



Image Description: Student holding an MSU flag in Antarctica.

# EDUCATION ABROAD

## ACCESSIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Please note this document is intended to be thought-provoking, not a list of requirements for education abroad programs.

Use this accessibility questionnaire when creating a new program or reassessing an existing one. The purpose of this questionnaire is not to encourage faculty away from unique, potentially inaccessible locations. Instead, it is meant to guide faculty in providing the best experience possible for students with disabilities.

### **CLASSROOM ACCESSIBILITY (LOCATION, FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT, ETC.)**

- Is the classroom space on the ground floor?
  - If not, is there a functional elevator?
  - Are there any stairs to get into the building? If so, is there a ramp?
- Is the classroom furniture compatible with a wheelchair/walker?
- Is preferential seating available in your classroom?
  - Preferential seating is allowing a student to sit in a location that is the most beneficial for their learning. Due to students' unique needs, preferential seating locations will vary.
- Is there a sensory limited space available?
  - This is a space meant to provide calm by reducing sensory experiences. Ideally, this room should limit noise and be used as a retreat for students who feel overstimulated.

### **COMMUNIATION**

- Does your course structure allow for students to be called on only when they volunteer to speak, have their hand raised, or are given advance notice when they will need to speak in class?

### **TAKING NOTES DURING CLASS**

- Do you offer note taking assistance?
  - Sharing lecture notes/handouts/PowerPoints.
  - Allowing established partnership between students.
- Do you authorize use of technology during class, such as audio recordings?

## **READING TEXTS REQUIRED FOR CLASS**

- Are class readings in MS Word, text only, or PDF?
  - If your readings are in PDF format, they may not be readable by screen readers.
  - If textbooks are not accessible, provide the text to the RCPD 30-60 days prior to the study abroad program.
- Are images described by text?
- Will you provide readings in advance of your program?

## **ASSIGNMENTS/TESTING**

- Is your class schedule conducive to allowing extended time for assignments and/or testing?
- Are your classroom activities or group work plans mindful of accessibility needs?
- Is there a separate testing room a student can complete a test and/or assignment?
- For assignments and/or testing, are you able to provide enlarged formatting?
- Can students receive instructions both verbally and in written form?

## **HOUSING**

Even if you're staying in a hotel, do not assume the selected housing is accessible. Please consider the questions below:

- Is there wheelchair accessible housing?
  - Is housing on the ground floor?
    - If not, are there elevators?
  - Is the hallway 3 – 4 ft wide or wider?
  - Is there a 30" minimum door width or wider?
  - Are there any stairs to get into the building? If so, is there a ramp?
- Are there proper bathroom modifications?
  - Are there grab bars for the toilet?
  - Is there a shower or a tub?
  - Are there grab bars in the shower/tub?
  - Does the shower or tub have a seat available?
  - Can a shower seat be requested from the housing facility?
- Is single-person housing available?
- Are there allergens in the housing that may affect students with lung diseases or ailments?

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- Is wheelchair accessible transportation available?
  - Are there wheelchair accessible taxis?
  - Is there a form of public transportation that is wheelchair accessible?
- Are the walking routes accessible to all students?
  - Are you crossing a bridge?
  - Are there stairs?
- Are students able to rent wheelchairs in the host country?

## **HEALTH CARE**

- Does your program location restrict certain medications?
- Is there a private refrigerator available for certain medications?

## **HEALTH CARE CONTINUED**

- For medical devices that rely on charging (i.e., power wheelchair, cochlear implants), is there a way to charge them throughout the entirety of the program?
  - Remember, an adapter will most likely be necessary for charging medical devices.
- Can students purchase health necessities abroad?
  - Diabetes test strips, hearing aid batteries, etc.
- Is there a stigma towards certain disabilities in your host country?

## **DIETARY**

- Does the housing arrangement guarantee protection from cross contamination of allergens?
- Do the restaurants for your group meals cater to common food allergies and diets?
  - Gluten, lactose, shellfish, peanuts, halal, vegan, etc.

## **PLANNING**

- Have you notified all in-country contacts of your program's accessibility needs?
- Have you discussed your questions and/or concerns with the RCPD and Education Abroad?