

While laws and attitudes surrounding LGBTQ acceptance vary widely across the globe, the Tulane Office of Study Abroad is committed to ensuring all students have equal access to international education. Conducting independent research regarding the local legal system and public perception of LGBTQ identity in your host country prior to departure can help students better understand how their identity may influence their experience abroad. ILGA’s map of LGBTQ acceptance is a good tool to use as a starting point and is linked on our website along with many other suggested resources students can use to conduct independent research. Still unsure? Make an appointment with one of our advisors online—we’re happy to help!

2. **Will my preferred pronouns be used?**

This will depend on a few factors, mainly the attitudes towards LGBTQ identity in your host country and the local language. Some cultures unfortunately may not be ready to confront the reality of LGBTQ identity, and it may be difficult or potentially even unsafe to introduce your preferred pronouns. Make sure to research attitudes in your host country before deciding on a program and ensure that you are mentally prepared for the reality of conditions on the ground. Also consider that different countries will have their own LGBTQ vocabularies that may differ from our own in the U.S.—terms like asexual or intersex may not exist in every language or country around the world. Similarly, there may be terms or queer communities that exist in your host country you are unfamiliar with. Also consider the implications of navigating a language which is inherently gendered (such as Spanish or French). As you are likely already used to doing at home, often the easiest way to begin making sure that your correct pronouns are used is to make those around you aware of them.

3. **Will I have trouble in transit?**

Thinking of travelling on the weekend but not sure if you will encounter barriers in transit based on your identity or presentation? The State Department’s LGBTQ Travel Guide (linked on our website) is an excellent resource for queer travellers to reference before departure as it provides travel tips, lists of required documents, insurance information, and information on the Smart Traveller Enrollment Program.

4. **Will I experience discrimination?**

This will depend on your host culture and individual experience. Unfortunately, even in the most accepting of places LGBTQ individuals can still be subjected to discrimination or harrassment. If you do experience any of these situations abroad and feel unsafe or in need of support, our office is here for you. You can call us at 504-865-5339 or email us at osa@tulane.edu. Your host university or program provider will also have staff on site that
you can reach out to for assistance finding resources on the ground or in resolving intercultural conflict if the issue persists.

5. **Will I have support from my host university?**

   Yes! It is always a good idea to disclose any concerns you may have regarding how your identity will be perceived in context abroad to your host university or program provider early on in the application process so that you can get a better idea of the range and type of support and resources you will have access to as an LGBTQ student. Resources available to LGBTQ students vary by program but may include counseling, student support services, housing placement assistance and more.

6. **Will I disclose my gender identity or sexual orientation to my host family or friends I may meet abroad?**

   This will be a personal decision and may vary depending on a student’s individual comfort level and relationship with their host family or local friends. In the case of a host family, LGBTQ students may request that their provider or host university place them with a family who is known to have been accepting of LGBTQ students in the past. Remember that your host family and new friends abroad are products of their own lived experience within a unique cultural context.

**Have more questions about LGBTQ Study Abroad? Visit our website for more resources or make an appointment online at global.tulane.edu!**