

## Disclosing a Disability for a Study Abroad Program

In order for you to have a successful experience in a study abroad program, it is important that you consider whether your chosen program is able to provide accommodations for your disability (including non-apparent disabilities, such as auto-immune disorders, diabetes, learning disabilities, and mental health disabilities). **You should be aware that accommodations may not be available in all countries and programs, and arranging for accommodations frequently takes longer when working with an institution or program located outside of the United States. Therefore you are encouraged to discuss your need for accommodations in your study abroad program with the disabilities specialist (Frona.Brown@goucher.edu; 410-337-6178) and OIS (intlstudies@goucher.edu; 410-337-6455) as soon as possible.**

The National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange (<http://www.miusa.org/ncde>) and Mobility International ([www.miusa.org](http://www.miusa.org)) are also available to help assist you regarding your needs and interests.

### Why should I disclose a disability?

- To find an appropriate program that can accommodate your disabilities.
- To locate disability-related scholarships.
- To provide information that staff may need to assist you in an emergency.

### When should I disclose my disability?

- Before or during the application process: OIS staff members can help you find a program that is a good fit even before you apply. **Goucher will not consider your disability status during the application process.**
- After you have been accepted for a program but before you go: You should disclose your disability as soon as you have been accepted so that advisors can assist you in determining whether accommodations are available in your program.
- After you arrive: This is not a good time to request accommodations because unexpected barriers related to disability access may postpone or impede your participation in the program.

### What should I disclose?

If you choose to disclose your disability, you may want to include the following information:

- General information about your disability.
- Accommodations that have been effective for you in the past, as well as medication you will be bringing abroad.
- Accommodations you may need for the program.

### To whom should I disclose?

- OIS advisors and the disabilities specialist, if you have worked with the specialist for academic accommodations at the college.
- The program provider. You may want to talk directly with your study abroad program provider so that you can clarify the accommodations you need before you leave.

**Adapted from “Disclosing a Disability for an International Exchange Program,”**  
<http://www.miusa.org/ncde/tipsheets/disclosure> (Mobility International USA).