# Site Visit/Program Location Considerations

**CALS Study Abroad Office**

CALS faculty and staff thinking about developing a new faculty-led study abroad program is encouraged to conduct a site visit to explore the academic learning opportunities, cultural opportunities, safety and convenience of the program location. A site visit gives program directors an opportunity to become familiar with the program site.

Goals of site visits include exploring:

## Lodging options

* Type of lodging - hotel/dorm/hostel
* Room options: single/double/triple rooms
* Expected cost for lodging
* Safety measures like fire code/alarms/exits
* Contact name, address and phone numbers for correspondence and negotiations
* Payment methods accepted - check/wire/credit/cash
* Terms of deposits, payment deadlines and cancellation

**Dining Options**

* Proximity to lodging
* Estimated cost for food
* Options for individuals with dietary issues

## Transportation

* Forms of transportation - public/private
* Options for groups of different sizes - vans/coaches
* Private coaches - safety and reputation
* Coach drivers - are their lodging and food expenses included?
* Estimated cost for transportation
* Payment methods accepted - check/wire/credit/cash
* Terms of deposits, payment deadlines and cancellation

**Miscellaneous**

* Opportunities for academic learning, cross cultural interaction
* Opportunities for students for extracurricular and social activity
* Opportunities to integrate with local students
* Transportation to those activities
* Currency exchange locations
* Language barrier
* Health and Safety issues to share with students
* Medical care facilities
* Your and your hosts’ impression of quality and range of care available
* Communication options for students – computer/internet access, cell phones
* Program elements to determine participant selection