

The LGBTQ+ Guide to Tufts Programs Abroad

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Dear student,

The experience of studying abroad has the capacity to not only enhance your academic career, but also to propel your personal growth by instilling independence, courage, curiosity, and adaptability. It also expands your worldview by showing you new ways of existing within community, both at the local and global levels. In these ways, it can transform your life and open up an array of new opportunities for you.

Therefore, we encourage all students to consider incorporating study abroad into their time at Tufts.



However, living in a new and unfamiliar culture can have its challenges, and we recommend that all students do some work, in advance, to prepare for these challenges. Students in the LGBTQ+ community, in particular, may have additional concerns about how their own intersectional identities will play a role in the study-abroad experience.

True cultural immersion is the goal of study abroad, as it reveals the entirety of the host culture's beliefs, norms, practices, and attitudes. However, through study abroad, you will be exposed not only to the “positive” and “neutral” sides of culture, but also potentially to the “negative” sides of culture. You may find some of the host community's or a local individual's values and ways of expressing them to be insensitive, distasteful, and/or hurtful. What is considered “acceptable speech” in other cultures may be notably less inclusive and may tend toward microaggression. In some cases, you may find that attitudes and behaviors surrounding difference may stem more from lack of experience with people of diverse backgrounds and identities than from actual malice or ill will. While it can be helpful to remember that this might be the case, encountering increased attention, insensitivity, or outright discriminatory language and behavior in your host community can nonetheless be disconcerting and disappointing. And it can be frustrating to be told that such attitudes and behaviors are somehow not problematic because they are “just part of the culture.”

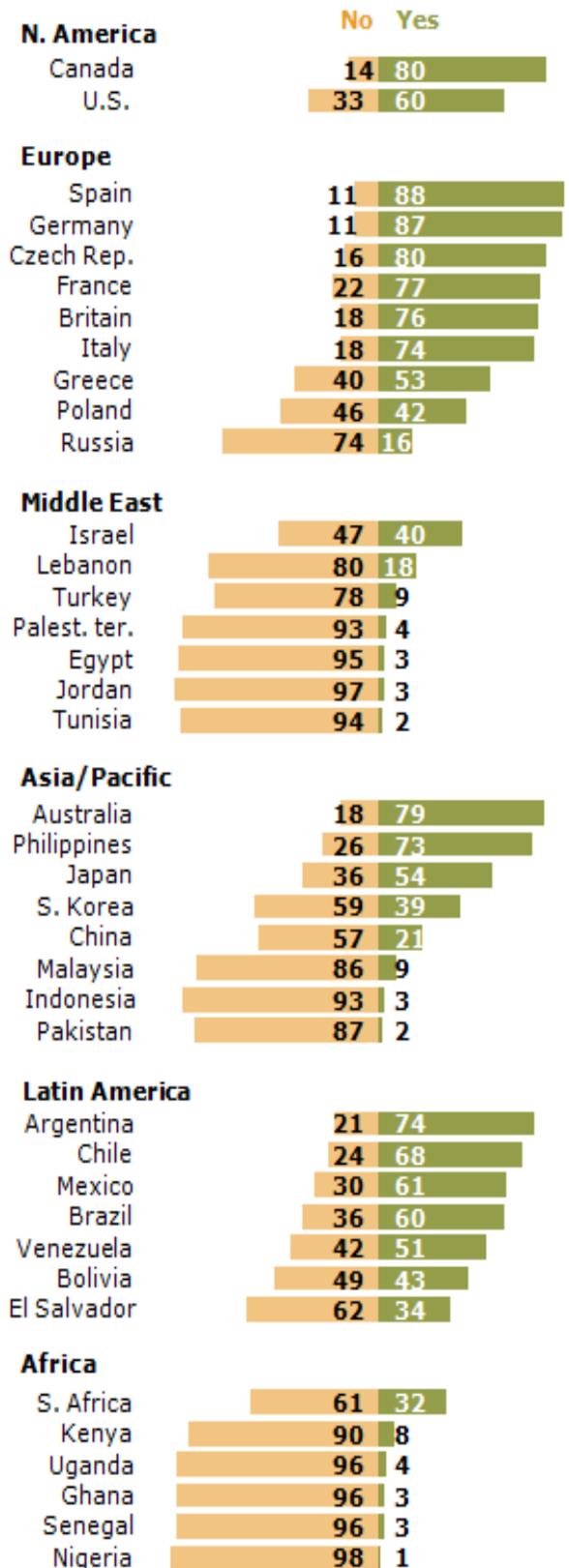
Attitudes and laws regarding LGBTQ+ individuals vary widely around the world, and you may find cultures abroad that are similarly or more supportive of the LGBTQ+ community than here in the U.S.; your study-abroad experience may thus be one in which you feel free to fully explore concepts of sexuality and gender in a new cultural context, both in and outside the classroom. In other cultures, you may find that the LGBTQ+ community is less visible and perhaps less widely-accepted by the larger society, yet there are legal protections for same-sex couples and/or non-binary individuals. However, there are also communities abroad founded on more conservative belief systems where you can expect to see much less support of LGBTQ+ individuals, overt discrimination, and/or even violence and (sometimes grave) legal ramifications for those who are found to be associated with the community.

In order to ensure that a student's personal and academic needs will be met through study abroad, the selection of a host community and program within that community are important factors for students of all backgrounds, and may be especially important for students in the LGBTQ+ community. Before departure, it can be helpful for students to research their host community in relation to current and recent events pertaining to LGBTQ+ rights, general tolerance and attitudes toward LGBTQ+ persons, legal protections (or lack thereof) for the LGBTQ+ community, relevant local organizations and support systems, and cultural norms that inform the local dating scene. Your safety is of the utmost importance to us, and knowing as much as you can about what to expect in your host community can go a long way to ensuring that you have a safe and fulfilling time abroad.

This guide offers specific information relative to the locations of Tufts' ten study abroad programs. We hope that the following summaries will provide a starting point for you to explore the cultures you will encounter through Tufts Programs Abroad. If you have concerns about how your LGBTQ+ identity might impact your study-abroad experience, and if you feel comfortable doing so, we encourage you to discuss that with our staff. While we may not have all of the answers, we can hopefully point you to resources and help you choose a program or location that suits your individual needs and goals.

Sincerely,
The Office of Tufts Programs Abroad

Should Society Accept Homosexuality?

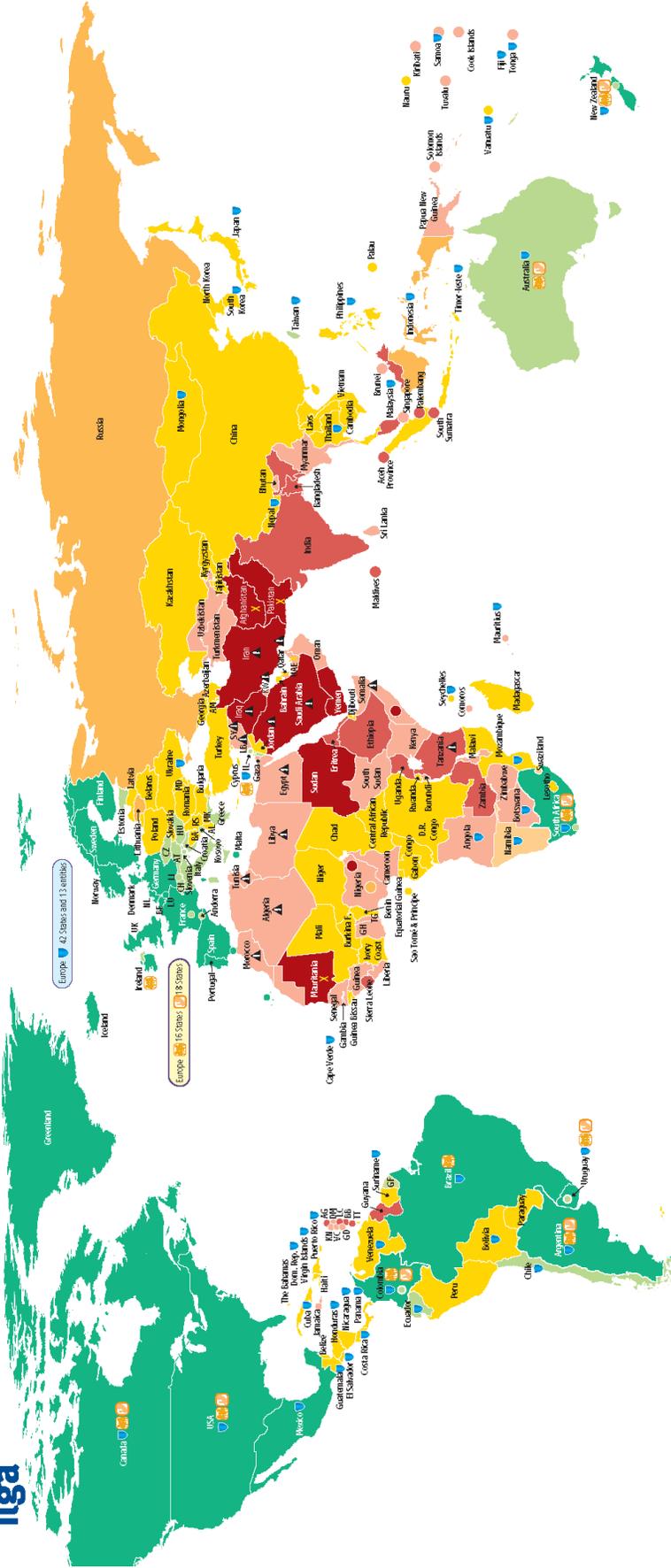




SEXUAL ORIENTATION LAWS IN THE WORLD - OVERVIEW

ILGA, THE INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS AND INTERSEX ASSOCIATION

MAY 2017
ILGA.ORG



CRIMINALISATION

72 STATES

- implemented in 8 States (or parts of)
- not implemented in 5 States
- Religious-based laws alongside the civil code: 19 States

DEATH

- 14 Y - life (prison)
- Up to 14 Y
- 'Promotion' laws
- No penalising law

In green, yellow and orange countries, same-sex sexual acts were decriminalised or never penalised: 123 States

PROTECTION

85 STATES

Many States run concurrent protections

- 9 States
- 72 States
- 63 States
- 43 States
- 3 States

- Constitution
- Employment
- Various
- Hate crime
- Incitement to hate
- Ban on 'conversion therapy'

RECOGNITION

47 STATES

A small number of States provide for marriage and partnership concurrently

- Marriage
- Partnership
- 2nd parent adoption
- Joint adoption
- 27 States
- 26 States

Separate detailed maps for these three categories are produced alongside this Overview map.

The data represented in these maps are based on State-Sponsored Homophobia: a World Survey of Sexual Orientation Laws: Criminalisation, Protection and Recognition, an ILGA report by Aengus Carroll and Lucas Ramon Mendos. The report and these maps are available in the six official UN languages: English, Chinese, Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish on www.ilga.org. This edition of the world map (May 2017) is by Aengus Carroll and Lucas Ramon Mendos (ILGA), and designed by Eduardo Eiroa (eduardo.eiroa@gmail.com).

Adult, consensual and non-commercial homosexuality has been legal in the mainland People's Republic of China since 1997 and homosexuality was removed from the Ministry of Health's list of mental illnesses in 2001. Despite that, same-sex partnerships are not recognized by the government and same-sex couples are not permitted to adopt children. Nor are there any anti-discrimination laws or policies currently in place. According to a survey conducted in 2013, only 21% of the population believe homosexuality should be accepted (Pew Research Center, 2013).

Overall, the attitude of the Chinese government towards LGBTQ+ individuals has been described with the Chinese idiom “不支持, 不反对, 不提倡 (not encouraging, not discouraging and not promoting).” (Mountford, 2009)

However, as in the US, acceptance of LGBTQ+ individuals varies widely in China according to region and city. Westernized cities such as Shanghai and Beijing are more diverse and tolerant of LGBTQ+ individuals, while smaller cities and towns may not be familiar with or accepting of the idea of homosexuality. This is partly due to the culture of conformity in China; everyone is expected to marry, produce male offspring, and continue the familial blood line. Thus, it is not uncommon for Chinese men to lead “double lives,” marrying women and concealing their sexuality. (Yanhai, 2008)

Online Resources:

<http://www.equaldex.com/region/china>

<http://www.diversityabroad.com/study-abroad-asia/china> (Be sure to scroll down to 'Diversity Guide to China')

Local Resources:

Founded with a mission to "Connect Gay Asia," Fridae provides a platform that bridges cultures, transcends borders, and unites the diverse groups to form Asia's largest gay and lesbian community.

<http://www.fridae.asia/>

The Beijing LGBT Center was founded in 2008 and it provides psychological counselling, legal advice, and HIV testing to the local LGBTQ+ community.

<http://www.bjlgbtcenter.org.cn/>

Chile

Santiago

Both male and female same-sex sexual activity has been legal in Chile since 1998 and as of 2015, the state also recognizes civil unions for same-sex couples. However, adoption rights and the title of marriage are still reserved for opposite-sex partnerships. Nevertheless, anti-discrimination laws have been in place since 2012 and according to a 2013 survey, 68% of the population believe society should accept homosexuality (Pew Research Center, 2013). As of 2007, transgendered individuals are allowed to officially change their gender, but the law seems to indicate that this is only after sex-reassignment surgery (National Geographic Magazine, 2017).

Fortunately, the LGBTQ+ community in Santiago is surprisingly vibrant given that the nation, as a whole, is generally fairly conservative and religious. The small neighborhood of Bellavista is home to many LGBTQ+-friendly establishments and the formal offices of the president, in central Santiago, are lit up with rainbow lights to show solidarity on the International Day Against Homophobia, May 17. Marriage-equality laws are also being discussed on a national level (Nomadic Boys, n.d.).

Online Resources:

<http://www.equaldex.com/region/chile>

<http://www.diversityabroad.com/study-abroad-south-america/chile> (Be sure to scroll down to 'Diversity Guide to Chile')

Local Resources:

The mission of Iguales is to “work through research, dissemination, education, public policy development and legislative management, to ensure the full inclusion of sexual diversity in Chilean society.” <http://www.iguales.cl/>

The Movement for Sexual Diversity (MUMS) is a social movement organization that brings together people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Its purpose is to promote the recognition of civil rights and human diversity.

<http://www.mums.cl>

Foundation Transitar is a collective for non-binary identifying youth.

<http://www.transitar.cl>



Ghana

Legon, Accra

Sexual activity between males in Ghana is illegal and punishable by imprisonment. The legislation is unclear regarding sexual activity between females. A 2013 survey found that 96% of the population believe homosexuality should not be accepted. (Pew Research Center, 2013)

On July 21, 2011, Paul Evans Aidoo, the Western Region Minister at the time, called for all gay people in the west of the country to be rounded up and arrested, and for landlords and tenants to inform on people they suspected of being gay. (Smith, 2018)

The U.S. Department of State's 2016 Human Rights Report found that LGBTQ+ persons in Ghana faced widespread discrimination in education and employment. Police harassment and extortion attempts were also considered prevalent. There were even reports that police were reluctant to investigate claims of assault or violence against LGBT persons. (United States Department of State, 2016)

Christianity is prevalent throughout the region surrounding Accra and Legon, and thus greatly informs local perspectives on many things, including homosexuality and gender roles. Non-conformity to related widely-held cultural norms may, unfortunately, be met with intolerance, overt discrimination, or even violence. While 2018 has seen some local discussion regarding the possibility of legalizing same-sex unions in Ghana, the matter seems to have been strongly rejected by both Parliament and President Akufo-Addo (Shaban, 2018). An article in January 2018 on the Human Rights Watch website outlines the challenging and dangerous situation that many LGBTQ+ individuals still face in Ghana (Isaack, 2018). As recently as July 2018, rallies have been organized by religious groups to advocate for stronger anti-LGBTQ+ legislation. Thus, students can expect the LGBTQ+ community in Ghana to not be very visible, if at all.

Online Resources:

<http://www.equaldex.com/region/ghana>

<http://www.diversityabroad.com/study-abroad-africa/ghana> (Be sure to scroll down to 'Diversity Guide to Ghana')

Local Resources:

Modern Ghana, an African news service, has recently begun publishing articles and op-eds about LGBTQ+ culture and events. <http://www.modernghana.com>

One may also find news relating to LGBTQ+ culture in Ghana on the LGBT Ghana Facebook and Twitter pages, however neither of the accounts have been updated since 2014.

<https://www.facebook.com/lgbtGhana> and <https://twitter.com/lgbtGhana>

Hong Kong

Homosexual activity was legalized in Hong Kong in 1991, and the age of consent for homosexual sex was equalized with heterosexual acts in 2006. Same-sex unions are not recognized, but transgender people can have their gender on official documents changed after sex-reassignment surgery. The Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance of 1991 outlaws government-sponsored discrimination, but does not apply to discrimination in the private sector. However, a survey conducted in 2016 found that more than 90% of the population aged 18 to 24 support legislation to protect sexual minorities from discrimination (Ngo, 2016). LGBTQ+ culture is also making increasingly more appearances in popular media and, in 2022, Hong Kong will host the Gay Games.

Online Resources:

<http://www.equaldex.com/region/hong-kong>

Local Resources:

The Big Love Alliance is a Hong-Kong-based non-profit organization whose mission is to “promote the equality of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transsexuals and queers and their liberation from all forms of discrimination.” <http://biglovealliance.org/>

The Pink Alliance (aka Tongzhi Community Joint Meeting or TCJM) aims to link LGBTQ+ (tongzhi) organizations operating in Hong Kong, to assist them in their work, and to provide a network for information in both Chinese and English within the LGBT community. <http://pinkalliance.hk/>

Rainbow Centre is a non-profit Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBTQ+) organization concerned with the quality of life in the LGBTQ+ community in Hong Kong. <http://www.rainbowhk.org/>

Founded with a mission to "Connect Gay Asia," Fridae provides a platform that bridges cultures, transcends borders, and unites the diverse groups to form Asia's largest gay and lesbian community. <http://www.fridae.asia/>

Time Out Hong Kong provides information on LGBTQ+ culture and current events in the city. <http://www.timeout.com/hong-kong/lgbt>

Japan

Kanazawa

Because Japan has vibrant gay scenes in its larger cities and a number of Japanese cultural traditions feature homosexual relationships and “cross-gender performance,” the country has been generally regarded as relatively “gay-friendly” (Tamagawa, 2015). However, there is yet to be widespread acceptance of homosexuality – according to a study conducted in 2013, only slightly over half of the population believed that homosexuality should be accepted (Pew Research Center, 2013). While there are no laws against homosexuality, there are also currently no legal protections for LGBTQ+ individuals against discrimination. Same-sex relationships are not officially recognized and public support of gay marriage is relatively weak – a survey conducted in 2015 found that less than half of the population support or somewhat support same-sex marriage. Change of legal gender following sex-reassignment surgery has been allowed since 2008.

Overall, patriarchal and heteronormative notions tend to prevail in Japan, with LGBTQ+ persons sometimes leading “double lives” (Tamagawa, "Coming Out of the Closet in Japan: An Exploratory Sociological Study", 2017). However, gay culture is appearing more in popular media and since 2012, an annual Rainbow Week and Pride Parade has been held in Tokyo every spring.

Online Resources:

<http://www.equaldex.com/region/japan>

<http://www.diversityabroad.com/study-abroad-asia/japan> (Be sure to scroll down to ‘Diversity Guide to Japan’)

Local Resources:

Founded with a mission to "Connect Gay Asia," Fridae provides a platform that bridges cultures, transcends borders, and unites the diverse groups to form Asia's largest gay and lesbian community. <http://www.fridae.asia/>

Stonewall Japan is a community organization providing support for, and enhancing the lives of international LGBTQ+ people in Japan. <http://stonewalljapan.org/>

Out Japan is an LGBTQ+ information portal for overseas visitors to Japan. It lists gay-friendly events and venues and compiles news regarding the LGBTQ+ community from all over the country. <http://out-japan.com>

Pink Dot Okinawa is an LGBTQ+ festival that originated in Singapore; the first event in Japan was held in June 2013. <http://pinkdotok.jp/>

England

London, Oxford

As one of the largest cities in Europe, London is tolerant and accepting of LGBTQ+ culture. Oxford is also welcoming of LGBTQ+ individuals and even has a small gay nightlife scene in the town. According to a study conducted in 2013, 76% of the population believed that homosexuality should be accepted (Pew Research Center, 2013). Same-sex sexual activity is legal, and the age of consent was equalized nationwide in 2001. Adoption by same-sex couples has been permitted since 2005 and same-sex marriage was legalized in 2013 and went into effect in 2014. Since 2005, citizens have the right to change their legal gender and obtain a new birth certificate. No surgery is required for this procedure. Anti-discrimination policies have been in place since 2010. Keep in mind that the four jurisdictions of the United Kingdom differ and some parts of the United Kingdom might be more restrictive in their LGBTQ+ rights. For example, Northern Ireland has yet to fully recognize same-sex marriage.

Online Resources:

<http://www.equaldex.com/region/united-kingdom>

<http://www.diversityabroad.com/study-abroad-europe/united-kingdom> (Be sure to scroll down to 'Diversity Guide to United Kingdom')

Local Resources:

Pink News is Europe's largest gay news service. www.pinknews.co.uk

The Beaumont Society is run by and for transgender individuals.

<http://www.beaumontsociety.org.uk/>

The Oxford University's LGBTQ+ Society aims to provide a safe space for all members of the LGBTQ+ community. <http://www.oulgbtq.org/>

Oxford Friend provides free and completely confidential information, support and counseling services for LGBTQ+ people. <http://www.oxfordfriend.co.uk/>

London Friend is a similar organization based in London. They offer counselling and support for LGBTQ+ individuals. <http://londonfriend.org.uk>

Stonewall is one of the largest LGBTQ+ rights organizations in the United Kingdom. Their website provides a tool for finding LGBTQ+ resources in your area.

<http://www.stonewall.org.uk/>

Spain

Madrid

Spain has some of the most progressive laws and legal protections for its LGBTQ+ citizens. A survey conducted in 2013 ranked Spain to be the most LGBTQ+-friendly country in the world, with 88% of the population agreeing that society should accept homosexuality (Pew Research Center, 2013). Same-sex marriage has been recognized since 2005, and same-sex sexual activity has been legal since 1979. Same-sex couples are allowed to adopt as well. Transgender individuals are legally allowed to change their gender. Anti-discrimination policies include discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Within Madrid itself, the LGBTQ+ scene is primarily concentrated in the neighborhood of Chueca (Madrid: Neighborhoods, n.d.).

Online Resources:

<http://www.equaldex.com/region/spain>

<http://www.diversityabroad.com/study-abroad-europe/spain> (Be sure to scroll down to 'Diversity Guide to Spain')

Local Resources:

FELGTB (Federación Estatal de Lesbianas, Gais, Transexuales y Bisexuales) is a space where LGBTQ+ organizations can share and collaborate on their work. <http://www.felgtb.org/>

Madrid Orgullo is an annual gay pride parade. <http://www.madridorgullo.com/en/>

¡Madrid! Official Tourism Website has put together a guide to LGBTQ+ life in Madrid. <http://www.esmadrid.com/en/lgbt-madrid-guide-pdf>

Visit Chueca is a comprehensive guide to the LGBTQ+ neighborhood of Madrid. <http://www.visitchueca.com/en>

COGAM (Collective of Gays and Lesbians of Madrid) is a non-profit organization that works actively for the rights of lesbians, gays, transsexuals and bisexuals. They offer support and counselling services for the LGBTQ+ community of Madrid. <http://www.cogam.es>

France, like most other countries in western and northern Europe, is generally quite welcoming of LGBTQ+ individuals. According to a study conducted in 2013, 77% of the population believed that homosexuality should be accepted (Pew Research Center, 2013). Same-sex marriage was legalized in France in 2013. Same-sex couples and LGBTQ+ individuals are legally allowed to adopt. Transgender individuals are allowed to change their legal gender, but sex-reassignment surgery is required. In 1985, an anti-discrimination policy was formed to forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation and in 2012, this policy was expanded to include sexual identity.

While attitudes towards LGBTQ+ individuals vary widely within France and conservative belief systems do remain in some parts of society, Paris is among the most tolerant and cosmopolitan cities in Europe. It boasts many gay clubs, restaurants, and bars. The neighborhood known as Le Marais is also known as a hip, predominantly gay community.

Online Resources:

<http://www.equaldex.com/region/france>

<http://www.diversityabroad.com/study-abroad-europe/france> (Be sure to scroll down to 'Diversity Guide to France')

Local Resources:

Act Up Paris is an organization that addresses a wide variety of social issues, among them homophobia, rights for foreigners, feminist causes, and transgender rights. They hold weekly meetings in Paris, carry out research, and distribute publications.

<http://www.actupparis.org/>

Bi'cause is an organization created for and by bisexuals with the object of promoting the emergence of a bisexual identity. <http://bicause.fr/>

Centre LGBT Paris (Le centre Lesbien, Gai, Bi et Trans de Paris Île-de-France) is dedicated to putting LGBTQ+ people in contact with each other, helping one another, and fighting for equal rights. <http://www.centrelgbtparis.org/>

Paris: Official website of the Convention and Visitors Bureau has aggregated resources and information on LGBTQ+ life in the city.

<http://en.parisinfo.com/discovering-paris/themed-guides/gay-and-lesbian-paris>

SOS Homophobie is dedicated to fighting against homophobia that affects lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. <http://www.sos-homophobie.org/>

Germany

Tübingen

Germany is very progressive in its tolerance of LGBT rights and individuals – a survey conducted in 2013 concluded that Germany is the second most homosexuality accepting country in the world. Anti-discrimination policies cover both sexual orientation and gender identity. Same-sex marriage was legalized in October 2017 and as of 2011 transgender individuals are allowed to change their legal gender without having to go through sex-reassignment surgery.

Online Resources:

<http://www.equaldex.com/region/germany>

<http://www.diversityabroad.com/study-abroad-europe/germany> (Be sure to scroll down to 'Diversity Guide to Germany')

Local Resources:

The German Gay Web offers information on various LGBTQ+ groups in Germany.

<http://gay-web.info/>

The dedicated LGBTQ+ pages of the Germany National Tourist Office offer guidance for LGBTQ+ tourists visiting Germany.

<http://www.germany.travel/en/ms/lgbt/home/home.html>

LSVD (Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany) largest non-governmental LGBTQ+ rights organization in Germany. <http://www.lsvd.de/>

Tübian is a collective of young LGBTQ+ individuals living in the Tübingen area. They meet weekly for a relaxed discussion or a fun activity and often go on trips to explore the local gay scene. <http://tuebian.de/>

Transgender and Non-Binary Students Abroad

While transgender and non-binary students may face unique challenges and uncertainties when deciding to study abroad, there are also many benefits and opportunities they may enjoy. Studying abroad can be a great time to learn about gender identity across the world and forge connections and alliances across cultural barriers.

The Office of Programs Abroad office can help to answer your questions and connect you with resources to build your study-abroad support system. As a transgender or non-binary student studying abroad, you want to keep in mind the following things:

- **Your travel documents:** Airline reservations require your full name, date of birth, and gender to match the information on your passport. If you have not already, update your identification to ensure that it reflects your gender identity.
- **Traveling with medication:** If you are traveling with needles or medication, you will need to carry them in their original packaging and bring proof of your prescription.
- **Airport security:** In airports throughout the United States, you have the right to waive the Advanced Imaging security screen, and can opt for a pat down by an officer of your own gender identity. If you experience harassment or inappropriate behavior, you may file a complaint through the Office of Civil Liberties.
- **Prosthetics:** You are not required to remove articles of clothing, including prosthetics, in airport screenings in the United States. Keep in mind, however, that prosthetics or bounded chests could raise concern and lead to additional screenings.
- **Researching your destination:** A good first step to help you decide on your program is to inform yourself about the laws, attitudes, and culture surrounding gender in your desired destinations. It is important to remember that not all countries accept or lawfully allow citizens to change their gender identity. Transrespect (<http://transrespect.org/en/>) and ILGA's 'Trans Legal Mapping Report' (<http://ilga.org/trans-legal-mapping-report>) can help you to identify host locations that may be more accepting or open-minded to transgender and non-binary students.
- **Being out abroad:** One question to consider is how and when you will feel comfortable being "out" while abroad. Keep in mind that people of different cultures may not understand language used in the United States, and, for some, how you identify may be an entirely new concept. It may get tiring, but patience and understanding is key to communicating across cultures and building safe spaces.
- **Program Logistics:** The following pages provide program-specific logistical information regarding housing, bathrooms, campus culture, etc.

While you shouldn't let any obstacles stop you from studying abroad, it is imperative that you keep yourself informed and understand the risks that studying abroad may present.

(Text borrowed and adapted with permission from the website of Brandeis University's Office of Study Abroad: <http://www.brandeis.edu/abroad/resources/identity-culture/trans-abroad.html>)

Tufts in Beijing: Useful Information for Trans and non-Binary Students

Do students have the ability to register lived/preferred name (if different from legal name) at the host institution? Possibly. Students must use their legal names or the names registered at the local police station. In order to register another name at the university, they must also re-register their name at the police station.

Program Housing Details: Single rooms within multi-room (single-gender) suites.

Bathroom Availability in Program Housing: Shared single bathrooms within suites. Single rooms with private bathroom might be available upon request.

Are there any local laws or cultural mores around gender that transgender/gender non-conforming students should know about? Transgender individuals are neither very visible nor widely accepted in China. There are currently no laws specifically pertaining to transgender individuals.

What is the university climate like for LGBTQ+ students? Currently, there is no visible LGBTQ+ community on campus. Trans and non-binary students may find few to no supports on campus.

Host-institution Resources: n/a

Tufts in Chile: Useful Information for Trans and non-Binary Students

Do students have the ability to register lived/preferred name (if different from legal name) at the host institution? No. According to Chilean law, all persons have to identify themselves with their legal names.

Program Housing Details: Each student lives individually with a local host family, in a single bedroom.

Bathroom Availability in Program Housing: Single bathroom shared with other family members.

Are there any local laws or cultural mores around gender that transgender/gender non-conforming students should know about? While anti-discrimination laws do exist in Chile, those protecting trans and non-binary individuals, specifically, do not. Chile, as a whole, is fairly religious and students may observe speech, atti-

tudes, and acts that would be considered discriminatory in the US.

What is the university climate like for LGBTQ+ students? While LGBTQ+ individuals are increasing in visibility on campus, there is still a ways to go to full acceptance and integration. PUC has a small community called Queer Universitarios and U Chile has a small community called Sesegen.

Host-institution Resources: n/a

Tufts in Ghana: Useful Information for Trans and non-Binary Students

Do students have the ability to register lived/preferred name (if different from legal name) at the host institution? Name used for university application/admission is legally binding.

Program Housing Details: Housing for international students is mostly double-occupancy, although a limited number of single-occupancy rooms are reserved for students with special needs and are allocated through application and at a higher rental cost. Living officially with someone who is not of the same legal sex in the hostels or halls of residence would go against University of Ghana regulations, while living clandestinely will attract punitive sanctions, if discovered.

Bathroom Availability in Program Housing: Bathrooms at the international students' hostel are gender-specific with multiple stalls.

Are there any local laws or cultural mores around gender that transgender/gender non-conforming students should know about? In most places at the University of Ghana, and throughout the country, bathrooms/washrooms are gender-specific. LGBTQ+ culture is unfamiliar and not generally understood or accepted in Ghanaian society. Individuals who openly identify as LGBTQ+ could risk social exclusion or even violence. There are no laws protecting transgender or non-binary individuals from discrimination or violence.

What is the university climate like for LGBTQ+ students? Due to entrenched religious and socio-cultural norms in Ghana, there is no official or open LGBTQ+ community or student group on campus.

Host-institution Resources: n/a

Tufts in Hong Kong: Useful Information for Trans and non-Binary Students

Do students have the ability to register lived/preferred name (if different from legal name) at the host institution? No.

Program Housing Details: Standard placement is within a shared (double) room with a local HKU student of the same legal sex; floors within the residence halls are also single-gender. Single rooms with their own bathroom are occasionally available through application, but they are within a non-campus facility managed by the University of Hong Kong and would typically involve a higher rental cost.

Bathroom Availability in Program Housing: Bathrooms within residence halls are communal and single-gender by floor.

Are there any local laws or cultural mores around gender that transgender/gender non-conforming students should know about? There are no existing laws protecting transgender individuals, specifically, against discrimination; complaints are considered by the Equal Opportunity Commission on a situational basis.

What is the university climate like for LGBTQ+ students? HKU has a 'Queer Straight Alliance' student group on campus, and there appears to be growing visibility and support of LGBTQ+ individuals on campus.

Host-institution Resources:
<http://wp.cedars.hku.hk/web/cope/?p=849>

Tufts in Japan: Useful Information for Trans and non-Binary Students

Do students have the ability to register lived/preferred name (if different from legal name) at the host institution? No.

Program Housing Details: Single rooms within multi-room (single-gender?) suites.

Bathroom Availability in Program Housing: Single-stall bathroom shared by other suitemates.

Are there any local laws or cultural mores around gender that transgender/gender non-conforming students should know about? Japan has made some progress in protecting LGBTQ+ individuals by instituting bullying-prevention policies in schools; however, the government also requires individuals seeking to legally change their gender to be effectively sterilized (Doi and Knight, 2017).

What is the university climate like for LGBTQ+ students? No official LGBTQ+ community or resources/supports exist on campus.

Host-institution Resources: n/a

Tufts in London: Useful Information for Trans and non-Binary Students

Do students have the ability to register lived/preferred name (if different from legal name) at the host institution? Yes. This is done through student services at the university, as would any name change (due to marriage, etc.)

Program Housing Details: All students have single rooms in mixed-gender halls of residence with shared kitchen facilities.

Bathroom Availability in Program Housing: Bathrooms are a mix of single-occupancy and gender-specific multiple-occupancy.

Are there any local laws or cultural mores around gender that transgender/gender non-conforming students should know about? UK universities and UK law are very supportive of LGBTQ+ individuals. All university staff are given training in transgender issues:
<http://genderedintelligence.co.uk>

What is the university climate like for LGBTQ+ students? All UK universities have strong, active (and in some cases militant) LGBTQ+ communities.

Host-institution Resources:

<http://studentsunionucl.org/lgbt>

<http://studentsunionucl.org/students-guide-to-changing-your-gender-at-ucl>

<https://studentsunionucl.org/gender-neutral-toilets-ucl>

<https://www.su.rhul.ac.uk/activities/society/lgbt/>

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/careers/current/lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-students/>

https://www.arts.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0/014/41153/UAL-Guide-for-Trans-Students.pdf

<https://www.arts-su.com/groups/ual-lgbt>

Tufts in Madrid: Useful Information for Trans and non-Binary Students

Do students have the ability to register lived/preferred name (if different from legal name) at the host institution? Yes.

Program Housing Details: All students live in home stays, in a single room. Hosts must be affirming of all identities and go through justice training in order to qualify as host families.

Bathroom Availability in Program Housing: Some students have their own bathrooms; others share the bathroom with the host family.

Are there any local laws or cultural mores around gender that transgender/gender non-conforming students should know about? Since 2007, Spain allows any person 18 years or older to alter their names and gender identity legally, without having to submit to any medical procedure. There are still struggles around transgender rights at the local level, but Spain

has been a leader in LGBTQ+ rights in Europe and in the world.

What is the university climate like for LGBTQ+ students? The climate is favorable and there are student LGBTQ+ groups at both UAM and UAH. Representatives from those groups are invited to orientation and LGBTQ+ Spanish students are included in our mentor group as well. The program has a relationship with the feminist-queer space ENTREDOS in Madrid, which is a cultural and outreach center in downtown Madrid. Additionally, the program course on 'Global Health and Human Rights in Spain' focuses heavily on critical issues of transgendered people in relation to public health in Spain. Thus, the curriculum provides an inclusive environment for trans people.

Host-institution Resources:
<http://www.uamentiende.org/>

Tufts in Oxford: Useful Information for Trans and non-Binary Students

Do students have the ability to register lived/preferred name (if different from legal name) at the host institution? Yes. This is done through student services at the university, as would any name change (due to marriage, etc.)

Program Housing Details: All students have single rooms in mixed-gender halls of residence with shared kitchen facilities.

Bathroom Availability in Program Housing: Bathrooms are a mix of single-occupancy and gender-specific multiple-occupancy.

Are there any local laws or cultural mores around gender that transgender/gender non-conforming students should know about? UK universities and UK law are very supportive of LGBTQ+ individuals. All university staff are given training in transgender issues:
<http://genderedintelligence.co.uk>

What is the university climate like for LGBTQ+ students? There is an official "University of Oxford Transgender Policy" in which the University commits to give "support and understanding" to trans individuals and "create an inclusive trans-friendly culture." In addition, there is an active and visible LGBTQ+ society at the University.

Host-institution Resources:
<http://www.oulgbtq.org/>
<http://www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/equality-lgbtq>
<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/transgender/transgenderpolicy/>

Tufts in Paris: Useful Information for Trans and non-Binary Students

Do students have the ability to register lived/preferred name (if different from legal name) at the host institution? No.

Program Housing Details: All students live in home stays, in a single room. Hosts must be affirming of all identities in order to qualify as host families. However the housing coordinator and the Resident Director will pay extra attention to the placement of the student to ensure that both parties are comfortable with it.

Bathroom Availability in Program Housing: Single bathroom shared with other family members.

Are there any local laws or cultural mores around gender that transgender/gender non-conforming students should know about? Since same-sex marriage was made legal in May 2013, LGBTQ+ associations are focusing advo-

cacy efforts on two new fronts: access to medically-assisted reproduction for same-sex couples and equality for transgender and non-binary individuals.

What is the university climate like for LGBTQ+ students? Most Parisian universities have a LGBTQ+ student group, so visibility and acceptance is generally pretty common.

Host-institution Resources:

<http://assoglup.com/>

Tufts in Tübingen: Useful Information for Trans and non-Binary Students

Do students have the ability to register lived/preferred name (if different from legal name) at the host institution? Yes.

Program Housing Details: There are only single rooms in the dorms/student apartments. Students will have suitemates, but no roommates. All dorms and student apartments are mixed-gender.

Bathroom Availability in Program Housing: Usually the bathrooms in the dorms/apartments are single-occupancy. There are also student dorm rooms available with an en-suite bathroom.

Are there any local laws or cultural mores around gender that transgender/gender non-conforming students should know about? The legal situation in Germany is generally considered quite progressive, although there remain bureaucratic hurdles to changing one's legal name/gender. In general, it is illegal to discrimi-

nate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in Germany. But what it means to be a transgender or non-binary individual is not widely addressed in public discourse and for many people in Germany it is still a relatively new discourse.

What is the university climate like for LGBTQ+ students? In general the university climate is very liberal. There are a couple of LGBTQ+/ally community and student groups in Tübingen.

Host-institution and Local Resources:

<http://tuebian.de/>

<http://queerehochschulgruppentuebingen.blogspot.com/>

Considerations and Questions to Ask Yourself

- How important is it to you that you study abroad in a location with a visible and vibrant LGBTQ+ community?
- Asserting one's LGBTQ+ identity abroad has been described by some students as a "second coming out." How do you plan to re-establish your identity in this new environment?
- If you encounter discriminatory language or attitudes in interactions with people you meet or come to know well while abroad, have you thought about how you might handle that?
- If your host community is not considered welcoming to LGBTQ+ individuals and/or if you may will face possible legal or safety concerns for membership in the LGBTQ+ community, how do you plan to navigate that reality? If you find it necessary for safety reasons, how might choosing to suppress your full identity impact your experience?

Tufts Resources

Updating your preferred/lived name:

<http://students.tufts.edu/announcements/obtain-student-id-card-your-preferred-common-name>

Tufts LGBT Center

Hope Freeman, Director

<http://students.tufts.edu/student-affairs/living-campus/group-six/lgbt-center>

Tufts Health Service

LGBTIA+ and Trans Health Care Teams

[http://students.tufts.edu/health-and-wellness/health-service/sexual-and-reproductive-health#LGBTQIA+ Health%20Care](http://students.tufts.edu/health-and-wellness/health-service/sexual-and-reproductive-health#LGBTQIA+Health%20Care)

Tufts Counseling and Mental Health Service

617-627-3360

<http://students.tufts.edu/health-and-wellness/counseling-and-mental-health>

Tufts Programs Abroad

Sheila Bayne, Director: sheila.bayne@tufts.edu

Melanie Armstrong, Program Specialist: melanie.armstrong@tufts.edu

Resident Directors (on-site) for each program: contacts will be provided to students upon enrollment, but can be requested in advance

General Resources

The International Lesbian and Gay Association supports LGBTQ+ communities worldwide through advocacy and research, and give grassroots movements a voice within international organizations. <http://ilga.org>

GoAbroad.com has compiled a guide full of practical tips and advice for LGBTQ+ students as they navigate the study-abroad experience. <http://www.goabroad.com/downloads/lgbt-study-abroad-guide.pdf>

NAFSA: Association of International Educators has a Rainbow SIG (special interest group), which has aggregated some resources for study-abroad students. <http://www.rainbowsig.org/resource-center/study-abroad/>

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs provides country-specific information about local culture, health, safety, etc., including advice and considerations for LGBTQ+ travelers (under 'Local Laws & Special Circumstances'). <http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html>

OutRight Action International works to ensure human rights for LGBTQ+ individuals and communities around the globe. <http://www.outrightinternational.org/>

The National Center for Transgender Equality provides information on preparing for travel as a transgender individual and advocacy efforts on the international level. <http://transequality.org/issues/travel> and <http://transequality.org/issues/international>

Human Rights Watch provides country-specific information and aggregates recent news items pertaining to local treatment of marginalized groups. <http://www.hrw.org/>

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