



# Social Media Abroad

## Tips for Using Social Media While Studying Abroad

### Pre-departure

- ➔ Read up on your host country! Follow [Twitter](#) accounts or [Facebook](#) pages that provide news, politics, culture, and events about your future home.
- ➔ Follow Twitter accounts that provide study abroad tips such as these: [@ISAabroad](#), [@studyabroad101](#), [@intstudent](#), [@GoAbroad](#), [@TravelGov](#), among others...
- ➔ Tell friends how they can reach you via [Tweets](#) or [Facebook](#) posts (sometimes you can receive mail while abroad but it is never guaranteed)
- ➔ Buy [Skype credit](#) to communicate with family and friends as needed
- ➔ Set up a blog and write a few posts prior to your departure so you can remember how you were feeling leading up to the trip
- ➔ Consider making your social media account settings more private (photos will be posted like crazy when you are abroad, so if you don't want certain people seeing EVERYTHING you do, check those privacy settings)
- ➔ If you have a smart phone, decide if it is worth getting unlocked to use abroad. You can always access apps such as [WhatsApp](#), iMessage, and [Viber](#) to communicate via WiFi

## Upon Arrival

- ➔ Get in touch with friends and family! It's easy to get wrapped up in the excitement but everyone wants to know you arrived safely
- ➔ Document things (photos, blog posts) especially at the beginning when new sights and experiences stand out to you the most
- ➔ But DO NOT be too attached to communicating with people from home; give yourself an allotted time per week to contact friends and family but do not stay on the computer the entire time abroad while everyone else is exploring and enjoying their new environment.



## Upon Return

- ➔ Keep in touch with all the friends you have made abroad
- ➔ Reminisce over photos you and your friends share on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), etc.
- ➔ Continue blogging in order to document your experience transitioning back home
- ➔ Advise students who will study abroad in the future; many programs recruit ambassadors to advise future students via [Facebook](#) groups



...In general, just be smart! Use social media to your advantage while you are abroad, but don't let it cause you to miss out on your new surroundings or ruin your reputation back home.