The Things They Bring

The National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange (NCDE)
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Contents

• Power wheelchairs, manual wheelchairs or scooters
• Medications
• Medical supplies
• Service animals
• Personal assistants
Mobility Devices: Manual Chair

Advantages of a manual chair:
- Can be repaired in local bike shops.
- Easy to fold up and put in a taxi.
- Harder for airline personnel to break.

Disadvantages of a manual chair:
- Less freedom of movement for someone with limited upper body strength.
- Impossible for people with certain disabilities to operate without assistance.
Mobility Devices: Power Chair

Advantages of a power chair:
• Can be operated by people with limited upper body strength.
• Easier to get up hills.
• Best option for people with certain disabilities.

Disadvantages of a power chair:
• Hard to disassemble.
• Could be damaged by airline staff.
• Less flexibility in developing country environments.
Mobility Devices: Power Scooter

Advantages of a power scooter:
• Can be easy to disassemble.
• Can be carried up and down escalators.
• Great for ambulatory students with reduced mobility, limited balance, fatigue.
• Can be rented in host countries.

Disadvantages of a power scooter:
• Inappropriate for students who are not ambulatory.
• Less maneuverability.
Power or manual chair?

- Some students travel with their power chairs.
- Others travel with a manual chair and rent a power chair in the host country.
- If a student is traveling abroad from a highly accessible community in the U.S. they may need more assistance than expected regardless of how "developed" the destination country.
- On flights between the U.S. and other countries, travelers have the right to gate check their wheelchairs or scooters.
Mobility devices: flights

• Check online information offered by airlines for passengers with disabilities for the procedure to request RA.

• Include instructions for airline personnel to unplug the battery and disengage the motor from a power chair at gate check.

• Arrive an hour earlier than advised.

• Shorter connecting flights could be a better option if bathrooms on the plane won’t be accessible.
Mobility devices: avoid broken equipment

• Best to have wider front casters larger than 5in of diameter with shock absorbers. A Free Wheel can be added to raise front casters that are too small.
• Consider a maintenance check before traveling.
• Research who will be able to repair a chair abroad.
• Check with manufacturer if voltage transformers are required for charging.
Note about Travel Insurance

Travel insurance won’t cover durable medical equipment related to pre-existing conditions, but it can help support a student with the following.

- Filing claims if equipment is damaged during flight.
- Locating rentals abroad.
- Coordinating repair services.
Medications

• For shorter programs students can get a 90 day supply of medications before leaving.
• Pain control and psychotrophic medications may be considered controlled substances in other countries.
• Check the policy of the country where the student is going through the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) or embassies.
• You or the student should research how medications may be obtained in the host country in the correct dose and brand.
• Prescriptions from a U.S. doctor may be enough for pharmacies abroad.
Medications (Continued)

• You typically cannot send medications through the mail.
• Travel with medications in original packages.
• Medications and supplies should be transported in carry-on luggage.
• Medications and supplies will not count towards carry-on limits.
• Students can adapt medication schedule to the new time zone gradually or abruptly, based on advice from doctors and individuals with similar conditions.
Medications: Japan Focus

• The Japanese government restricts access to a wide range of medication’s.
• Medication legally obtained elsewhere Will still not be permitted.
• Examples include Adderall and Ritalin.
• Advise students to discuss an alternative medication with their care provider.
• List of permitted controlled substances: https://www.ncd.mhlw.go.jp/dl_data/keitai/total.pdf
Personal Assistant Services

Personal assistants can be found among the following.

• Fellow exchange participants.
• through a campus disability resource center.
• Through a nursing program at your college or the host college.
• Posting to local newspapers.
• Local assisted living centers
Personal Assistant Services (Funding)

• The student's funds.
• The University's funds.
• Financial aid from the exchange organization
• Vocational rehabilitation resources (On a case-by-case basis)
• Medicaid (on a case-by-case basis)
• Fundraising
Personal Assistant Services

• Advice on a personal care attendant visa. Many of them use tourist visas.

• Additional housing which is both accessible and has enough space for student and attendant.

• Travel costs for an attendant. Ground transportation in some places will allow the attendant to travel free, but it might be different with flights.
Sign Language Interpreters

Can be found

• Through your networks
• Through and exchange provider's networks
• In the host country or in the United States
Sign Language Interpreters

Can be paid for

• Out of a fund reserved for reasonable accommodations. Many colleges would already pay for interpreter services if a student was taking a class in the United States, so that accommodation should transfer in for-credit programs.

• By a host institution.

• Department of vocational rehabilitation
Service Dogs

• Check the FDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) pet dog import and export guidelines for the host country.
• EU countries will require an EU pet passport, and others may have a similar health certification scheme.
• Island countries may require quarantine.
• Assistance Dogs International (ADI) certifies schools around the world.
• Many other countries do not recognize handler-trained service animals.
• Student should verify that the dog is trained by an ADI-certified school.
• Dogs are considered unclean in some countries, in others stray dog populations may interfere with a service animal.
Financial Aid For Disability Expenses Overseas

• Colleges take requests on a case by case basis.
• Sometimes costs can be split with or assumed by other entities for example a host university providing extra housing for a student's PA.
• University of Arizona: centralized fund.
• Duke university: centralized fund.
• University of Illinois: Enabled Abroad Scholarship.
We ask you to join us in creating a culture that reflects…

Access and Inclusion
and

Civility and Respect

…this week and in all aspects of our organization.
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