Gender, Title IX, and Studying Abroad
Information for Students

Table of Contents
Introduction ......................................................................................................................... 1
Host Communities ............................................................................................................... 1
Safety Tips ........................................................................................................................ 2
Relationships Abroad ........................................................................................................ 2
Sexual and Interpersonal Violence and/or Harassment .................................................. 2
Resources- Miami University .............................................................................................. 2
Resources- Non-Affiliated ................................................................................................. 4

Introduction
Miami University is committed to maintaining a healthy and safe learning, living, and working
environment and to creating an environment that promotes responsibility, dignity, and respect. This
commitment extends to all Study Abroad programs, whether domestic or international. All Miami
University students are expected to adhere to The Code of Student Conduct even while studying abroad.
Regardless of location, safety is important and should be taken very seriously. Host communities may
have different cultural norms and attitudes regarding students, nationality, gender, race, sexual
orientation, and many other identifying characteristics. These cultural differences are important to
recognize and determine how they may impact life and safety abroad.

Host Communities
Every community has different societal expectations. What is appropriate in one community may not be
appropriate or expected in another community, even within the same country. Your study abroad
program, whether Miami faculty-led, or through another university or provider, will hold an orientation
session or sessions prior to travel. This is a good opportunity to learn more about the location where
you will study abroad. Here is a list of questions to consider asking your faculty leader or program
provider prior to reaching your host community:

• What is it like in the host community?
• How are students assimilated into the host community?
• What are the safety concerns and how does the organization mitigate those risks?
• What are the stereotypes of Americans in my host community?
• How do gender roles differ in the host community?
• What are the cultural/expected norms for gender?
• Are there expected ways for an individual to talk with, approach, or act towards each other
  based upon gender, race, or other characteristic?
• What are the living, learning, and transportation arrangements?
• What are the local laws I should be aware of?
• What are the rules of the host institution?
**Safety Tips**
Miami strives for a safe, inclusive, and respectful study abroad experience. Your personal safety is as important while studying abroad as it is at home or on campus. The following is a short list of tips regarding safety while abroad:

- Your personal safety is paramount.
- Maintain a key awareness of your surroundings.
- Dress in a culturally appropriate way.
- Travel in groups.
- Don’t walk home alone.
- Know local emergency phone numbers.
- Know your program’s emergencies numbers and carry your Study Abroad Emergency Contact Card
- Locate the nearest US embassies and/or consulates before you reach your host community.
- Be aware of local customs (e.g. where and when eye contact is acceptable)
- Tell someone where you are going, when you plan to return, and what to do if you do not return on time.

**Relationships Abroad**
Behavior and relationships may be viewed differently in host communities than you are accustomed. Be aware of norms regarding gender, behavior, dating, and relationships in your host community. Public displays of affection may not be tolerated and different gender groups or friendships should be considered based upon your host community. It is important to educate yourself on the social norms and local laws, particularly in regard to gender equality and same-sex relationships. If possible, talk with peers, staff, or faculty who have been in the host community to obtain information, tips, and resources.

**Sexual and Interpersonal Violence and/or Harassment**
Miami University strongly opposes and will not tolerate harassment and discrimination on the basis of sex (including sexual harassment, sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking), race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, military status, or veteran status. This prohibition extends to harassment or discrimination, based on the protected status listed above, including the creation of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, educational, or living environment. To view Miami University’s Policy Prohibiting Harassment and Discrimination, please click on this link: Miami University Policy Prohibiting Harassment and Discrimination.

You have the right to be safe. Students who are studying abroad and experience sexual or interpersonal violence have access to Miami University resources, procedures, and protocol. If you are the victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault/misconduct, domestic/dating violence, or stalking you have many options, resources, and services available to you. Please see Miami University’s Title IX Protocol add link for complete information on resources, services, and options. The Sexual Assault Response Coordinator can be contacted by phone or email from abroad.

**Resources- Miami University**
**Title IX Protocol**
This Protocol describes how the University typically responds to reports of Title IX Offenses involving students. It also does the following: provides guidance for students who have been the victim of Title IX
Offenses, outlines the University's student disciplinary response to alleged sexual misconduct, and identifies the relevant organizations within the University responsible for the Protocol and programs associated with it.

Title IX Coordinator and Deputies

Title IX Coordinator- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in higher education. Sex discrimination includes sexual harassment and sexual violence. The University’s Title IX Coordinator is Ms. Kenya Ash, Director of the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity, Hanna House, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056. Ms. Ash may be reached at 513-529-7157 or ashkd@MiamiOH.edu.

Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Athletics-Ms. Jennifer A. Gilbert, Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator/Director of NCAA Compliance is the University’s Deputy Title IX Coordinator for matters related to equality of treatment and opportunity in Intercollegiate Athletics. This includes athletic financial assistance, accommodation of interest and abilities and equity of athletic program benefits. Ms. Gilbert may be reached at Millett Assembly Hall, Miami University, Oxford Ohio 45056, 513-529-3113 or gilberj2@MiamiOH.edu.

Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Student Sexual Assault-Ms. Rebecca Getson, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, is the University’s Deputy Title IX Coordinator for matters related to student sexual violence. This includes sexual misconduct, sexual violence, and sexual coercion of students. Ms. Getson also serves as the coordinator for matters relating to student domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Ms. Getson may be reached at Student Health Services, 104 Health Services Center, 421 S. Campus Avenue, Oxford, Ohio 45056, 513-529-1870 or getsonra@MiamiOH.edu.

Ofﬁce of the Dean of Students, 513-529-1877

We recognize that students come to our campus from many different places, with different backgrounds and different needs. Every effort is made to provide the best and most comprehensive resources possible for students’ intellectual growth and personal development.

Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity, 513-529-7157

The mission of the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) is to advance and sustain an environment of internal equity, diversity, and inclusiveness for all members of the Miami University Community by ensuring equal access to employment and educational opportunities; promoting fairness and equity; being respectful, impartial, and non-judgmental.

Harassment and Discrimination:

Respect for human diversity is an essential element of the Miami University community. Miami University strongly opposes and will not tolerate harassment and discrimination on the basis of sex (including sexual harassment, sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking), race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, military status, or veteran status. This prohibition extends to harassment or discrimination, based on the protected status listed above, including the creation of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, educational, or living environment. This policy also prohibits discrimination in employment based on genetic information as prohibited by the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA).
If you believe you have experienced harassment or discrimination, OEEO is here to assist you in resolving the issues. To report harassment or discrimination, or to schedule a meeting, please contact Ms. Tandy Hamm, Associate Director at (513) 529-7157, hammt@miamioh.edu or Hanna House, 219 E. Spring Street.

Office of Student Wellness, 513-529-8544

The Office of Student Wellness serves to enhance the community by providing educational resources and services that promote the health and wellness of Miami students. The office coordinates programming initiatives, provides information, raises awareness, and influences policies.

**Study Abroad, 513-529-8600**

The Study Abroad office in Global Initiatives supports students and faculty through advising and consulting services before, during, and after the education abroad experience. The Study Abroad office is also home to the Miami University Global Assistance Program (MU-GAP). This program supports faculty, staff, and student travelers through a well-coordinated, collaborative effort, with experts within the university, as well as contracted providers, and specialists in the study abroad profession and field.

**Resources- Non-Affiliated**

The following information provides resources not affiliated with Miami University.

Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center and the Sexual Assault Support & Help for Americans Abroad Program, International Toll-Free 866-USWOMEN

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network lists “International Sexual Assault Resources”, 1-800-656-HOPE

World Health Organization

NCADV lists “International Organization Resources”, 1-800-799-7233, TTY 1-800-787-3224

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) http://www.cdc.gov

US Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/go.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/go.html)

HTH Worldwide [http://www.hthworldwide.com](http://www.hthworldwide.com) Miami University’s supplemental insurance provider required for all students studying abroad. Covers medical and mental health care abroad, including translation services and health care case management, as well as repatriation coverage as needed.

International SOS [http://www.internationalsos.com](http://www.internationalsos.com) Provided by Miami University for all faculty, staff, and student travelers, ISOS provides supplemental emergency services from simple telephone advice from an expert, to passport replacement, to full-scale medical and security evacuations.