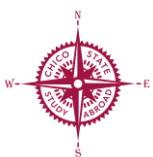




LGBTQ COMMUNITY & STUDY ABROAD

The more aware individuals are about the culture in which they are living, the more rewarding their experience will be. This is also true for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students embarking upon an international adventure. Chico State Study Abroad is committed to providing a safe place for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender students and their allies. Our goal is to provide exceptional and personalized advising for all students in order to create an incredible Study Abroad experience which fits their needs.



While Abroad

You will find that attitudes and tolerance toward gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered issues vary from country to country, and even within the U.S. Some countries are more welcoming and legally protective than the U.S. while others may be less accepting or more restrictive. All students need to be aware of the legal issues related to sexuality in other countries of where they plan to travel.

First Steps in Preparing Journey

While the Study Abroad Office at Chico State serves as a safe zone for the LGBTQ community, your new host country and its citizens may represent a different cultural climate. Depending on this climate, you may need to look outside of the office for support related to LGBTQ community information.

The first step in preparing for your journey is to thoroughly research your host country and region. Take the time to learn about:

- Laws of the host culture
- Norms/styles of behavior in the host culture
- LGBTQ media
- General attitudes toward LGBTQ persons
- Meeting places

Safety

It is important for students to recognize how behavioral signals which mean one thing in the U.S. may mean something completely different in a foreign culture. Depending upon the situation, the consequences could potentially be dangerous. Physical harassment, assault, and even rape are issues both women and men have to consider when interacting with various cultures due to chance of misinterpretations of behavior or speech.

Furthermore, the legal system in the country may not offer protection for the victims when issues of sexual orientation or other behavior are involved. You are encouraged to explore and research the cultural, legal, and social issues relevant to the country where you plan to study and travel.

