International Coordinating Committee

• ICC was formed to strengthen support provided by MIT’s administrative offices and functions for int’l activities

• Sponsors: Claude Canizares, Israel Ruiz

• Co-Chairs: Michelle Christy, Open

• 18 departments represented from across campus in 2 coordinating groups

Check out our new website icc.mit.edu
Sending Students Abroad Info Session
Introductions

• **GECD Global Education**: first-stop office for students interested in global education opportunities and for faculty and departments who are planning to take students abroad

• Offices sending students on global education opportunities: **UROP, PSC, D-Lab, MISTI, GECD Global Education**

• Two committees that enable dialog and sharing of best practices and advice around global education:
  • **Global Theme Team (GTT)**: broad and programmatic concerns
  • **Global Emergency Team (GET)**: health and safety abroad
Point of Contact & Online Resources

- **GECD Global Education**: first point of contact
- Web: http://gecd.mit.edu/go_abroad; Phone: 617-324-7239; email: globalmit@mit.edu
- **Online resources**: New ICC website with links to GECD, MISTI, etc. to streamline information
  - MIT contacts who can advise on health and safety (MIT travel risk policy, insurance, environmental health & safety, etc.) MIT contacts who can share advice about specific countries (considerations related to health and safety, culture, etc.)
  - Actual pre-departure presentation that groups or individuals can use (and customize) for their preparation
MISTI Orientation/Preparation Sessions per country

• Every Spring MISTI offers between 5-8 country specific training sessions per country for students
• Sessions are open to ALL MIT
• Training sessions schedules are posted around February

Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and Switzerland
MISTI Seed Funds

- Faculty granted with MISTI Seed Fund Awards will be receiving a checklist on steps to follow if travelling.
- Students travelling with or without faculty should contact the MISTI Program Manager of the country they are travelling to for Health and Travel guidelines and other advice on travelling.
Travel Approval / Travel Cancellation

- MIT Travel Risk Policy (travel warnings and travel embargoes)
- U.S. State Department information and media information (for example, understanding Uganda anti-homosexuality act 2014)
- In-country information: discussion with in-country experts and/or hosts
- GECD and GET
Procedures & Forms

• Waiver and special form in case of countries for which the highest or high travel warning is in effect
  - Student waiver must be granted by the Chancellor, with recommendation from the Dean for Undergraduate Education, the Dean for Student Life, or the Dean of Graduate Students, conferring with the Dean of the applicable School
  - Students must sign the **Student Travel form** before departure and submit a copy to the MIT Insurance Office

• For all other countries: Risk Acknowledgement Form
Global Ed Opportunity: student support - a 3-part process

• Planning and preparation
  ✓ Health and safety
  ✓ Cultural preparation
  ✓ Logistical preparation

• In-country experience
  ✓ Awareness and using the information gained during preparation

• Re-entry
  ✓ Reflection, articulating gains (in discipline, cultural, career-related)
Planning & Preparation

• Trip leader
  – Who will be in charge of the group and what will be his/her responsibilities?
  – What training will they need to be well prepared for the role?

• In-country contact(s): English-speaking contact person/host
  – Ask for information about nearby hospitals and English-speaking doctors
  – Confirm the best way for the group to reach the contact(s) in case of emergency

• Clear communication protocol
  – Agree upon and communicate to the group the emergency protocol: card w/ this information
  – Confirm the protocol for communication between the trip leader and MIT faculty and administrators
Passports & Visas

• Ask trip participants to check the validity of their passports (expiration no less than 90 days after their return) and to renew immediately if necessary
• Determine if any trip participants have passports from country other than US
• Determine visa implications for all trip participants and advise those who need visa to start applying well in advance
Health & Safety Before Leaving

- Visit MIT Travel Clinic (immunizations, advice, etc)
- Make other health arrangements as needed (medical & dental checkup, plan for medications, copy of records, etc)
- Have adequate health insurance (importance of understanding what is/is not covered, reimbursement policies, etc)
- Register with the U.S. State Department Safe Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/
- Become familiar with local laws and cultural norms
- Understand and register with ISOS
- Make copies of passport, visa, health insurance card, etc.
- Travel group registration: provide emergency contacts in US/home country and abroad if applicable
Health & Safety: International SOS

• Website: http://www.internationalsos.com/Private/MIT/
• ISOS membership and card
• ISOS registration
• ISOS services: medical, security and travel services; ISOS clinics
Health & Safety While Abroad

• Remind the group about local safety issues and resources (U.S. Embassy, local emergency numbers, hospitals)
• Behavior is the biggest determining factor in safety abroad
  o Local laws and cultural norms
  o Alcohol and drugs
  o Automobiles and transportation
  o Petty theft and pick-pocketing
Preparation: Other Considerations

- Warn students that they might be targeted by foreign intelligence services while overseas: *Game of Pawns* video
- International students: make sure students understand steps they need to take to avoid problems with re-entry, etc. (ISO)
- Discuss method and frequency of communication with family
- Contact bank and credit card companies to notify of foreign travel
- Understand money matters abroad; have multiple ways to access money
- For longer travel: housing consideration (cancellation form and request for housing upon return)
Cultural Preparation

• Awareness of local laws, customs, and religion
• Awareness of student’s own culture
• Awareness of the host culture: reading news and more, participating in programming before leaving
• Intercultural awareness: IDI as a useful tool for preparation
In awareness

Artifacts

Behaviour

Visible

Norms

Beliefs

Assumptions

Values

Out of conscious awareness

Invisible
Packing

Important Items for Student’s Carry-on

- Passport (valid for 90 days after your return date)
- Visa (if necessary)
- Plane tickets and itinerary
- Health insurance card and claim forms/instructions
- International SOS card
- Credit/debit cards and some local currency
- Information about program/host
- Prescription medication in original containers if applicable
- Copies of passport, visa, health insurance card, credit cards, and other important documents
- Laptop, camera and other electronics