



PARENT GUIDE: GLOBAL SEMINARS



A guide with tips for parents of students accepted in the UC San Diego Global Seminar program.



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Dear Parents,

Now that your student has been accepted into the UC San Diego Global Seminar program, we are sure that you have many questions. We are happy to provide you with the following information regarding our programs. As always, please do not hesitate to contact our office with your inquiries. Additional resources can be found on our websites at <http://icenter.ucsd.edu/pao/parents/>
<http://globalseminar.ucsd.edu>

We look forward to providing you with excellent support.

Best regards,
Jim Galvin, Director of Global Seminars
Tonia Pizer, Global Seminars Coordinator
Teresa York, Global Seminars Coordinator



What is a Global Seminar?

Global Seminars are what UC San Diego calls our "faculty-led" study abroad programs. Each program is led by a UCSD faculty member who has received positive marks on student evaluations and is a voting member of our Academic Senate. For each program, students take two courses and earn 8 units of credit. All courses are taught in English regardless of location, and each program has between 15-25 participants. Students find the Global Seminar program to be a great way for them to get to know a faculty member and other UCSD students.

BEFORE DEPARTURE:

Pre-Departure Orientation

For each Global Seminar program, we hold a mandatory Pre-Departure Orientation for the students. We look at the students' class schedules to determine the best day and time for the orientation. The professor and the organization we partner with for on-site arrangements assist us with the orientation. During the meeting, we go over many aspects of the program, including topics like money, communication, health and safety, arrival information, academic expectations and requirements for class, and culture shock. Students who cannot attend the orientation have the opportunity to schedule a meeting with their advisor to go over what they missed.

GS Policies

In order to complete an application, students turn in various contracts regarding program procedures. Students must follow the UCSD Code of Conduct and academic integrity policies while abroad and are subject to sanctions just as they would be on campus. It is recommended that students also review the "[Refunds and Drop](#)" section of our website in order to familiarize themselves with our policies should they need to withdraw from the program. There can be severe financial repercussions for students who withdraw from the program after March 1st, so it is recommended that both the parent and the student review the policies together.

Academic Information

Students will be taking two UC San Diego courses for credit during the Global Seminar program. Each class is 4 quarter units for a total of 8 units per program. Students are provided with a syllabus on our website for each course. Additionally, the faculty member reviews course expectations during info sessions, pre-departure orientation meetings, and on-site orientations. Much of the learning for the courses is done outside the classroom through site visits and excursions that are integrated into the course material. Students say that due to the small class size, they are able to have an enriching academic experience where the city becomes the classroom.

Financing a Global Seminar

For students not on financial aid, there are a limited number of merit-based scholarships that students may apply for—some of which are administered by the Programs Abroad Office and others by various organizations online. All students are encouraged to apply for additional scholarships which will be discussed with a GS advisor during appointments. If students are currently receiving financial aid, there are summer grants, scholarships, and loans available. Students are advised on where to find more information about these funding sources during their appointments and are also encouraged to see the "[Financing Your Program](#)" section on the Programs Abroad website. Budget sheets are available on our website for each program. These include the charges paid to UCSD as well as estimates on additional costs that the student would incur while on the program.





WHILE ABROAD:

How to Support

Each student adjusts differently to their new surroundings abroad. Initial sensations of euphoria can quickly be replaced by confusion and frustration. The best way to assist your student is to encourage them to take advantage of their time abroad and maintain open lines of communication with their professor and on-site staff. If they do encounter any problems, it is best to report these immediately to the on-site staff to ensure that your student has the best experience possible while abroad.



Communication

For each program, students are given information on cell phone options while abroad. Most of our housing options include wireless internet in the rooms or common areas of the facility or apartment. Please be advised that accessibility to the internet can vary by location, and it is recommended that you come up with a communication plan with your student before they travel abroad. This is a time for your student to develop independence, so please balance your desire to remain in touch with the student's need to develop self confidence and self-reliance.

Health, Safety, Emergencies

Students receive health and safety guidelines during their pre-departure preparations as well on-site orientations. We give them tips on how to live safely abroad as well as whom to contact in the event of an emergency. We ask that students adhere to the recommendations presented in order to minimize risks abroad that could endanger the students and program. Each Global Seminar program has a resident director who serves as the point of contact for all students. Students may contact this person 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the case of a true emergency. We encourage students to work directly with the on-site staff and faculty.



Insurance

International health insurance, as well as UC Travel insurance, is included for all Global Seminar programs. Students are automatically registered through the provider organization for health insurance and then register themselves for the UC travel insurance prior to departure. For most insurance plans abroad, students pay the full fee for health care up front and then are reimbursed after submitting a claim to the insurance provider. Each organization abroad advises students on the steps to take in order to complete this process.

RETURNING HOME:

Returning to UCSD

Sometimes the re-entry stage of study abroad can be more challenging than the initial adjustment process. Students find it difficult to capture their life-changing experience in words or find it challenging to accept that life has changed back home without them there. Please encourage your student to share as much as possible with you and take an interest in their photos and stories. Students may consider new academic and career options upon their return. You can refer your student to their academic advisor for more information as well as the [Career Services Center \(CSC\)](#) on ways to market their experience to graduate and professional schools as well as future employers. CSC can help the student internationalize their resume and prepare for job interviews. Additionally, students are encouraged to attend the San Diego "Lessons from Abroad" Conference that is held during winter quarter. At the Programs Abroad Office, we host various events for our returnees as well as post information on our Facebook pages. Additionally, we administer evaluations to our students in order to assess our program objectives and services.

Privacy

All of us in the Programs Abroad Office are committed to partnering with parents to make your student's study abroad experience both safe and rewarding. Please remember that your student's personal information is protected by federal law ([FERPA](#)). Your student may sign a release form to allow the PAO staff to share specific personal information with you (the parents or family).



Connect with Us

We hope to see you at our parent orientation in spring quarter. It is a one-day event typically held at the International Center. Your student will be sent more information regarding the event, and this will also be posted on both our homepage and our social media pages.

For up-to-date announcements regarding deadlines and opportunities, it is recommended that parents and students connect with Global Seminars by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter. Becoming a part of the Global Seminar network will also help you connect with the advisors, returnees, and other students and parents who are interested in the Global Seminars program.

 <https://www.facebook.com/UCSanDiegoGlobalSeminars>

 [@globalseminars](#)



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