



ACADEMIC STUDIES ABROAD

TIPS ON BOOKING YOUR FLIGHT

You must book your flight and provide ASA with a copy of your itinerary at least 6 weeks before departure.

Please check your acceptance letter (mailed to you) for your program's specific departure and return dates!

▶ **You need to book a round trip ticket.** If you're applying for a student visa, you will need to show proof of a round trip ticket in order to get your visa. Even if you're not getting a visa, you should still book a round trip ticket because the Immigration officer at your arrival airport may ask to see your return ticket (to make sure you plan to leave the country).

▶ **Students are NOT allowed to move into their program housing before the official arrival date, nor may you stay after the official last day of the program.** You must make your own lodging arrangements for any extra days.

When should I depart? When should I return home?

Departure: You should depart the United States on the first day of the program. Because you'll have an overnight flight, the *second day* of the program is the **official arrival date.**

Return: We schedule the last day of every program to be a travel day. You may not leave the program until the very last day. Of course, if you plan to travel after the program ends, you should make your flight arrangements accordingly.

Departure/arrival dates for all our programs can be found on our website at

<http://www.academicstudies.com/helpful-info/departurearrival-dates>. Also, please check your acceptance letter (mailed to you) for your program's specific departure and return dates!

How to arrive in time for the Airport Pick-up:

▶ **ASA provides an AIRPORT PICK-UP for students who arrive at the designated airport on the official arrival date, by the designated time.**

▶ **PLEASE CHECK THE TIMES LISTED BELOW TO ENSURE YOU ARE PICKED UP AT THE AIRPORT. THESE ARRIVAL TIMES REFER TO YOUR FLIGHT'S SCHEDULED ARRIVAL TIME. We realize it will take you additional time to clear Immigration and retrieve your luggage before you reach the arrivals lobby.**

▶ **STUDENTS MUST ARRIVE BY THE FOLLOWING TIMES ON THE OFFICIAL ARRIVAL DATE (described above):**

Aix-en-Provence students must arrive at Marseille airport (MRS) by 5pm.

Barcelona students must arrive at Barcelona airport (BCN) by 2pm.

Buenos Aires students must arrive at Buenos Aires airport (EZE) by 2pm.

Dublin students must arrive at Dublin airport (DUB) by 12pm (noon).

Florence students must arrive at Florence airport (FLR) by 2pm.

London students must arrive at London Heathrow airport (LHR) by 7:30am.

Oxford students must arrive at London Heathrow airport (LHR) by 7:30am.

Rome students must arrive at Rome airport (FCO) by 2pm. Housing check-in closes at 7pm on arrival day. If your flight is delayed, you may miss housing check-in and have to stay in a hotel for the night, so the earlier your arrival time, the better.

Salamanca and Madrid students must arrive at Madrid airport (MAD) by 2pm.

Sevilla students must arrive at Sevilla airport (SVQ) by 8pm.

Viña del Mar students must arrive at Santiago airport (SCL) by 10am.

What if I have a missed connection or flight delay? Will you still pick me up?

If your flight has been delayed, we will make every effort to wait for you. However, it is YOUR responsibility to notify ASA immediately if you will not be arriving as scheduled by calling the emergency phone number for your program location. This phone number will be found in your pre-departure guide, which you'll receive approximately one month prior to departure.

What websites do you recommend for booking flights?

For discounted student airfare, go to <http://www.studentuniverse.com/travel/asa>. (You are under no obligation to book your flight there.)

While those student airfares are usually lower than what you'll find on the Internet or through travel agencies, we also encourage you to check the following websites for flights because student fares are not *always* lower in price:

- www.sidestep.com (very helpful! this searches multiple airlines' websites at once to find you the best fare)
- Go directly to the website of the airline you're looking for (i.e. www.aa.com, www.delta.com, etc.)
- www.expedia.com**
- www.cheaptickets.com**
- www.orbitz.com**

****Note:** Please be aware that many tickets are non-refundable and non-changeable. With student fares, however, you can usually change the departure/return date for a fee of anywhere from \$50-\$250 plus fare difference.

More tips:

- Check the departure/arrival dates carefully before purchasing a ticket. **Example: make sure that there are no airport-to-airport connections (example: arrive to LaGuardia and depart from JFK).**
- Check your acceptance letter to make sure you are arriving at the correct airport, on the correct day, and at the correct time for our airport pick-up.
- **Make sure your ticket does not include an overnight layover by checking your departure and arrival times carefully.** Example: Land at London Heathrow at 7pm; depart Heathrow at 7am the next day.
- **Avoid** websites like www.hotwire.com and www.priceline.com or any other site where you must purchase the ticket before knowing what your itinerary is. While the prices may be good, you will usually end up with an undesirable itinerary (i.e. multiple connections, long layovers, overnight layovers, etc.) An overnight layover, for example, *increases* your total cost because you would have to get a hotel room for the night. In addition, sites like this do not tell you what airline(s) you're on, what time you're leaving, arriving, etc. until you purchase the ticket. Past experiences have shown that the inconveniences you get with these types of tickets are usually not worth the relatively small savings.
- If you think you may want to change your return date later, check your ticket's Terms & Conditions before purchasing to see if dates changes are allowed, and if so, how much will it cost.