

Safety Abroad



Your safety is held in the highest regard on all SPEA Abroad opportunities. Each program goes through a lengthy approval process by IU's Overseas Study Advisory Council (OSAC), which bases its decisions on regional safety, U.S. State Department travel notices, the security of student housing, and the quality of education, among other factors. However, just as in the United States, situations outside of our precautions and control can occur. It is our hope that your overseas experience will be crime free, but it is our goal for you to be prepared for any situation.

Don't Become Another Pickpocketing Statistic

The most common crime against travelers abroad is personal theft. Pickpocketing is a form of theft that involves the stealing of money, passports or other valuables from a victim without their noticing the theft at the time.

- In 2012, **600,000** people in the U.K. suffered from personal theft (**90%** were victims of pickpockets).
- The estimated # of professional thieves in Barcelona is **300+**. Your odds of being pickpocketed are **1/4**.

Understanding Violent Crime Abroad

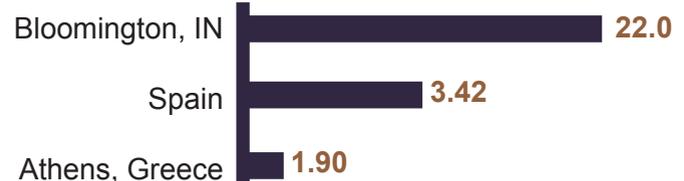
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- 1** Many study abroad locations are statistically safer than cities in Indiana.
- 2** Less than 1 percent of American tourists are victims of violent crime overseas.
- 3** Factors that contributed to documented cases include: alcohol or drug use, not being aware of surroundings, traveling alone at night, carrying expensive goods, and willfully entering unsafe situations.

Homicide rate per 100,000 residents



Sexual Assault rate per 100,000 residents



*Data is from U.S. Department of State and city-data.com. Differences in statistics may be in part from varying reporting standards and crime definitions.

Pre-Travel Safety Checklist

- 1 Be prepared for an emergency: Make sure you have the contact information for the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate where you are going. You should also be aware of the closest police station and hospital.
- 2 Make several copies of your passport and other important documents. Leave a copy at home with family, then pack a copy in each of your bags.

Safety on the Ground

- 1 Try to minimize your appearance as a tourist, as thieves consider tourists easy targets. Don't draw attention to yourself by wearing flashy clothing or a baseball cap, carrying expensive goods, talking loud in English, or acting outside of culturally appropriate behavior.
- 2 Travel in pairs (especially at night) and never go to a secluded location with someone you don't know. Do not let a stranger enter your secure housing and keep your doors locked at all times.
- 3 If you have a wallet, carry it in your front pocket, perhaps wrapped in a rubber band to make it harder to slip out of your pocket; clutch purses and hold backpacks so that the zipper is against you or use a key ring/carabineer to latch zippers shut.
- 4 Be vigilant of your surroundings and those around you.
- 5 If you're a victim of a theft, don't fight your assailant. Report the crime to the local police and to an IU staff member immediately.

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

- 1 Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination location, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- 2 Help the nearest U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- 3 Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

Alcohol Safety

We want your time overseas to be a positive and enriching experience. We also want you to enjoy the local culture, which does involve alcohol in many locations. However, we also want you to be respectful of local customs and consume alcohol in safe ways.

The fact is:

You are significantly more vulnerable to crime when under the influence of alcohol.

The fact is:

While the drinking age is lower than the U.S. in many parts of the world, most cultures do not consume alcohol in large quantities. Being drunk in public makes you stand out as an American.

The fact is:

You are responsible for your own actions on all SPEA overseas programs and it is your job to be aware of local laws.

On Campus Resources

IU Office of Overseas Study (Living Abroad)
<http://overseas.iu.edu/living/safety.shtml>

SPEA

Lead for the Greater Good

SPEA International Office
1315 E. Tenth Street, Suite 201
speaabroad.indiana.edu
(812) 856-0796

Additional Resources

U.S. Department of State: Students Abroad
travel.state.gov/content/studentsabroad/en.html

The Center for Global Education: SAFETI
http://globaled.us/safeti/safeti_index.asp