Greetings from Semester at Sea! As a confirmed student on the fall voyage, we ask you to review the contents of this document. The enclosed information will assist you as you prepare to sail with us aboard the MV World Odyssey. Please read carefully the important information provided on the following topics:

1. **MyPassport** – access point for information critical to voyage preparation.

2. **Required Travel Documents**
   - Passport
   - Visas
   - Yellow Fever Card

3. **Traveler’s Health and Vaccination Information**

4. **Port Location**

5. **Payment Options**

6. **Important Dates** (i.e. course registration, field programs, etc.)

7. **Academics Aboard the MV World Odyssey**

8. **Field Program and In-country Travel Information**

9. **IT Resources Aboard the MV World Odyssey**

10. **Suggested Packing List**

11. **Shipboard Accounts**

12. **In-country Finances**

13. **Staying in Touch**

If you have any questions as you finalize your preparations for sailing, please contact our office at 1.800.854.0195 or programadministration@semesteratsea.org
MyPassport is a way for you to receive information and to verify what we’ve already received as you prepare for your voyage. Check your MyPassport page often – most aspects of your planning and preparation will be available through this site.

Full instructions on how to log into and use MyPassport can be [downloaded here](http://mypassport.semesteratsea.org).

You will use your MyPassport page for the following:

- Review preparation steps
- Download documents and forms
- Upload documents and information needed to sail
- Sign up for field trips
- View your ISE financial aid awards
- Update your personal information

Perhaps the most important thing you can do to help prepare you for your voyage is to read the **Voyager’s Handbook** and the **Ticket Contract**. Both of these documents are in the process of being updated and once finalized, they will be available on your MyPassport page and contain extremely important information.
REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

The documents outlined below are required to participate in this voyage. ISE has retained the services of Travisa to assist participants with passports and entry visas.

PASSPORT

If you do not have a valid passport, we strongly urge you to apply for one as soon as possible, as you will need it to apply for entry visas. If you wish to apply for a U.S. passport on your own, please find instructions on the State Department’s travel site.

- Make sure your passport is signed.
- **Passports must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of your return (June 22, 2017).** If your passport expires before then, you may renew it online. Please contact Travisa for assistance with first time or renewal of US passports.
- For lost or stolen US passports, please see the State Department’s travel site.

PASSPORT PAGES REQUIREMENT

- Countries along this itinerary will require travelers to have a certain number of blank passport pages upon entry. **Each participant is responsible for the remaining blank visa pages in their passport, such that these entry requirements will be met in each sequential port of call.**

- If you already have many stamps in your current passport, you are advised to apply for a second valid passport or to renew your passport, as you may run out of visa pages more quickly than anticipated. Travisa is able to assist you with both of these options in advance of the voyage.

- Entry requirements for each country will be available through Travisa’s custom webpage, set up exclusively for Semester at Sea participants.

Remember to consider the current processing time for receiving a passport as advised by the Department of State. If necessary, you may choose to expedite the process. **You will not be able to board the MV World Odyssey without a valid passport.**

YELLOW FEVER CARD

The Yellow Fever Vaccination is required for entry into Trinidad and Tobago during your voyage. **You must bring your signed, original Yellow Fever Card with you to the ship.** You will not be able to board the ship in Ensenada without the official Yellow Fever Certificate (a yellow card) or a letter of exemption from your physician indicating the reasons for not having the vaccination. Note that a letter of exemption in lieu of the actual Yellow Fever Certificate could restrict your ability to leave the ship in some countries.
VISAS
Visas are travel documents placed in the traveler's passport that shows you are allowed to enter a specific country for a specific period of time. It is every participant's responsibility to obtain all pre-voyage required visas prior to embarkation. Visa regulations are subject to change and ISE cannot be held responsible for incurred fees, fines, detainment or deportation due to missing visas. Additionally, should we have to reroute our itinerary for health & safety concerns, ISE cannot be held responsible for any required visa fees.

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. AND CANADIAN PASSPORT HOLDERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visas needed BEFORE voyage departure</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Brazil - <strong>You will not be able to sail without this visa.</strong></td>
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Please carefully review the important information and visa application instructions for full details and links to the application. Please email ise@travisa.com with any remaining questions. If you wish to apply for required entry visas on your own, without the assistance of Travisa, please contact the appropriate consulate directly.

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT HOLDERS
If you are not a U.S. or Canadian passport holder, you may have different or additional visa requirements. As an international passport holder, you may still utilize Travisa’s research services to receive written instructions regarding your specific visa requirements. Please email ISE@travisa.com to find out what countries you will need visas for, and whether Travisa can process these visas for you. Travisa will then send further instructions by email. Please be sure to provide detailed information including your citizenship, country of residence, status in the US and state of residence, and your voyage. For general questions and assistance, please contact Travisa or Program Administration.

RECOMMENDED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS
PASSPORT CARD
A passport card cannot be used in place of a passport during the voyage, but it may come in handy when traveling in port. If you choose to purchase a passport card we also recommend keeping a copy of your actual passport on you at all times.
TRAVELER’S HEALTH AND VACCINATION INFORMATION

MALARIA PREVENTION
CDC and international health requirements strongly suggest malaria prophylaxis. The spring voyage will be entering areas where malaria is likely to be present, which could present health risks for you. Malaria prevention should be discussed with your physician based on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) requirements and recommendations. **Make sure you bring adequate medication with you as malarial drugs are not available onboard except for emergencies.**

Exposure will vary for each participant depending upon individual travel plans. Having an idea of what regions you plan to visit and how far you plan to travel outside the port city will greatly help your physician provide accurate medical advice concerning inoculations and disease risk.

In general, we also recommend that you contact the CDC and/or your physician to learn the current recommendations for immunizations in the countries you will visit. Be advised that inoculation requirements may be imposed at any time by the governments of countries on our itinerary. The Institute for Shipboard Education (ISE) cannot advise regarding the prescription of inoculations or be held responsible for unannounced health requirement changes.

YELLOW FEVER IMMUNIZATION
Yellow Fever immunization is **REQUIRED** for all passengers on the Fall 2016 voyage. Please be sure to carry your signed immunization card with you to the ship.

FOREIGN TRAVEL HEALTH INFORMATION
The CDC has health information and recommendations for foreign travel that is available 24 hours a day with the use of a touch-tone phone by calling 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747). Callers may select any one or all of the informational messages by following the instructions which are given. The information will be updated as needed. Similar health advisory information can also be accessed on the CDC Traveler's Health Information Page.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL INSURANCE
Each participant is enrolled in a **premium health and safety insurance plan** through Medex, a world leader in travel insurance. This policy is in effect upon arrival to the ship through disembarkation at the end of the voyage and includes a $100,000 accident and sickness benefit to cover medical, mental health, emergency dental, evacuation, and repatriation expenses. There is a $100 deductible.

HEALTH CLINIC
All visits to the shipboard clinic during clinic hours are included in your program fees. Should a participant require medication (e.g. prescription or otherwise) and/or medical-related services (e.g. x-rays, casting, sutures, blood work, etc.), a nominal fee will be billed to the participant’s shipboard account. Participants taking prescription medication should plan to bring a sufficient supply to last the duration of the semester and make sure their personal primary care physician notes the prescription on their medical history form.

*All medical information is current as of this writing – any changes in health requirements will be communicated to participants.*
VOYAGE DEPARTURE – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

The MV World Odyssey will dock at the Hamburg Cruise Center HafenCity, located approximately 30-40 minutes by car or metro south of Hamburg Airport (Flughafen Hamburg; HAM). The Port of Hamburg is located on the southern point of the Jutland Peninsula, between Continental Europe to the south and Scandinavia to the north, with the North Sea to the west and the Baltic Sea to the northeast. It is situated on the River Elbe.

DEPARTURE FLIGHT - We strongly recommend that you arrive in Hamburg, Germany, the day prior to embarkation (September 9, 2016) as the ship will not delay departure to wait for late-arriving students on September 10, 2016.

Name of Port: Port of Hamburg
Berth: Hamburg Cruise Center HafenCity

Hotel Accommodations in Hamburg, Germany - There are several events in Hamburg during the days surrounding your voyage embarkation. Due to this, lodging options are limited so we urge you to act quickly to secure a hotel for the evening before embarkation on September 9, 2016. We are working on establishing a lodging room block for Semester at Sea participants. We hope to have this information available soon.

Embarkation Day Transportation – Embarking passengers will make their own way to the ship at the Hamburg Cruise Center HafenCity. Taxis are a good transport option since you will have two pieces of luggage. Alternatively, the Hamburg metro and train system (S-bahn and U-bahn) is reliable and has a stop 50m from the terminal. See directions below:
- From Central Station: Take the U4 and get off at Überseequartier. Hamburg Cruise Center HafenCity is located 50m away.
- From the Airport: Take the subway line S1 to Jungfernstieg. From there take the U4 and get off at Überseequartier. Hamburg Cruise Center HafenCity is located 50m away.

VOYAGE RETURN – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016

The MV World Odyssey will dock at the Port of San Diego, located approximately 3 miles from San Diego International Airport (SAN). Expected arrival time to the pier is 0800 on Thursday, December 22, 2016.

Name of Port: Port of San Diego
Address of Port: N Harbor Drive & West Broadway, San Diego
Berth: TBD

RETURN FLIGHT Book your return flight from San Diego, California AFTER 1700 on December 22, 2016. Although the ship will arrive to San Diego at 0800 on December 22 each passenger must go through United States customs and immigration upon arrival before anyone can disembark from the ship. Timelines for this process are out of Semester at Sea’s control and can take several hours. Disembarkation order for passengers will be determined and announced onboard the ship towards the end of the voyage and no early disembarkation exceptions will be allowed for individuals who choose to book a flight prior to 1700 on December 22.

Debarkation Day Transportation & Accommodations: Taxis will be plentiful and available immediately outside the ship terminal for those travelling to the airport or other destinations. For those travelling regionally, Union Station (also known as the Santa Fe Depot), San Diego’s main downtown train station, will be located across the street from the cruise ship terminal. Amtrak service and routes are available from Union Station. Voyagers should NOT book train service prior to the mid-afternoon hours of December 22. For those requiring hotel stay in the San Diego area, please see hotel recommendations provided by the San Diego Board of Tourism.

If you have any questions as you finalize your preparations for sailing, please contact our office at 1.800.854.0195 or operations@semesteratsea.org.
PAYMENT OPTIONS

Full payment for the fall voyage is due **June 13, 2016**. An invoice will be mailed to the address listed on your My Profile page - **consult the account summary on MyPassport for the most recent activity**. Program fees vary depending on your **cabin type**. For questions about your balance please call **1.800.854.0195**.

Please submit payment to our office via one of the below options:

1. Check or money order payable in US$ to: Institute for Shipboard Education or I.S.E. – make sure to include your name on the memo line. Please mail to:
   - Semester at Sea
   - PO Box 400885
   - Charlottesville, VA 22904
   - For Courier Mail:
   - 2410 Old Ivy Road
   - Charlottesville, VA 22903

2. Wire money to our account – contact our office for wiring instructions

3. **Online** through the Financial Information section of your MyPassport Page. Payments can be made via electronic check or debit/credit card (a 2.7% convenience fee is charged on debit/credit card payments.)

MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

The interest-free TuitionPay Plan from Higher One can be made for 5 - 10 payments depending on when a student enrolls in the plan. There is a $55 fee to enroll in the TuitionPay Plan. The earlier a student reserves a cabin and enrolls in the TuitionPay Plan, the lower each payment will be. An example of a 10-pay Plan for a fall voyage would begin in January and end in October of the year of attendance. Even if you plan to apply for Semester at Sea and/or home school aid, you should enroll as early as possible. Higher One allows contract adjustments so you will be able to reduce the payments once your aid is packaged. To learn more about the TuitionPay Plan, call a TuitionPay consultant at 1.800.635.0120 or visit [https://tuitionpay.higherone.com/TuitionPay/Welcome.aspx](https://tuitionpay.higherone.com/TuitionPay/Welcome.aspx).

ISE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Semester at Sea and the Institute for Shipboard Education (ISE) provides $4 million in aid to students each year. Application deadlines vary:

- **Need and Merit** - Reviewed on a rolling basis and can be submitted at your earliest convenience. Allow two weeks for review.
- **All other awards** – April 22, 2016 (recipients notified May 6, 2016)

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

Many home institutions will process federal financial aid on behalf of their students and forward the funds to our program based on an understanding called a consortium. Please inquire with your home school to determine if your current federal aid will transfer to our program. Students applying for federal financial aid are required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It is not necessary to add CSU’s school code to the FAFSA.

It is important to notify us of any pending financial aid from your home school. Please have your school complete the Financial Aid Notification form and return it to our office by the payment deadline. The form can be found in My Documents.

OUTSIDE FUNDING

Many outside agencies offer scholarships to students studying abroad. The study abroad office at your home school may be familiar with outside scholarships in your region - so make sure to visit their office or website for additional ideas.
IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL
- April 22, 2016: Financial Aid Deadline

MAY
- May 6, 2016: Financial Aid Awards Announced
- May 19, 2016: Course registration opens. A course registration packet will be posted online and e-mailed to you mid-April
- May 24, 2016: Field Program registration opens

JUNE
- June 10, 2016: Priority Visa Deadline
- June 13, 2016: Payment deadline. Last day to cancel without penalty
- June 15, 2016: Last day to enroll in Tuition Pay Payment Plan.
- June 30, 2016: Email a copy of your Spring 2016 grades to admission@semesteratsea.org.

JULY
- July 19, 2016: Learning Accommodations Due.
  - Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities. If you wish to request accommodations during the voyage, please have the appropriate office at your home institution email your letter of approved accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org. Please submit these accommodations materials as soon as possible but no later than July 19, 2016. Accommodations submitted after this date will be reviewed but may be declined if found unreasonable due to the late notice.
- July 25, 2016: Field Program early deadline for Greece & Italy OVERNIGHT programs

AUGUST
- August 1, 2016: All Self Service Portal requirements due via MyPassport.
  - Online Agreements
  - Conduct Module
  - Emergency Contacts
  - Passport Details
  - Upload Passport Copy &Photo
  - Updated Transcript (with Spring 2016 grades)
  - Visa Pre-Embarkation Form
- August 5, 2016: Medical History Form due to medical@semesteratsea.org (More information about medical requirements will be emailed to all participants in Mid-May)
- August 25, 2016: Field Program Early Booking Discount Deadline
- August 31, 2016: Verify your Transcript Address via the self-service portal in MyPassport

SEPTEMBER
- September 9, 2016: Bon Voyage Reception—Parents and other family members are invited to a Bon Voyage Reception aboard the MV World Odyssey in the Port of Hamburg on the evening before the start of the voyage. Due to limited capacity on the ship, Fall 2016 voyagers cannot attend this reception. Advance registration is required and will begin on June 1.

Other Parent Events: The Fall 2016 Parent Trip will be going to Peru. More details about this event will be available in late April. A Welcome Home Reception for family and friends will be held in San Diego, CA, on December 21, 2016, the evening before the ship's arrival. Due to customs regulations, family and friends are not able to board the MV World Odyssey on the day of arrival.

Detailed information about all parent events will be posted on Parent Resources website and emailed to emergency contacts listed in students’ MyPassport accounts. For more information about parent events, contact parentprograms@isevoyages.org.

- September 10, 2016: Voyage sails from Hamburg, Germany!
ACADEMICS
ABOARD THE MV WORLD ODYSSEY

The academic program is the heart of a student’s Semester at Sea experience. Below, please find information about coursework with Semester at Sea, along with requirements and tips for having a successful academic experience.

ABOUT THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- Each student on the fall voyage must enroll in four courses, for a total of 12 credits. One of these courses is the required IE 300 Global Studies course; the remaining three will come from our regular course offerings. A list of classes offered on the voyage may be found on the Fall 2016 Courses and Field Classes page.

- The distinctive feature of Semester at Sea is the opportunity it affords students to engage in global comparative education. The Global Studies course is the core of our academic program and helps you deepen your understanding of life and culture in the countries that we visit. The course is designed to maximize students’ opportunity to think critically about their own society and others, as they visit and compare a range of countries from Costa Rica to Morocco.

- One of the most unique and exciting parts of studying on Semester at Sea is having an opportunity for experiential learning in each course’s Field Class. Professors design their Field Classes for each course individually, and they become an integral part of your experience in a class. Semester at Sea’s remarkably rich and diverse set of Field Classes will allow you to apply insights from class to the comparative work you will be doing in the field. Participation in a course’s co-requisite Field Class is mandatory and, along with other assignments associated with field experiences, is worth approximately 20 percent of students’ grades.

REGISTRATION

Online course registration will open on May 19 at 0800 (MST). More information will be sent to you over the coming month to explain the registration process. Until that time, here are some tips to prepare for registration.

1. Review the courses that will be offered on the Fall 2016 Courses and Field Classes page, along with the schedule of class meeting times and Field Class dates. Remember that you cannot sign up for two classes with conflicting Field Class dates, the same way that you cannot sign up for two courses that meet at the same time.

2. Read over the syllabi of the courses that you are interested in taking. Select your four first-choice courses, along with 3-4 alternates. Remember that one course will be the required Global Studies course.

3. Take the syllabi along with the bio of the faculty member teaching each course (found here) to your academic advisor (or International Studies Office) at your home institution to seek transfer permission. Obtain a hard copy of the confirmation of course approvals and how they will transfer to your home institution for your records. Remember, each course receives credit from Colorado State University.

4. You are allowed to take a fifth course, bringing your total number of credits up to 15. However, we strongly advise you to avoid this, even though five courses is the standard load at many universities. The rhythm of the voyage leaves you with very little down-time, and the academic schedule is compressed. Either you are in class on the ship or you are in a port: there are no weekends. Students with a fifth course typically devote 1-2 days in each port to their additional coursework. Please email academic@isevoyages.org with questions about taking a fifth course.
LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities. If you wish to request accommodations during the voyage, please have the appropriate office at your home institution email your letter of approved accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org by July 19, 2016. Accommodations submitted after this date will be reviewed but may be declined if found unreasonable due to the late notice.

ACADEMIC LIFE

Living and learning on a Semester at Sea voyage is an exhilarating, exhausting, and challenging endeavor. Chances are it is unlike any living/learning experience you have had, either on a traditional land campus or any other study-abroad program. The experience has a number of distinctive elements you should bear in mind:

1. The rhythm of the voyage dictates your life more than a typical academic semester does. Classes meet every other day at sea, including Saturdays and Sundays. Port stays are the closest you will have to a weekend, but some days in port will be dedicated to field classes. See a visual breakdown of the schedule of class days on the Academic Calendar.

2. Time management can be a challenge during Semester at Sea. Students will face a myriad of outside pressures—from cultural exploration in port to a vibrant student life program on the World Odyssey—that may tempt you to postpone homework. While a large part of your time with Semester at Sea will be spent outside of the classroom, it is the expectation that students will come to class prepared, with all assignments completed on the due date. Students must ensure time to study.

3. You will be living and learning in a floating residential college with 565 students from over 200 different colleges and universities, 10-25 Lifelong Learners, 28-35 faculty members and their families, 35 staff members and their families, and 200 crew members, all drawn from around the nation and the world. The ship’s community includes a rich generational mix of ages, from young children to senior adult lifelong learners. We encourage our students to embrace this unique and diverse academic village and avail yourself of your shipmates’ knowledge and experiences.

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea is a pioneer and leader in global, comparative education—a form of international study that focuses on comparing and contrasting the world’s peoples, patterns, cultures, and traditions. Global, comparative education is the element that distinguishes Semester at Sea from other study abroad programs. One of the unique attributes of studying through Semester at Sea is the experiential component of learning. Fieldwork is integral to Semester at Sea’s academic program. Students will interact and study various aspects of each port of call on the itinerary, and incorporate their findings in the classroom.

- **Field Classes** – As mentioned above, Field Classes are the in country, experiential component of each Semester at Sea course. Every course has an eight-hour, in-port class, organized by its professor. Field Classes will take theory from the classroom and place it into action and context in the field. Classes are included in the price of tuition and are open only to students registered in the course. The schedule of Field Class dates is posted on the Fall 2016 Courses and Field Classes page.

- **Field Programs** – Field Programs are designed to offer a diverse range of cross-cultural activities and experiences for each country on the itinerary. Each voyage provides unique opportunities for meaningful cultural engagement, some of which are further enhanced by faculty involvement. These opportunities include service visits, homestays, and trips to natural and man-made wonders, as well as sites of significant historical, political and cultural importance. Field programs are open to anyone in the shipboard community and students are encouraged to participate. Field Programs are not included in the price of tuition.

- **Independent Assignments** – In addition to structured Field Classes and Programs, courses will also incorporate learning through independent field assignments and exploration.
FIELD PROGRAM AND IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL

Semester at Sea collaborates with a network of international scholars and local experts to construct the International Field Program—a diverse range of cross-cultural explorations for each country on the itinerary. Field programs offered by Semester at Sea will be posted to the SAS Website on April 28. In the meantime, please consider the below as you begin to plan your in-country travel.

Safety First! – Parents and students often ask us about the safety of our field programs. All trips are carefully planned in close collaboration with reputable providers in order to ensure the highest standard for safety and the quality of the experience. All providers have been carefully vetted and are the most reputable in the industry. They are fully insured and use well-maintained transportation equipment and fully-licensed drivers and guides. They also use accommodations and food establishments that provide the highest level of safety and cleanliness. In addition, all providers have in place crisis response plans and are in direct contact with the ship should any problems arise. In addition to local guides, all official field trips are escorted by faculty or staff members who serve as the trip liaisons.

Independent Travel - Independent Travel includes all in-country travel activities that an individual plans outside of Semester at Sea coursework and SAS-sponsored trips. When carefully planned, Independent Travel can be an important learning component of the Semester at Sea experience.

When considering Independent Travel opportunities, participants should aim for one or more of the following learning experiences:

- Visits to cultural and historical sites
- Interaction with local community to gain insight into daily life and cultural norms
- Exposure to current social and environmental issues
- Participation in community service activities
- Exploration of the natural surroundings

Tips for planning safe Independent Travel experiences:

- Thoroughly research transportation, accommodations, and other services to ensure they adhere to the highest level of safety standards.
- Register your overnight independent travel plans through the SAS online registration.
  www.semesteratsea.org/misc/overnight-travel-registration-form
- Travel in small groups and always carry the ship’s emergency numbers with you.
- Do not participate in skydiving, bungee jumping, scuba diving, rock climbing, or other high risk activities, many of which violate the Student Code of Conduct and are not covered by Medex travel insurance.
- Do not rent or operate motor vehicles of any kind.
- Do not plan to travel outside the borders of the country of destination.
- Be very mindful of alcohol consumption in accordance with cultural norms or choose not to drink alcohol.
- Avoid illegal substances of any kind.
- Avoid acting as an agent to third-party providers by soliciting other participants to join a third-party trip. This violates the Student Code of Conduct.
- Avoid trips that are intended to create “Spring Break” or similar experiences, as these can often lead to unsafe situations.
- Plan overnight trips to depart no earlier than the second day in port and return the day prior to sailing.
- Semester at Sea faculty and staff are not able to endorse specific Independent Travel activities or third-party providers, unless it is related to coursework. However, do use their advice and expertise to help you make safe Independent Travel choices.

Caution about third-party vendors - Field trips offered on Facebook or by other third-party vendors, including other students, are not endorsed by Semester at Sea and we strongly advise against them. Some third-party organizers are not fully insured and do not meet the rigorous safety and quality standards provided by official Semester at Sea trips. On a recent voyage, some students were critically injured on a non-endorsed third-party trip, due to the lack of safety precautions by the provider. On other occasions, students have been victims of bribes, threats and exorbitant additional fees and fines.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ABOARD THE WORLD ODYSSEY

We try to provide Semester at Sea participants with the most up-to-date technology services. Our traveling shipboard campus provides a unique and challenging environment. Please keep in mind the following points about shipboard computing:

- All participants are required to bring a laptop. There are only a couple of public computers in the library.
- Wireless connectivity is available in all public areas of the ship and in many cabins. Generally speaking, if you can get Internet in a coffee shop, you can get it on the ship.
- There is free email service for all participants. Instructions on setting up this account will be sent prior to the voyage and it is highly recommended that you follow these instructions and configure your email prior to boarding.
- Internet is free for CSU Library resources and select academic web sites (selected by faculty).
- Each participant will receive a limited amount of free Internet. The amount of free usage depends on the amount of data you transfer and the amount of Internet time you use. Accessing the Internet will require you to log on and to log off to record your session. Automatic updates of antivirus software and adware will require an Internet connection, and your allotted free time can be consumed by this, so get the latest updates for adware, spyware, and virus definitions before you leave, and then turn off all automatic updates after boarding. Additional Internet time can be purchased on board. The use of Skype and similar sites are prohibited on the MV World Odyssey.
- The IT staff does not have the resources on board to repair computers.

IT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR VOYAGE

- A USB flash-memory device (thumb drive)
- Some form of personal electronic device (laptop, tablet, iPad, iPhone, iPod, e-reader, netbook, smartphone, blackberry, etc.) that is capable of managing email via a POP3 connection.
- For Windows:
  - If you have one, bring a recovery disk for your operating system (Windows XP, Vista, etc.)
  - Bring your Microsoft Office (or other productivity software) CDs, if you can
  - Have anti-virus and anti-spyware programs loaded on your laptop with the latest definitions
- For Macintosh
  - If you have it, bring Mac OS recovery software
  - Install Firefox as your default browser
**SUGGESTED PACKING LIST**

Preparing to pack for your voyage may seem like a daunting task, but words to live by are: lay out everything that you think you need, put back half, and then pack what’s left. The bottom line: come prepared, but travel lightly. Your belongings (including the luggage itself) are stored in your cabin. Keep this in mind when you are deciding between a huge suitcase or a soft-sided duffle on wheels (the latter is a great choice.) **Please note that there is a limit of 2 suitcases per person which will be permitted to be brought onboard.**

The following list is intended as a suggestion only and is not exhaustive. Please use your personal judgment and best discretion when considering the items below. More information about packing and the list of prohibited items is available online.

**CLOTHING/ACCESSORIES**
- Underwear/Undershirts/Socks
- Shorts/Jeans/Khakis
- Skirt -(long) recommended
- T-shirts (not too many – you’ll buy more)
- Sweater/Hoody – the ship is generally COLD.
- Jacket (light/medium)
- Rain gear
- Comfortable shoes (sneakers /sandals). We recommend close toed “boat type shoes. Walking barefoot, sandals and slippers are not allowed onboard, but sandals & slippers may be used when ashore.
- Sunglasses
- Watch
- Hat(s)/Visor(s)
- Swimwear
- Formal wear for the Alumni Ball

**ELECTRONICS**
- Travel alarm clock
- Camera
- Extra memory cards/film
- Flash drive
- Laptop (if you are bringing one)
- Portable music player & Headphones
- Small flashlight and batteries

**TOILETRIES**
- In order to minimize the environmental impact to oceans, we recommend bringing biodegradable toiletries
  - Shampoo/Conditioner
  - Toothbrush(es), Toothpaste, & Mouthwash
  - Deodorant
  - Razor(s), & Shaving cream/gel
  - Liquid body soap
  - Scrub sponge
  - Comb/brush
  - Hair products
  - Contact lens and/or Prescription eyeglasses
  - Gender specific toiletries
  - Travel-sized toiletries for in-country travel

**MEDICAL/HEALTH SUPPLIES**
- Any prescription medication
- Sleep Aids: Tylenol PM, Benadryl
- Benadryl for allergic reactions, nausea
- Pepto Bismol
- Imodium
- Hand sanitizer
- Immune boosters (EmergenC, Airborne, Echinacea)
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray with DEET (non-aerosol)
- Small first-aid kit

**MISCELLANEOUS – Many items on this list are suggestions from Alumni**
- Install and Recovery CDs for all software and operating systems on your laptop
- Credit/Debit cards - Notify the company of your itinerary
- Cash - A supply of $1 bills is always convenient/ Money Belt
- School supplies - Pens/pencils, notebooks, etc.
- Plug Adaptor and/or Converter. All outlets on the World Odyssey are European (220v). If your electronic device has an input range of 110v – 240v you will only need an adaptor. If your device has an input range of below 220v, you will need a converter.
- Thermos/Mug/Water Bottle
- Laundry Detergent – You may want to wash smaller items in your bathroom sink.
- Beach towel – Bath towels are provided, but cannot be taken off the ship!
- Sleeping bag - Not required, but if you want yours, bring it.
- Overnight backpack and/or Daypack – Useful for traveling in port.
- Small items for people you meet along the way (hometown postcards from your, stickers, coloring books, etc.) – Always ask permission before giving gifts to children.
- Journal
- Business cards for networking – An easy way to exchange information with shipmates and in port.
- Musical Instruments– Guitars & small instruments are allowed, but they must be stored in your cabin.
- Quart-sized plastic bag to store carry-on liquids and gels for air travel
You may want to sway toward more conservative dress in port as certain instances, such as visits to businesses, meetings with government officials, and special events or dinners, will call for special attire. Additionally, visits to houses of worship will require covered shoulders, shorts/skirts below the knee, and closed-toe shoes.

Additional Tips for Preparing to Sail on the MV World Odyssey

Many voyagers may have spoken with alumni regarding living on Semester at Sea’s floating campus. However, there are a few minor differences on the MV World Odyssey that you should note.

- **The MV World Odyssey only has European outlets with a voltage of 220v.** If you have a non-European device with an input range of 110v-240v you will only need an adaptor. If your device only has a single input range of below 220v, you will need a converter. To verify if you will need a converter, check the label on your device’s power supply.

- **There are only two European outlets in each cabin and one shaver outlet in the bathroom.** The shaver outlet is dual voltage (110v and 220v) however, it is designed for low voltage appliances and can only accommodate shavers or similar devices. Power strips and extension cords are not allowed. However, in order to increase plug capacity, consider purchasing an [adapter that also offers two USB connections](#).

- **Straightening/curling irons are only allowed on board if you have proof that they are auto-shutoff.** If you have no proof, it will be confiscated during check-in and will not be returned to you. Please verify the voltage on your device as many of these devices are single voltage and may need a converter to be used on board. You may also consider purchasing a dual voltage [hair straightener](#) or [curling iron](#).

- **You will not be allowed to affix any items to your cabin walls.** Unlike our previous campus, the walls on the MV World Odyssey are not magnetic. All adhesives including, but not limited to, regular tape, duct tape, wall mounting tape/adhesive strips, poster tape, and thumb tacks/push pins are not allowed on the ship. Cabin stewards check cabins daily so please do not plan to affix any items to the interior or exterior cabin walls. If any adhesives are brought to the ship they will be confiscated at check-in.
SHIPBOARD ACCOUNTS

How do I purchase items on the ship?
The MV World Odyssey uses a cashless system and a shipboard account is required for each participant. Any transaction or purchase onboard the ship such as field programs, snacks, bottled water, phone cards, Internet minutes, campus store, laundry, etc., will be billed through the participant’s shipboard account.

How do I set-up my shipboard account?
Participants will establish their shipboard accounts at the beginning of the voyage by registering a credit card with the ship’s Pursers Office or by providing the third-party credit card authorization form, which will be provided in your final packet. The shipboard account balance will be charged to the registered credit card approximately once a month throughout the voyage.

We strongly encourage you to register a card that is different from the card you plan to use while in port. In the event that if the card is lost or stolen, you will still have access to your shipboard account. An itemized statement will be provided to the student at the end of each voyage segment. This statement will not be provided to parents. It is the student’s responsibility to provide the documentation to the parent if they request it and to make them aware that they will not be receiving statements.

Can I use a debit card for my shipboard account?
While we strongly discourage the use of debit cards and cash, they are acceptable options to fund shipboard accounts. If a participant prefers to settle their shipboard account in cash, then the participant must maintain a $500 credit balance on their shipboard account for the entire voyage. Registering a debit card for use on a shipboard account is not recommended because of the daily transaction limits required by banks. With additional field trip sales and other shipboard purchases, the participant’s monthly charges will likely exceed the debit cards daily limits and result in a declined transaction. If this is your only option, please contact your bank for an increase to your daily limit prior to departure.

What happens if the form of payment on my shipboard account is declined?
Non-payment of Shipboard Accounts, or declined credit card transactions will result in the participant’s shipboard account being frozen until payment is rendered. If a participant’s account is frozen then purchases aboard the ship are not possible. If there is an unpaid shipboard balance at the end of the voyage, your transcript will be held until payment in full is received. ISE does not accept payments for shipboard accounts in their Charlottesville, Va. office. All shipboard account payments must be made on the World Odyssey.

The Institute for Shipboard Education (ISE) reserves the right to close a student’s shipboard account for reasons including, but not limited to: unpaid shipboard account balances, delinquent tuition account payments, or disciplinary issues. Should you have any questions regarding policies and procedures regarding shipboard accounts please feel free to contact the ISE business office at 1.800.854.0195.
IN-COUNTRY FINANCES

Where may I purchase foreign currency?
You may wish to obtain local currency of the places you are visiting prior to departure, especially when port arrival coincides with a weekend. To obtain foreign currency please consult with a financial institution, such as Bank of America, Wells Fargo or your personal bank, who can better serve you. Be sure to know which countries you are traveling to as obtaining foreign currency may not be possible for all the countries on your itinerary.

How much money should I budget for each port?
The amount of money you spend in each port will depend on your overall budget. The average voyager budget is $2,500-$3,000 in spending money for the entire voyage. Keep in mind that currency exchange rates vary from port-to-port so you may spend more money in some countries than others.

Are ATM’s available in port?
ATMs are widely available in most worldwide locations. ATMs distribute local currency and exchange rates are typically better. Please be sure to consult with your bank before using your ATM card abroad and alert them of your itinerary. Many banks place daily limits on ATM/debit cards. Be sure to check with your bank to see if you are subject to a daily limit.

Can I use my debit/credit card in port?
Visa and MasterCard are accepted in many worldwide locations and offer advantageous exchange rates. Be sure to alert your credit card provider of your itinerary as charges in several different countries could trigger a hold on your account.

Many European countries have transitioned to accept only cards with a microchip (including businesses and ATMs). It is recommended that you bring at least one card with a microchip. If your bank, does not offer cards with microchip please plan to bring foreign currency as a backup.

For Debit and Credit card use, it is highly recommended that you research institutions that waive the international transaction fee, such as Capital One, military banks, and some credit unions.

How many credit cards should I bring?
You should plan to bring two credits cards for your voyage in case one is lost or stolen. When traveling with ATM/debit cards and credit cards, be sure to safeguard them and use them in legitimate establishments. You may want to periodically check your account online to verify usage. In the event your card is lost, stolen, there are fraudulent charges or you need to contact your issuing institution, write down phone numbers to use when calling from abroad.
STAYING IN TOUCH

While on Semester at Sea, you have several options for staying in touch with family and friends. Additional information about these services will be provided to you on the ship.

EMAIL

The most convenient way to stay in touch is via your voyage email account. All students, lifelong learners, faculty, staff and dependents have a shipboard email address with which they can send and receive email messages on and off the ship. The email accounts will be in the format of firstname.lastname.FA16@semesteratsea.org (i.e. jane.doe.FA16@semesteratsea.org). Approximately, one month before the voyage, you will receive instructions on how to access your new email account.

MAIL – PORT ADDRESSES

Please note that mail service is unreliable in many of the countries we visit. ISE does not assume liability for lost, damaged, or undeliverable items or the costs associated with the return or forwarding of items.

If you decide to send letters, postcards, or packages, we recommend using a courier that will provide a guaranteed delivery date and tracking number. Please do not send any mail to the ISE headquarters in Fort Collins, CO. or to Colorado State University for forwarding.

MOBILE PHONE SERVICE

The MV World Odyssey does not currently have cell phone service.

Important Note: It is highly recommended that you contact your cell phone carrier and switch to an international plan prior to boarding if you intend to use your phone while overseas. It is also recommended that you turn off cellular data on your smartphones (iPhones in particular) to avoid a large data bill while on your voyage.

CALLING THE SHIP

Every cabin aboard the MV World Odyssey is equipped with phones that enable around the clock ship-to-shore calling (both receiving incoming calls and placing outgoing calls). Students can make outgoing calls by purchasing pre-paid calling cards at the Pursers desk on the ship. Family members and friends can call the ship 24 hours a day by dialing the toll free number: (800) 305-9203. The caller will be asked to provide a credit card that will be charged approximately $3.95 per minute. Your call will then be connected directly to your voyager’s cabin.

PACKAGES

Due to the cost of handling and receiving packages in each port of call, the recipient’s shipboard account will be charged a fee of $10, $25, or $50 depending on the size of the package. For each package received, the recipient’s shipboard account will be charged accordingly. The fee is inclusive of imposed duties, local taxes, and any other cost associated with receiving the package. Should the sum of fees and taxes exceed $50.00, then the actual amount incurred will be charged. Fees will be assessed according to the following scale:

- $10 fee – Small flat parcels like heavy duty envelopes
- $25 fee – Medium parcels up to 7 1/2” x 5 1/2” x 14 1/2”
- $50 fee – Parcels larger than 7 1/2” x 5 1/2” x 14 1/2”

Recipients also will be responsible for the payment of imposed duties, local taxes, and any other costs associated with receiving packages. Duty charges are calculated by in-country (non-ISE) officials based on the perceived value of the items enclosed or in some cases the local price. As a result, duties may exceed the value of the items sent. We do not recommend that you send any of the following items: food (snacks, chocolates, candies, etc.), electronics, medication, credit cards, currency, or valuable items. Any mail sent to the vessel is subject to search by ship security if deemed necessary and will be discarded if containing prohibited items without reimbursement. ISE is not responsible for the retrieval or return of any items that do not reach the vessel prior to departure from each port.