Welcome Parents!

I know you may be a bit anxious about sending your student abroad, and that you may have concerns as well as enthusiasm for this venture. We believe that a study abroad experience can be a life changing event and will work very hard to make sure your student has an exciting and safe experience. Learning a new culture, a language, in addition to academic work will enrich you student’s life and provide experiences that will last a lifetime. You will probably find your returning student to be more mature, flexible, independent, and have a greater understanding and appreciation of different cultures as well as a better idea of what it means to be an American. If your student has also had an internship experience, you will find that they have gained more self-confidence and are anxious to complete their degree and enter the workforce.

 While abroad you and your student should keep up with world news. Visit the [Department of State website](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html) at travel.state.gov for travel warnings, health and safety issues and more. **Keep in mind, West Liberty will not endorse or approval travel to a country in which the government has issued travel warnings.**

Decide how you want to keep in contact with your student when she/he is abroad. You may use a combination of the following: skype, telephone, email, regular mail, fax, Facebook, and other forms of social media. We suggest you and your student discuss the best option directly with your chosen program’s advisor. Then work out the means of communication before his/her departure and try to establish a regular schedule for keeping in touch. As your student adjusts to life abroad, you may notice signs of "culture shock." This is normal phase as your student learns to live in a new culture.

**Your student will not be alone!** All programs endorsed by West Liberty University are run by study abroad providers that have provided international education programs for many years. They have staff in country to oversee all American students, and they will be living on University campuses with roommates from the U.S., in approved homestays, or in approved apartments.

For more information contact the study abroad advisor, Beverly Burke by email at [burkebev@westliberty.edu](mailto:burkebev@westliberty.edu) or by phone at 304-336-8004.