

Student Pre- Departure Orientation Tips & Best Practices



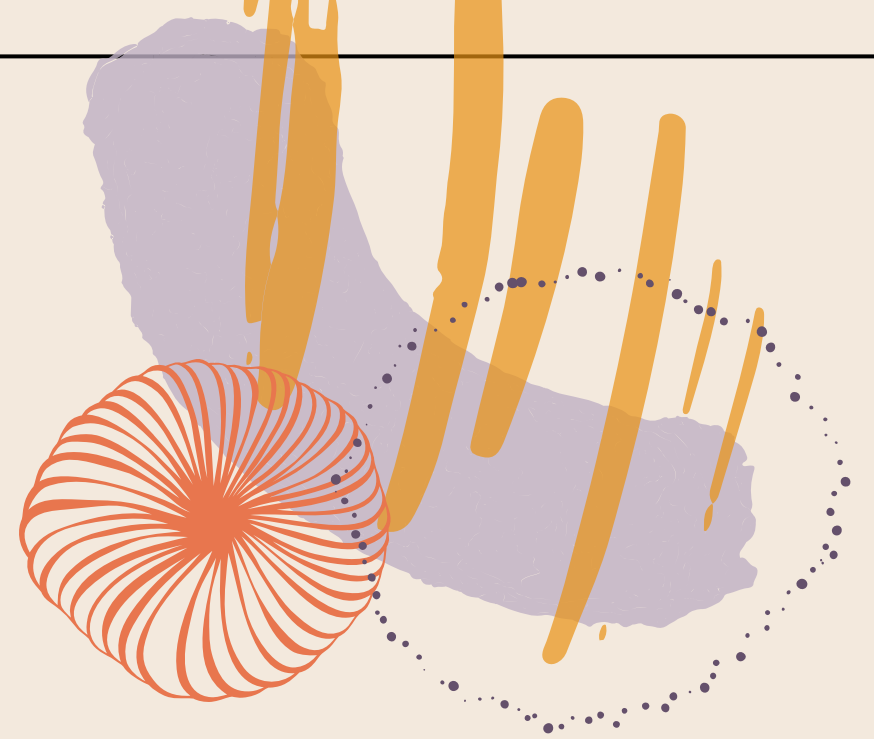
Pam Hendrix Center for

EDUCATION ABROAD

January 24, 2025

Faculty Next Steps

- Schedule Orientation(s)
 - At least one session
 - If you do not meet more than once, communicate frequently with your group (bi-weekly recommended)
 - Notify PHCEA or your College contact when scheduled if assistance is needed and you would like the PHCEA/Program Manager or Study Abroad Advisor to attend
 - Students will look to you as the expert on program-specific course and travel information
 - Providers/Vendors should be able to assist with additional materials and detailed information, if needed



Orientation Topics

Logistics & Travel

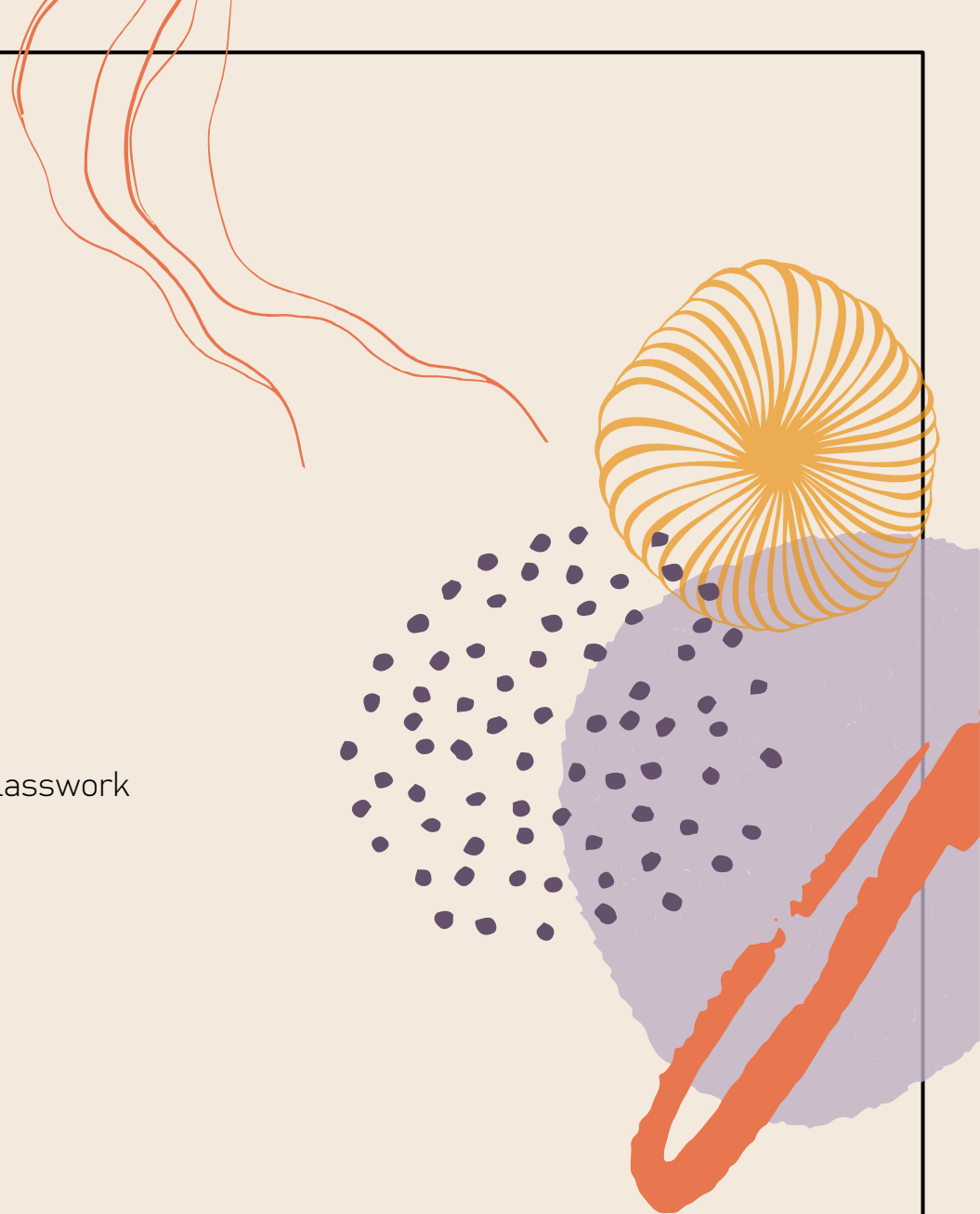
- o Location information
 - o Specific cities
 - o Key points of interest/significance
 - o History, political structure, climate
 - o What cultural differences they may encounter
 - o Academic and cultural significance of the location – explain why this location was selected
 - o Share pictures when possible
- o Flight Details
 - o Recommended flights
 - o Arrival times and departure times
- o Arrival procedures
 - o Contingency plan for delayed flights
 - o Initial meeting points /communication plan / contact information



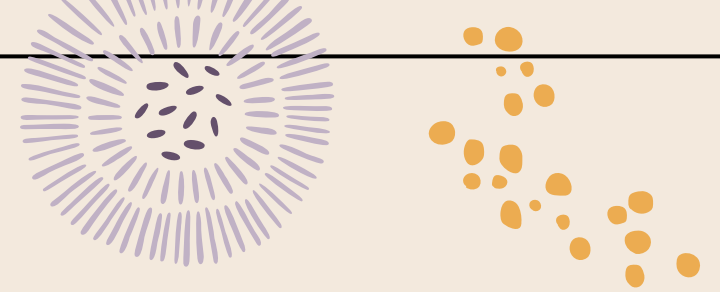
Orientation Topics

Logistics & Travel

- Information about accommodations
 - Room sharing & bathroom expectations
 - Provided meals / Meal options around accommodations
 - Proximity to local transportation and/or classroom/area of study
- Food and dietary restrictions – Allergy card in local language
- Site specific health & safety or security considerations
- Challenge students to research the location prior to departure
 - Consider student presentations about the site as part of pre-departure classwork
 - Provide a recommended packing list specific to location
 - Consider weather, site visits, classrooms, supplies needed, etc.
- Transportation – how will they get around the city
- Expectations on walking, terrain, distances, free time and breaks
- Encourage adaptability!



Orientation Topics



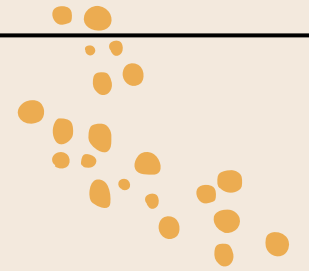
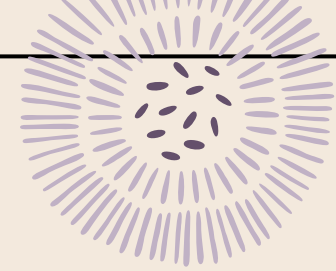
Academic Overview

- Setting expectations around on-site workload
- Course overview
- Overview of program with daily/weekly schedule & itinerary
 - Walk-through day-to-day structure
- Syllabus review
- Information about any planned cultural excursions/activities related to class
 - Dress and behavior
- Accessibility and accommodations

Behavior on Programs

- Honor codes, Commitment to Diversity, Community Standards
- Classroom expectations and program excursions
- Emphasize timeliness, communication, respect for guides/speakers and each other
- Right to dismissal

Orientation Topics



Financial Matters

- Personal funds – how much should they expect to spend?
- Local Currency – currency conversion
- Economy
 - Cash-only? Prevalence of credit/debit card use?
 - Purchasing expectations – bartering vs fixed pricing?
 - Tipping culture

Communication

- How to contact program leaders and peers before arrival and onsite
- Communicating with loved ones at home
- What resources are on-site for communication (Wi-Fi?)
- Help encourage reasonable expectations for contacting loved ones upon arrival



Student Next Steps

- Complete Pre-Departure Requirements
 - Located in Terra Dotta
 - Attend in-person General Pre-Departure Session for Faculty-Directed Programs with PHCEA
 - Mandatory
 - Scheduled in March/April for Summer program participants (dates are already posted on student's application)
 - Covers **GENERAL** information, not program specific
 - Attend Program PDO
 - Make mandatory
 - Any additional meetings/classes
 - Complete any pre-program assignments