

Mandatory Pre-Departure Orientations

Orientation sessions are designed to ensure you get the most out of your study abroad experience and are therefore **MANDATORY**. They provide cultural information, health and safety information, travel information, academic guidelines, and the opportunity to meet other students on your program and ask questions. **It is mandatory to cover both parts of orientation. Failure to participate in orientation may make you ineligible to study abroad.**

Orientation Part I - LOGISTICS SESSION

Orientations for fall programs are usually scheduled for March or April. Orientations for spring programs are usually scheduled for October or November. All students are expected to attend

Orientation Part II - CULTURE LEARNING WORKSHOP

Complete the ON-LINE CULTURE LEARNING WORKSHOP (time requirement - approximately 3-5 hours) and email the completed short essay responses to studyabroad@hmc.edu no less than **one month** before your departure to study abroad.

Instructions for Completing the On-line Culture Learning Workshop

You are expected to work through Module 1 – from Section 1.1 through Section 1.7 – of the on-line workshop at <http://www2.pacific.edu/sis/culture/>. You will get the most out of this workshop if you complete each of the exercises and read the explanations for your answers. Reading the Cultural Encounter and Critical Incident sections that are sprinkled throughout will provide additional insights. While there may not be an example from the country where you will study, you should be able to extract the concepts needed to develop useful skills for understanding your host culture. Once you have completed the full Module, please respond thoughtfully to the essay questions below and send your responses to studyabroad@hmc.edu no less than **one month** before you depart for study abroad.

1. Decide where the US and your host culture are most likely to be different in the value continuums (Individualist/Collectivist, Universalist/Particularist, High Context/Low Context or Monochronic/Polychronic) and in communication styles (linear/circular, direct/indirect, informational engagement/relational engagement etc.) Which set of differences do you anticipate having the most trouble adjusting to and what can you do to deal with this challenge?
2. According to the orientation materials what is the difference between a helpful generalization and making potentially harmful over-generalizations or stereotypes? How might this apply to your answer in Question 1?
3. Which of the other exercises did you find most useful and how will you apply what you have learned from this exercise on your semester abroad?
4. Describe the process of cultural adjustment as described in the workshop. Have you ever experienced culture shock? How did you work your way through this? What are your strategies for dealing with the inevitable culture shock when you are abroad?

Orientation Part III – GLOBAL AMBASSADORS SESSION

This orientation provides the opportunity to learn from the experiences of previous study abroad students and is led by our on campus [Global Ambassadors](#). Orientations for fall programs are usually scheduled for March or April. Orientations for spring programs are usually scheduled for October or November. All students are expected to attend