

# Questions to Consider Before Going Abroad

One of the main reasons in the decision making process to study abroad is to experience something new and different than our own familiar American lives. Even with this excitement of something new, often upon arrival a student is amazed at how many differences there are between the country they came to and the United States. A huge help in decreasing culture shock is to have some general knowledge of the country. Here are some questions to get you started.

- Do you know the general setup of the government? Do you know the country's capitol and other significant cities?
- What is the normal diet of the country? At what time of day is their largest meal?
- What are the gender roles in this society? Are they different or similar to that of the United States?
- What is the normal dress code? Are they more formal than the United States?
- How do they greet one another? How close do they stand to one another when having a normal conversation?
- Would you be able to recognize slang of the region? (in English as well as foreign languages—what forms do they use to speak to one another to show respect vs. casually)
- How do most people get around? What mode of transportation do they use?