



UNIVERSITY
DIRECT
ENROLLMENT
PRE-DEPARTURE
MEETING

CARLETON COLLEGE
SPRING, 2020

IDEAS TO THINK ABOUT:

Behind different curricula and different methods of teaching there are culturally-driven assumptions.

Examining the education system of another country transfers to other institutions in society – such as the economy, health care, family patterns, etc.

Education reflects, shapes, and transmits major characteristics and accomplishments of a given culture – cultural survival is at stake!

HOW CAN YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR DIRECT ENROLLMENT PROGRAM?

Read about

Read about your destination country – its geography, history, politics and culture.

Research

Research the history of your university and your host country's higher education system – one place to look is the university's website (course catalog, extracurricular activity options, dorms and other facilities).

Attend

Attend pre-departure meetings at Carleton and don't hesitate to contact the OCS office or your program provider with questions.

Know

Most local students will know a lot about American culture & politics. Make sure you're informed and ready to engage!

CARLETON POLICIES

- Courses you listed in your **OCS Application for Approval** may change once you arrive on site – if this happens, email OCS to determine if you can receive credit.
- You have been approved for up to **28 Carleton credits**. If you want these credits to apply to your graduation requirement areas or to your major/minor:
 1. Consult the relevant department chair
 2. Once you return from your program, an **OCS Credit Distribution Form** needs to be filled out and submitted to the Registrar.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AND DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Orientation Session

Housing

Selecting Courses

Teaching methods, course assignments, and grading

Using the library and campus technology

Social life and extra-curricular activities

ENGLISH-SPEAKING ORIENTATION

- Orientation sessions are useful and often mandatory
- Provider orientation activities and meetings will:
 - acquaint you with staff, the country and culture, policies and procedures related to academics and the provider
 - give you a chance to relax, explore, and familiarize you with some local customs and laws
 - give you information about practical matters like cell phones, travel, activities and excursions throughout the semester
- University orientation happens after provider orientation, once you are settled on campus. Fall students get “freshers’” week.

ORIENTATION IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Orientation sessions are useful and often mandatory
- Upon arrival, host families assist their students in learning the best route to/from orientation and class.
- Orientation will involve:
 - intensive language training
 - cultural and academic acclimation
 - class selection and advising
 - registration
 - recreational activities

ENGLISH SPEAKING HOUSING



University housing with locals AND other international students OR apartments with fellow Americans



Residence halls are generally self-catering; few have meal plans



You can prioritize selection of certain residences, look online



Some have wireless, some do not; resources vary



A lot of social and sporting events are built around housing units

HOST FAMILIES



Student role is as a respectful family member in another culture



Families vary (e.g. two parents with kids, a widowed grandmother, twenty-something couples, a single parent with grown children, large extended families, or a retired couple)



Your family should provide for your room and board, your general daily welfare, and your inclusion in a variety of family routines



Get to know your family, help around the house, reflect on daily routines, and learn about the culture!

COURSE SELECTION

1. You have already provided a course plan with alternates, but you may not know which courses will actually be offered until you arrive.
2. Registration at the university happens in the first few days.
3. Email Carleton your final course selection
4. No pass/fail grades allowed; you must maintain full-time status
5. Save all your coursework to bring home
6. For study abroad students in Spain and Latin America, it may help academically and socially to choose **two** or more courses within a given *Carrera*
7. When you return, your grades from abroad **WILL** appear on your Carleton transcript but **WILL NOT** factor into your GPA

ENGLISH SPEAKING ACADEMIC CULTURE

UK

- Tends to the lecture style with little classroom interaction.
- Oxford is an experience in itself (tutorials)

Australia

- Universities tend to follow the modern British educational style with some differences
- Expect less class time, less direction (syllabi are not as specific), and more intense individual study
- In Australia it is not “cool” to talk about studying hard
- Utilize all the support services including talking with your professor or TA to make sure you are on track

NON-ENGLISH ACADEMIC CULTURE

- Latin American and Spanish students often study in groups– they meet to review exams and share notes during the semester. It's a cooperative learning experience.
- Expect less class time, and more intense individual study.
- Buy binders when you arrive: most courses avoid the expense of textbooks by photocopying all reading material for the semester.
- Most professors don't hold office hours, so students must try to catch them before/after class.
- Professors and students have more relaxed concept of time
- Keep everything: registration forms, all course work, syllabi, etc.
- Keep your own academic pace! It may seem like local students aren't studying much, but it's unlikely and they are probably just keeping a different schedule. You know how much you need to study.

LANGUAGE ISSUES

- Speak Spanish/French before departure (books, online newspapers, conversation partners, movies with subtitles)
- Spanish/French begins from the moment you land, and you will experience “language fatigue” at some point during your semester abroad
- Prepare yourself to relearn basic tasks (dialing the phone, bus systems, social norms, currency)
- Expect homesickness and frustration, especially as your brain “re-starts” its linguistic function.
- Some students like bringing digital recorders for class
- “If you’re not making a fool of yourself several times a day, you aren’t trying hard enough.”

DRESS CODE, CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

- In Latin America and Spain, short-shorts, camisoles, and ball caps are not appropriate
- Students dress well for class (no pajamas, sweatshirts, or flip-flops)
- Expect poor acoustics and classroom distractions (smoking, cell phones, traffic noise)

TECHNOLOGY

- Expect to rely on campus facilities and public space (coffee shops, internet cafes, etc.)
- As a student of the university, you will have full access to libraries and facilities with your student ID
- Often, technology infrastructure is not as heavily invested in as in the U.S. Expect slower speeds, fewer academic resources, and varying time when shops, restaurants, or public transportation is available. Don't presume!

SOCIAL LIFE AND EXTRACURRICULARS

- Be a “regular.”
- Recognize that you’re there as a temporary study abroad student and that you’ll need to make an extra effort to get to know local students.
- Expect to venture outside your social comfort zone.
- Join in group dinners or offer to cook!
- Join a club or sport team.
- If you see someone often, say hi.
- Seek contacts outside of U.S. circle – Make the most of your time abroad and seize every opportunity!