

Guide on International Travel for Individuals with Disabilities

Purpose: This document serves as a guide for University of the South trip coordinators to help ensure a positive experience for participants with disabilities while traveling outside of the USA.

- While this guide is not intended for travel with-in the USA, it may still provide helpful information.

Important Information:

- **An individual can not be denied participation in travel due solely to their status as an individual with a disability.** Individuals may work with coordinators to determine if they can be accommodated or not based on the limitations of the destination. If coordinators have health and safety concerns for a participant with a disability, they should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) or Human Resources/ADA Office for support based on the participant's status at the UoS.
 - **Interactive processes may result in the university not being able to ensure health/safety during a trip, which may limit opportunities.**
- Individuals with disabilities receive protections in the USA due to multiple laws, including the ADA-AA, Fair Housing Act, and the Rehabilitation Act. These protections are not enforceable outside of the USA.
 - Local laws may vary, individuals should refer to national and regional laws before traveling.
- Some countries around the world have their own laws to protect individuals with disabilities, but not all. The United Nations has a list of [Disability Laws and Acts by Country/Area](#).

Travel:

- Individuals with disabilities should contact their airline ahead of time if they need assistance with mobility, seating accommodations, and/or loading and stowing mobility devices. [ABCs of Accessible Travel](#)
- Individuals with Service Animals should inquire about quarantine laws of their intended destination to ensure they are able to stay with their animal as quarantine periods may be lengthy. [USDA Pet Export Guidance](#).
 - ESA's may also travel with their owners but fall under Airline's Pet Policies. ESA owners should inquire about their country of destination to see if ESA's are honored. ESA recognition varies by country.
- Individuals who utilize medications should check with the country of their

destination, as well as any layovers, to make sure medicines are permitted.

- The [CDC](#) warns to not purchase medications while abroad, as counterfeit drugs are common in some countries.

Health:

- Individuals with ongoing physical or mental health needs should research their destination to ensure access to providers as needed (including emergency)
 - Things to consider are;
 - Cost,
 - Location,
 - Language/Translation Services,
 - Communication (cell phones, land lines, international cost),
 - Transportation,
 - Availability of pharmacies.
- Individuals with disabilities should consider access to electricity, water, refrigeration, and privacy as they make plans for their needs.
- Individuals may want to contact their health insurance providers to see if/how their plan would cover international care.

Questions/Statement to include information packet:

- Inclusive Travel Statement:
 - The University of the South makes a good-faith effort to ensure access and support for all ability types during university-sponsored trips off the domain, based on the resources of the destination. Limitations of access may be out of the University's control.
- Add a question in the information packet about access needs
 - Example of wording:
 - "If you have questions about Access or Accessibility, please contact (program coordinator)."
 - "Please share any questions or concerns you have regarding accessibility or accommodations for this upcoming trip." (info form after acceptance)
- Individuals with disabilities should review the medication laws of their destination before traveling, as prescriptions that are legal in the United States may be restricted or prohibited elsewhere. Many countries, including layover countries, limit the quantity of controlled substances that may be carried and require specific documentation.
 - Travelers should carry medications in their original prescription bottles whenever possible, along with photos of the prescription label or a doctor's letter listing each medication, dosage, and indication. This

documentation is often required for controlled substances and helps prevent confiscation, delays, or denial of entry at customs.

For further assistance, please contact;

- Student Accessibility Services at sas@sewanee.edu
 - Undergraduate and Grad Students
- Human Resources/ ADA at ada@sewanee.edu or hr@sewanee.edu
 - Employees
 - Guest
 - Program Attendees
 - Other