I'M GOING ABROAD??? WHAT DO I DO NOW?

A TIMELINE FOR YOUR GLOBAL ENTRY SEMESTER (GES) PREPARATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS!! You’ve accepted Colby College’s offer to study abroad your first semester. Now what?? The timeline below will show you, by month, some of the important information and/or tasks that will be sent to you and must be completed by the requested dates given in the mailings.

This information will be sent to you (not to your parents) so it is your responsibility to be sure to read your emails, check your mailbox and complete forms on time. You are the one traveling and studying in Dijon or Salamanca and you should be aware of the information and procedures needed to get you there.

The information below is shown, in order of priority, to help you prepare and look ahead to your study abroad experience. As eager as you may be to accomplish some things ahead of time, there is an order in which things must be done. Please follow below and do not rush ahead.

If you have questions over the next few months, please send me, Sue Forbes, an email at smforbes@colby.edu or you may post your questions on the Facebook group for your group (Dijon or Salamanca). Thank you! Sue

APRIL/MAY

1. Information Sheet for Incoming GES Students. This will be emailed to the email address we have on file for you. Please complete this form, following the instructions in the email, and return, via email, as soon as possible. Where we ask for First, Middle & Last Name, please put your actual (legal) First name, Middle name and Last name as it appears on your passport – if you prefer to be called by another name, nickname, or to go by your middle name, please make a note on the form BUT the name on the form needs to match your legal name (the name that is on your passport).

2. Do you have a valid passport?? You must have a valid passport to study abroad (it must be valid through June 30, 2019). If you do not have a passport, apply for one TODAY. Do NOT put this off. If you have a passport that expires before June 2019, apply for a renewal TODAY. (YES! That is one year from now....passports must be valid for 6 months past your return date, which will be in December) http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

3. Alternate (non-school) email address? This is requested on the Information Sheet, please be sure to list this. Make sure you check this email frequently to be sure you do not miss any important information. Emails will be sent to this address until your Colby email has been set up. You should, forward emails to your parents for their information but it is your responsibility to complete the required forms and reply to them on time.

4. Join the Facebook Group for your group. This will have updates and reminders throughout the summer. Please invite your parents (if they have FB) to join also. This is a closed group — only students (GES) and their parent/guardian will be allowed to join.
   a. For Dijon: https://www.facebook.com/groups/144675476203419/
   b. For Salamanca: https://www.facebook.com/groups/182054342558910/

5. Host family preference form. This will be emailed to you at the email address we have on file for you. Please complete this form, following the instructions in the email, and return, via email, as soon as you receive it but no later than the date given in the email (usually May 15). Also, it is very important that you give us your full, actual (legal) name on all forms. Where we ask for First, Middle, & Last name, please put your legal First name, Middle name and Last name — if you prefer to be called another name, nickname, or to go by your middle name, please make a note on the form BUT the name on the forms need to match your legal name (the name that is on your passport). You will be notified of your host family assignment usually in late July/early August.

6. Activate your Colby email address as soon as you receive the information to do so, please do not delay. You will start receiving lots of information and much of it will be sent to your Colby accounts so the sooner you activate and start using this account, the better. Please notify me, Sue Forbes, when you have done this. Send me an email FROM your Colby email address to smforbes@colby.edu.

7. Passport copy & Photos: You will receive an email requesting some information/copies, it is important that you respond as soon as possible with the requested information including:
   • A request for a copy of your passport (must be valid through June 30 of next year) and 2 (or 3) passport-sized photos as requested in the email. The photos must be actual, real passport-type photos—scans and copies
are not accepted). NOTE: If you are having photos made, please have extras made — minimum 4 (or 6). You will send some to me and will need some (1 or 2) for your visa appointment.

MAY/JUNE
1. **Group flight information & travel reply form.** This will be sent by email to the email address we have on file for you. Please review this information and complete the travel reply form as soon as possible but no later than the date given in the email. This is necessary for us to hold a seat for you on the group flights.

2. **VISA APPLICATION mailing (first mailing).** This will be mailed from Off-Campus Study to your home address and will arrive in early June. This packet will contain information, instructions, and forms you will need for your visa application. **KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE & DO NOT LOSE!** The letters included are your original letters (and copies) you will need along with a list of the other students going with you and your pre-departure handbook. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that you open this packet when you receive it, look over the letters carefully and make sure your name is spelled correctly. If not, let me (Sue Forbes) know as soon as possible so I can get the letter(s) corrected. Read the information and start the process, do not delay. For Dijon: please note that the Colby letter included with this mailing is the letter you will need for both your visa appointment and CampusFrance—be sure to keep the original for the visa appointment & a copy should go (as the requested acceptance letter) to CampusFrance (the letter is signed by Nancy Downey and dated June 1). For Salamanca: please note that the family name given in your letter is NOT your actual host family, the name given is for your visa application only. You will find out your actual host family name in late July/early August. For the purpose of your visa application, please use the family name given in the letter you receive.

3. **Make sure your Colby email is activated and check this account daily.** Information will be sent to your Colby email address not just from OCS (Sue Forbes) but other departments on Campus.

4. **REVIEW the website of the Consulate you will be going to.** Be sure you have the latest information on what you need for your visa appointment (Consulates change their requirements frequently, do NOT only go by what we sent to you but double-check the consulate website for current requirements. This is your responsibility to check and be prepared for any changes to the consulate’s requirements.

JUNE/JULY
1. **The second mailing** will arrive in your home mailbox from Off-Campus Study early in the first week of July. This packet will contain the Assumption of Risk form and a Student & Parent/Guardian Statement (both due by mid-July), a book (for Salamanca GES students) and other information including the iNext supplemental insurance. Colby College purchases the iNext Platinum plus security evacuation supplemental travel insurance for all GES students, you do not need to purchase this. This Platinum level supplementary insurance offers benefits such as accident and sickness expenses, some medical coverage, emergency medical transportation, 24-hour medical, legal and travel assistance, and travel document replacement. **This coverage is a supplement to your primary medical coverage. You should review your primary medical insurance regarding your coverage while abroad to be sure you and your family are comfortable with the amount of coverage you have.** Once iNext is purchased by us, you will receive an email directly from them. Follow the instructions to upload a photo to have an id card mailed to you.

2. **Flight confirmation & itinerary will be emailed to you.** All “tickets” are electronic, the itinerary you receive will have your ticket number listed near your name. Be sure to print this off and bring with you to the airport. Some of you may also need to provide a copy of this when you go for your visa appointment at the consulate.

3. **List of email addresses** of all students going with your group will be emailed to you.

JULY/AUGUST
1. **Host family assignments** will be emailed to you at the end of July or early in August. If, after you receive your assignment, you would like more information about your host family, please contact your program director directly (either Jon for Dijon or Julia for Salamanca).

2. **Information on your departure** and reminders will be emailed to you in mid-August.

3. **Travel to Maine:** Colby College looks forward to welcoming you to Waterville on Saturday, August 25, when you will meet the other students on both GES groups (Dijon & Salamanca) and begin your orientation. Both groups will leave from Maine on Tuesday, August 28, for flight departures from Boston (Logan airport).

***Remember to check your email frequently. Read all materials sent to you carefully & thoroughly and to follow the instructions. It is your responsibility to be sure things are completed and returned on time.***