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 psychotropic 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 medications.
- 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](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.
- 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.

Questions
Conference Civility Statement

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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