WHEN YOU RETURN
A journey abroad is a time of personal growth and discovery. Many transformations in personal development and self-awareness can occur, prompted by the fact that the restrictions of the home culture have been removed. Returning home is therefore a time of transition that can be difficult at times.

- If you choose to come out while abroad, how will this affect your return to friends and family?
- Will you be able to re-integrate these relationships upon your return or will you need to find a different supportive community?
- Be aware before you come back home of the ways in which you may have changed both independent of and as a result of your coming out.
- Consider the implications of coming out when back home. Often family and friends may want to dismiss your sexual orientation and gender identity as temporary due to the experience abroad, rather than acknowledge a lifelong identity.

HOW TO GET STARTED
Come by the EAP and OAP Office or sign up on MyUCR Abroad for an Information Session to learn about study abroad opportunities and options.

Steps to sign up on MyUCR Abroad
1. Sign up online at www.eapoap.ucr.edu
2. Click the MyUCR Abroad link
3. Click and complete the Student Profile Sign-Up
4. After filling in all the information on each tab, click the yellow sign-in button, and then sign up for an Information Session

WHY STUDY ABROAD
Study Abroad can be the most rewarding experience of your college education—both academically and personally:

- You earn UC credit for the work you do on EAP or transfer credit on OAP.
- It’s affordable.
- The GPA requirements are reasonable ranging from 2.0 to 3.5.
- You don’t have to go away for a year.
- You don’t have to be fluent in another language.
- Programs are available for all majors and all class levels.
- Many programs focus on the sciences.
- Laboratory, internship, and field research opportunities are offered at many locations.
- International experience looks great on your résumé.
- EAP/OAP focuses on safety.
- It’s not too late to apply!

PREPARING TO STUDY ABROAD
Studying abroad is a golden opportunity to live in another culture, soak up a second language, and redefine yourself as a global citizen. If you’re lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, or an ally this could include expressing your sexual and gender identities in new ways.

Take that into account when you choose a study abroad location and program. Of course you’ll want to satisfy your academic and extracurricular needs, but also evaluate the aspects of the environment that could affect how you express your sexual orientation and gender identity. LGBT life exists almost everywhere, but the degree to which it’s visible at first glance varies. As you get to know people and places more intimately, you’ll usually find a plethora of welcoming institutions and hangouts. Approach expressing your sexual and gender identity as just another cross-cultural challenge.

Be positive and flexible, use sensitivity and openness in every interaction, and your time abroad will be the most satisfying of your life.

WHILE YOU’RE ABROAD
You will find that attitudes and tolerance toward gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues vary from country to country, and even within the US. Some countries are more welcoming and legally protective than the US, while others may be less accepting and more restrictive. All students need to be aware of the legal issues related to sexuality and gender in other countries. LGBT students need information regarding the receptivity and social climate of the host country.

Take the time to learn about:

- LGBT organizations and support resources
- Laws of the host culture
- Norms/styles of behavior in the host culture
- LGBT media
- General attitudes toward LGBT persons
- Meeting places
Off Campus Academic Experiences

Education Abroad Program and Opportunities Abroad Program
Olmsted Hall, Rm 2322
Tel: 951-827-2508
www.eapoap.ucr.edu

See us for your international needs!

Education Abroad Program
Opportunities Abroad Program
Travel Resource Library
International Student ID Cards

UCR LGBT Resource Center
245 Costo Hall
Tel: 951-827-2267
out@ucr.edu
www.out.ucr.edu

The LGBT Resource Center provides support, education, and advocacy regarding sexual orientation and gender identity for the UC Riverside