



# Augustana Guide to the

# University of Botswana Exchange Program



This guide is to help you better prepare for your time in the University of Botswana exchange program. It will help you answer any questions you may have about particular steps in the process and give you contact information for those questions that are not answered. This guide will make the process of preparing to go abroad much simpler and lead you in what to do up until the point of departure.

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## I. Basic Information and Application Process for Augustana Exchange Programs

Exchange programs differ from other study abroad programs due to the make-up of the trip. An exchange program allows students to travel more independently, without a large group of American students creating a bubble effect. There will be no Augustana professor or advisor to guide you along the way, but the local university has offices dedicated to assisting international students like you to become a part of their campus community. The chance to branch out and become immersed in the Botswanan culture is what this experience offers. It is an opportunity to study across many fields of study, in English or in the local language, and to become part of a new campus, a new culture and a new educational model.

### Basic Program Information

SCHOOL	TERMS	LANGUAGE	COURSE LOAD	NOTES
The University of Botswana	Full Year Fall + December Spring + Jan/Feb	English	12-15 Credits per semester	Students on semester exchange also take 4-6 credits at Augustana during the ½ of Winter Term not in Botswana.

Students may opt to study a local language such as Setswana while in Botswana, but this is not required. English is an official language in Botswana and all classes at the U. of Botswana are conducted in English. Students at the university may speak regional languages but all will also speak English.

### A. Exchange Program Application Instructions

Participation on an exchange program involves working with both Augustana offices and parallel offices at the host university, thus can involve various stages and requirements.

#### STEP ONE: Applying and qualifying at Augustana

1. Apply for the exchange program on Augie Plus by following the standard study abroad application instructions. Applications for each year's programs are due in January of the prior year (ex. Jan 2014 for a 2014-2015 program.) A deposit will be required at the time of application.
2. Students must have a 2.50 GPA for any exchange program. All students will be reviewed by the Dean of Students Office. This office can approve or deny any student from participation due to academic or other disciplinary issues.
3. Students are notified by email when approved for an exchange program. At this point a meeting will be scheduled with the International & Off-Campus programs staff to discuss the program. Your name will be sent to the International Office of the host university so that they are ready to hear from you.

## **STEP TWO:** Applying at the host university

Every university is different, but all have offices to assist with international and exchange student applications. You should visit the The University of Botswana International Office website, notify the school of your intention to apply and complete the online application materials. The university may request that the International & Off-Campus Programs office at Augustana also contact the school to verify that you have been approved for the program. The website for the UB International Office is:

<http://www.ub.bw/home/sd/1/sec/6/dep/26/International-Education-and-Partnerships/>

Follow all instructions from the university. They will require documentation from Augustana and may ask for forms which duplicate those which Augustana requires. You must fill out all required forms for both Augustana and the host university.

***Application Deadlines*** can vary, but typically applications for Fall semester or full year are due in April, while applications for Spring Semester are due in October.

## **STEP THREE:** Enrolling in the program with Augustana

All students who travel on an Augustana program must register with our online paperless Studio Abroad database program. This program includes electronic copies of all of the forms and documents which Augustana requires of students who study, intern, or travel with groups off campus, and this includes all exchange students.

You will be sent instructions on how to apply through Studio Abroad when you are accepted into the exchange program by Augustana. Once you get the approval email, you should set up your Studio Abroad account as soon as possible and then complete the required documents found there.

## **STEP FOUR:** Course Approval

1. Notify International & Off-Campus Programs when you have been accepted into the host university.
2. IOP will provide you with course transfer sheets. These are very similar to the sheets used when a student wishes to take courses at another school and then transfer those credits in, which is essentially what you will be doing with the exchange program.
3. Download course descriptions or syllabi from the host university for TWICE (or more) the number of courses you think you will take. For example, in a semester you might

take 4 courses, so get documents from the 8 courses you are most likely to choose. Since you don't know the class schedule yet, you need a lot of alternate courses in case your top choices are closed, not offered in the term you will be in Botswana, or conflict with each other.

**WARNING:** It may be difficult to acquire syllabi from the U. of Botswana prior to arrival. It may be necessary to delay the course approval process until after your arrival in Botswana. Instructions on this process will be provided later in this document.

4. You will need to seek approval from your academic adviser, from IOP, and from the department for each course you wish to take. Some departments will ask for syllabi, others may not. You should be prepared to provide each department with a course description and syllabus for each course upon request.
5. Once completed, these forms are turned in at the Registrar's Office. When you leave, your transcript will state only that you are taking generic credits at the host university (12 credits of BOTS [Botswana], for example). Only upon your return and the delivery of a transcript to Augustana's Registrar will those generic credits be transformed into the course titles and equivalents which you took. Grades are not included, only transferred credits. All courses taken at UB will be treated as pass/no credit and will not alter your GPA. Credits will be earned but no letter grades will be reported. **Since all exchange courses are treated as pass/no credit, you must receive the equivalent of a C in any course to pass the course and earn credit or there will not be any credits earned for the course.**

**STEP FIVE:** Billing, housing and payments:

Remember that for any exchange program you will be billed tuition & fees as if you were at Augustana, on the same calendar you would normally be billed. For the Botswana exchange you will also be billed a standard housing and meal plan cost based on your on-campus housing for the rest of the year, or, if you live off-campus, the standard housing cost for a student in your academic year (Residence Hall or TLA, depending on the year). The meal plan charge will be the equivalent of a full meal plan at Augustana, as you will receive a stipend for all meal costs while in Botswana. The University of Botswana will place you in appropriate on-campus student housing and you will not be billed by them for your housing. Your meal plan in Botswana will be in the form of a stipend which will allow you to use the various on campus cafeterias and eateries as well as off-campus restaurants if you choose to do so.

With all exchange programs travel to and from the country, and any additional travel you might opt to do, are not covered by the program and are the responsibility of the individual participant.

These five steps are essential to a smooth enrollment process for any exchange program. Of course you will want to speak with each program's campus contact person to find out more about the university and the location. These liaisons are listed on Augustana's exchange program website and able to answer any potential questions you may have about your interested program.

You can also bring questions to the International & Off-Campus Programs Office. You may also be given some student contacts who have participated in the program in prior years, they are a great resource to answer any questions pertaining to the experience, what to pack, cost questions, etc. They can help answer some of your questions from a student perspective and give you more specific answers based on their own experiences.

## B. Costs & Payment

The chart below details which program costs are paid to Augustana College and which are paid at the host university. In all cases supplemental health insurance is highly recommended and transportation costs are out-of-pocket.

PAYMENT & EXPENSE PLAN FOR AUGUSTANA EXCHANGE PROGRAMS				
	PAID TO AUGUSTANA			
	Tuition	Fees	Room	Meal Plan
Botswana	YES	YES	YES	YES
All payments are made to Augustana. There should be no payments except for some temporary fees or deposits (keys, lockers, etc.) required by the U. of Botswana . Health insurance and travel costs are paid directly by the student.				

Students on Augustana Exchanges are eligible for the same financial aid they would receive on campus as well as Augie Choice (if eligible). Other grants and scholarships students have individually earned may also be applicable.

Somewhere to start looking for additional study abroad and exchange student scholarships would be [http://www.isep.org/students/Programs/financial\\_aid\\_scholarships.asp](http://www.isep.org/students/Programs/financial_aid_scholarships.asp)

### C. Augustana Contacts

You might wish to speak to these campus contacts prior to completing either your Augustana application or your host university application. Once accepted into both parts of the program, it is recommended that you work with the faculty contacts in order to select courses which are appropriate for your time abroad.

Allen Bertsche, Director  
International & Off-Campus Programs  
309-794-8283  
internationalprograms@augustana.edu

Or any faculty from the  
Africana Studies Program



## II. The University of Botswana Exchange Program

### A. The University of Botswana in Brief

The University of Botswana, Gaborone campus, is the premiere university in the nation of Botswana and one of the most prestigious in southern Africa. Founded in 1982 as the first university of Botswana, the campus in Gaborone is home to 15,000 students in one of 6 schools, including schools of Business, Education, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Humanities. Most students live on campus in one of several modern residence halls. International students are often placed with either Botswanan or other international students from a country other than their own to maximize integration into campus life. The campus has multiple libraries and cafeterias, an on-campus medical clinic and counselling services, as well as athletic and recreational facilities.

The central district of Gaborone, the nation's capital, is a short bus ride away from the university campus. Gaborone is a city of just over 230,000 inhabitants, is the political and cultural hub of the south African nation. Boasting several important museums, art and music venues and cultural festivals, the city is a great location for study as well as a convenient transportation hub for those students who wish to travel throughout Botswana, South Africa and other surrounding nations. For more information on the nation of Botswana, please visit this site: <http://www.botswanaturism.co.bw/>

## B. Exchange Program Basics

Augustana College and the The University of Botswana have formed an agreement through which students from one school may attend the other for a full year or for a portion of the year. Typically Augustana students travel to Botswana for one semester, spanning our Fall or Spring Term and half of our Winter Term. For this reason Augustana students should plan to take courses both at Botswana and at Augustana during the winter. If a student from Augustana wanted to stay for the entire year, that is also possible. Students from Botswana typically come to Augustana in August and stay only for our Fall trimester, though they also have the option of staying for an entire academic year.

Students traveling to Botswana pay Augustana tuition, fees, housing costs and meal plan. They live on campus at The University of Botswana, often paired with another international student as a roommate. Students have all the rights and privileges of Botswana U. students, including access to a wide range of courses in English, computer use, library access and use of the on-campus cafeterias.

The typical Augustana student will enroll in 5 courses while in Botswana, allowing them to earn 15 credits of coursework at Augustana. They will then supplement those credits with 1-3 credits of 5-week courses at Augustana during the half of Winter Term when they are not in Botswana. All courses taken at the U. of Botswana should be pre-approved by Augustana before a student departs for southern Africa (more on this later in the document.)

Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to/from Botswana for this program. Instructions and recommendations are included in this document.

## C. Application Process

**Step One :** Submit the application on the Augustana Website by the January deadline. You will need to have your \$300 deposit to the business office by the same date.

**Step Two:** Once you have been accepted by Augustana for the Botswana Exchange Program, you will be given specific instructions on how to complete Augustana's required documentation. You will also be advised on how to apply to The University of Botswana through their International Office. The Augustana IOP Office will give you contact information for the U. of Botswana's International Office. At present their webpage is not particularly user friendly, but it does contain information on fields of study available. You can visit that site at: <http://www.ub.bw/home/sd/1/sec/6/dep/26/International-Education-and-Partnerships/>



**Step Three:** Complete any application, visa or housing documents recommended by the University of Botswana, along with the Augustana documents which will be located on an online database. Instructions on how to complete both will be available from the IOP office at Augustana and the International Office at Botswana.



#### **D. Course Selection**

While you will not officially register for courses until you arrive in Botswana, you should review the courses available for the semester you will be at Botswana and seek approval from Augustana departments for courses in preparation for enrollment. In order to ensure that you will receive full credit for courses taken in Botswana, you should plan to do the following:

1. Speak with your advisor about courses and Gen Ed requirements you might try to fill while in Botswana.
2. Review the list of courses offered in Botswana. This may require review of pages from several different schools within the university. Augustana's IOP can assist with this process.
3. Select twice as many courses as you actually plan to take. Basically you want backup options if a course is not offered, is closed by the time you register, or is in conflict with another course. By getting twice as many courses approved as you need, you can register at Botswana without fear that some of your courses will not transfer back to Augie.

4. In order to get courses approved by Augustana you will need to pick up the yellow course transfer sheets from the IOP office and get signatures from your advisor, the appropriate department chair at Augustana and the IOP Director. In most cases you will need to download either a course description or a copy of the syllabus in order to get approval from a department chair. They are the gatekeepers for all courses and it is their job to ensure that the course you want to take in Botswana is a good equivalent for something you could study at Augustana. Expect them to ask questions about the class and to be skeptical at first.
  
5. If you are able to get good course descriptions or syllabi (some department websites at UB provide this), you should be able to get courses approved prior to your departure. However, if you are not able to get all courses (and alternates) this way, we then require you to do the following:
  - a. Fill out 3-4 yellow transfer credit sheets with your academic information.
  - b. Provide these sheets to the IOP Director or staff.
  - c. Upon your course selections in Botswana you should receive syllabi. As soon as possible either scan and email or take clear photos and email those syllabi images to IOP at [internationalprograms@augustana.edu](mailto:internationalprograms@augustana.edu).
  - d. IOP Staff will work with faculty to seek approval of these courses while you are studying in Botswana. We cannot guarantee that every course will transfer, but we will endeavor to get as many as possible.
  - e. You will be notified by IOP and by the Registrar once courses have been approved for transfer. This should be complete within the time you are away, but may require follow-up from you via email.

It is highly recommended that you seek courses in Botswana that are clear equivalents to courses at Augustana. The more the course resembles in its content a course at Augustana the easier it will be for approval to transfer.

6. Once you have all of the signatures for the courses you have selected, make a copy of the forms for you to take with you and turn in the original yellow forms to the Registrar in Founders Hall. If you are sending syllabi from Botswana, this will be done for you by IOP, but if you are able to get courses approved before you depart, this is preferred.

### **E. Housing**

On-Campus housing is guaranteed at The University of Botswana for all exchange students. A housing application will be sent to you electronically once you have been accepted as a student by the U. of Botswana. You can review information about housing at the The U. of Botswana website: <http://www.ub.bw/content/id/3243/pid/3//Accommodation-in-and-Around-Campus/>

All housing is in shared rooms where exchange students are placed with local students. This enhances your ability to engage with the culture of Botswana as well as to develop friendships with local students.

### **F. Health Insurance**

It is necessary that you purchase health insurance for your time at The University of Botswana. American health insurance which you already possess may not be valid or contain all of the benefits you would desire while living abroad. You may opt to purchase health insurance coverage through Augustana College. 2015-2016 rates for this are \$16.50 per week of coverage. Another popular option is to purchase an ISIC International Student ID Card. This card, and particularly the “Explorer” insurance package which is an optional purchase, provides a solid international health care plan which covers most expenses while overseas as well as emergency transportation costs. ISIC cards can be purchased at <http://www.myisic.com/>.

### **G. Visa/Residence Permit**

As part of your admission packet from UB, you will be issued an acceptance letter which states that you will be a student at the UB for a semester or a year. While it is possible to enter Botswana without a visa, because you will be staying longer than 90 days you will likely be asked to produce this letter, confirming your status as a student, when you arrive at your departure airport. Once you arrive in Botswana, you will want to confirm with the staff of the International Office to see if there are any requirements for you to remain in legal status.

### **H. Credit Transferring**

When you are done with your semester or year in Botswana, you will need to ensure that your transcript is sent back to Augustana. It is important that you have the exchange university send the transcript back to the Registrar’s office directly. The Registrar cannot accept a transcript or grade report that has been sent to you. If you walk into their office with a copy or mail it yourself, they cannot accept it as an official document. Please insist that the UB mail the official transcript to this address:

Office of the Registrar  
Augustana College  
639—38<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rock Island, IL 61201

It is essential for you to have the host university send your transcript to Augustana because Augustana will not accept any transcript not sent from the host university. It is also possible that UB will email the IOP office an electronic copy of the transcript. While this is helpful, the official record will be based upon your paper transcript mailed to the Registrar.

**Please remember that in order to receive credit for the courses you take in Botswana, you must receive a grade of a “C” or higher.** The grading system is a little different in Botswana; however, the host university will send your transcript back with letter grades when asked. You may wish to talk to your professors about this or someone in the International Programs Office at your University.



### III. Pre-departure Information for The University of Botswana

#### A. Money Matters

Items you will pay for out of pocket once in Botswana include: meals, transportation to/from/within Botswana, student visa, insurance, discretionary spending. Making a budget for your time abroad would be a good idea so that you have a grasp on your spending habits and how much you can spend on certain things while over there.

#### B. Food

Meals are paid for out of pocket, although you will be given a stipend by the UB for meals. The stipend allows you to purchase meals both on and off campus. If you find that the stipend is not sufficient for your dietary needs (ie. you spend more than a reasonable budget would allow) you may have to supplement the stipend with your own funds. In this case, you will want to create a budget for yourself so as not to overspend on food and run short of funds.

## C. Recommended Packing List

### Important Documents

- Passport
- Driver's License
- Augustana I.D. (for student discounts in museums)
- Airline Tickets
- Train Tickets
- Eurail Pass
- Debit/Credit Cards
- Other banking info (contact info for lost cards)
- Health insurance cards
- Admissions packet from UB (Needed for proof of student status)

**Luggage:** Regulations regarding overseas luggage allow for one large suitcases at about 50 lbs. —but you will need to be under or a surcharge will occur—and one carry-on bag (potential to vary with different airlines, but this is standard). This must be under a certain size. You may wish your carry-on bag to double as a weekend bag. Do not take more than what is necessary, as it will only be more you will have to lug around with you. Most students do fine with one large suitcase and a smaller second suitcase with a carry-on bag. Regulations regarding luggage restrictions vary from airline to airline, so check with your airline as these are subject to change! Most students discover that they don't end up wearing everything that they pack. Keep in mind that extra space in your luggage going over is not necessarily a bad thing because it can be used to bring back souvenirs, books, etc. It is very expensive to ship packages back to the States.

**Carry-on notes:** When packing your carry-on, make sure to pack your important documents, purse/wallet, a change of clothes, some underwear, bras, all electronics, all prescription medicines, a few toiletries, and contacts and/or glasses. If you wear contacts full time, bring a bottle of lens drops for the plane (and regular use.) Basically, pack anything that you may need for 2-3 days should your suitcase get lost. Remember that certain items are not allowed in your carry-on luggage. This includes razors, scissors or knives of pretty much any size as well as most liquids or gels. You are allowed to have some liquids in clear 3 oz. bottles in a quart-size zip-lock bag for most airlines. Again, check the airline regulations before packing. Plan to pack larger quantities of shampoo, toothpaste, and other toiletries which are liquids and gels in your large suitcase.

**Weather:** Typical weather for Botswana varies across the year, but essential is as follows:

High temperatures between 70-90 most of the year, warmer from Oct-Dec and cooler from May to June. Temperatures can vary quite a bit between day and night due to the generally dry climate of the country. At night, low temperatures range from the high 60's in the summer months (November-February) and drop as low as the 40's in winter (June-August)

Botswana's climate can be divided into 2 seasons, a rainy season and a dry season. Very little rain falls in the months from May to September, while rain is common from November through March. Botswana's climate is subtropical, so you should not encounter tropical storms of the type seen further north in Africa or along the coasts.

**Clothing:** Botswana's weather is significantly warmer than Augustana's, especially in the months of the academic year (October-February being summer in Botswana) so you will likely be dressing for Spring-Summer weather. It is highly recommended that you also pack a small umbrella or rain jacket,, but no winter clothes are needed. If you have a smart phone with a weather app, you could check the weather daily so as to be best prepared.

- It is recommended that you pack in color schemes so that you can wash laundry easier. For instance, take black and blue clothing that can be washed together or colors that can be washed together – remember to pack smart and layer, that way you can utilize items in any type of weather and keep your packing light and efficient and make sure you are packing all the right items so you are not over your 50 lb. limit, but are still prepared for any type of weather thrown your way.
- Take clothes that do not need special treatment – you do not want to go through the hassle of trying to dry clean, wash separately, etc. Try thinking as if you were going to just throw everything from your suitcase directly into the washing machine, if it cannot all go in there, you may want to reconsider.
- Avoid clothes may easily shrink. Botswanan washers and dryers are not the same as in America, and if a Botswanan native washes your clothes, they may not understand when you tell them something needs to be washed or dried on cold. If you really want to take something that does not fit in any load, keep in mind that you may have to wash it by hand for the duration of your trip.
- It is best to pack in layers and to dress in layers. Feel free to add to the list below, but pack lightly – remember you can and will have to re-wear and mix and match clothing items.

When it comes to packing bulkier items such as towels, sweatshirts, and sweaters (light ones only due to weather), using space saving bags is convenient. They can be purchased at a variety of stores and come in handy. You do not need a vacuum in order to use them. Simply roll the air out. Remember, this saves on space, but not on weight. Recommendations: If you are going in the fall, pack these as well.

1-2 pairs of jeans	1-2 Dress shirts	3-4 T-Shirts	Bras
1-2 shorts/skirts	1 sweater/sweatshirt	Socks (7-10 pair)	Rain Jacket
1-2 light pants	2-3 light summer tops	Underwear (8-10 pair)	Sandals
Dress outfit	Tennis Shoes	Athletic Clothing	Sleepwear
Dress Shoes	Umbrella (small)	Bath & Hand towels	Belt

**Toiletries:** Generally, do not pack toiletries in your carry-on except for allowed sizes of toothpaste, etc. At the time this was written, any liquids in a carry-on must be in 3 oz. clear bottles. Put these small containers of liquids together in one one-quart zip-lock and have ready to go through security. But check the TSA website before departure for the most current regulations.

It is best to take only what you need for a couple of days and to buy toiletries when you arrive in Botswana. You never know, you may find products that you prefer in Botswana. For women it is recommended to pack feminine hygiene products sufficient for the duration of your trip. While they obviously carry these products in Botswana, it is easier not to have to search for the right product. Plus, these products will be used up and give you space in your suitcase on the return flight. Deodorant is found in Botswana, but it is recommended that you take your own. For a few months ahead of your departure, pay closer attention to how much you use of each product you wish to take with you. For instance, if you use eye drops and you use a whole bottle in three weeks, make sure you take two bottles.

Toothbrush/toothpaste/floss	Deodorant/Anti-Perspirant	Shaving supplies
Soap	Shampoo/Conditioner	Lotion
Sunscreen	Brush/Comb	Hair Gels/Sprays
Contacts/Solution/Drops *	Feminine Products **	Nail Clippers/File
Band-Aids	Prescription Medicines ***	Tissues
Aspirin/Ibuprofen/Tylenol	Neosporin/Cortisone	Vitamins
Allergy/Sinus/Cold Medicine	Make-Up	Aloe

\*Think about getting daily contacts, which save on solution and hassle. Both contacts and products for contacts are more expensive in Southern Africa so it is advised that you take enough for your entire stay. Keep a copy of your glasses/contact prescription with you. It has been noticed that the price for contact solution has decreased in the last few years. It is now more close to the American price.

\*\*Might not be the same as in the US, pack accordingly.

\*\*\*Put together in a zip-lock but always pack them in their original prescription bottles, not loose or combined into one container. Make sure these go in your carry-on! Take with you a copy of all prescriptions with the chemical name, not just the brand name. Make sure you alert your insurance company about any travel several months in advance and keep on them. If you do any travel before or after the program, you may also need to be on top of the insurance company. They do not like issuing multiple months of some prescription drugs, even with notes from a doctor

#### Miscellaneous:

Camera/Charger	Batteries (if necessary)	iPod/MP3 Player/Headphones
Small Flashlight	School Supplies *	Dictionary/Translation Book
Travel Alarm Clock **	Journal (track experiences)	Adapter for Electric Devices
Cords for electronics	Eyeglasses Kit	Earplugs
Laptop/Tablet/Chargers	Toilet Paper***	Pillow

\*2 notebooks, 2 folders, pens, pencils – also available in shops in Botswana.

\*\*Remember, your phone may not work as your alarm clock in Botswana.

\*\*\*You may wish to bring a roll of toilet paper. Depending on your location and date of arrival, you may not have toilet paper in your room and may not have the chance to buy any. Botswana does not have a 24 hour Walmart. You may have to be prepared for a weekend without toilet paper.

#### D. Plan Ahead

You will get the most enjoyment out of traveling by planning ahead and learning about the destinations you are going to visit. Be informed. Find out all you can about a city or place. This might be your only visit there, maybe for the near future or forever, so get out of it everything that you can. Use the internet and travel guides. To avoid frustration, plan some places you might want to visit before you go. As you meet new people in Botswana and as you learn about trips which are possible from Gaborone (a lot of group trips are possible) you will likely decide on the fly to go on a trip, but you can prepare for this by having a guidebook which covers not only Botswana but neighboring countries as well.

#### E. Safety & Security

You need to be cautious and well aware of your environment when you are traveling. Don't leave a back pack or suitcase unattended in order to go to the bathroom. If you plan to sleep some while on a train or bus, and you are traveling alone (not recommended), you need to make sure your belongings are secure. It is not a bad idea to have your suitcase lock(s) with you to use if you do not feel safe. When traveling, be extra careful regarding your wallet or backpack or wherever you carry your ID, money, credit cards, and other hard-to-replace items. In your suitcase, in your room or in your backpack should be a second photocopy of your passport, contact information for your credit cards, and emergency contact numbers. You have to be prepared for the worst, like a backpack being stolen. Be smart, travel safe. But enjoy! Traveling, seeing new places is one of the best experiences you will have while abroad, so take advantage of it.



## F. Travel

It is best to buy your airline tickets at least 2 months in advance to secure a seat (earlier if possible to ensure lower pricing). Arranging to fly together is the best option if others will be attending the same program. Flights are typically overnight, so plan accordingly when determining what day you want to arrive- consider time change. Arriving one day in advance is the safest bet, but you must arrange early arrivals with the university you will be attending, and you want to factor in jet lag for your first day or so.

To purchase tickets, students can use on-line agencies, such as Expedia, Travelocity, etc., students discounters, a local travel agent, or the airline directly, such as SAS, United, etc. These sometimes have cheaper airfares than those posted on Expedia, etc. Discount websites such as Kayak, CheapTickets, and Expedia do occasionally have good deals; however, their fares may often include inconvenient connections, times, and are sometimes higher than published fares on the carrier's website. The best way to ensure that you are getting the best deal is to comparison shop. You have to weigh cost and convenience with possible cheaper fares and inconvenience and make the call. It is recommended that you take a direct flight because the more connections you have, the higher the chance of losing baggage and running into further complications.

As a college student you are actually entitled to special discounts because of your "student status". StudentUniverse and STA Travel offer students very competitive discounts on airfares that other carriers do not offer. Discounts can range from a few dollars cheaper to several hundred. However, to purchase tickets through STA Travel you must possess a valid ISIC (International Student Identification Card).

The ISIC card is valid for one year and costs under \$30. The value/use of this card does not stop with booking plane tickets. It is a guaranteed way to ensure discounted admittance to museums and other things all over the world, hence the reason why it is an International Student ID. We recommend that you get one, but it is not mandatory. Just remember that an Augustana student ID will often serve the same purpose. More information about this card and purchasing information can be found at <http://www.isic.org/get-your-card/>.

As always, comparison shopping is the best way to ensure the best fare. Typically, fares ranging from \$1,800-\$2,400 especially when departure is still during the summer high season. Booking well in advance is advised, and is usually cheaper. Remember, however, that these tickets are usually non-refundable and come with a steep price for making any changes. Be sure your travel dates are firm to avoid penalties – check and double check. It is also recommended that you buy travel insurance when purchasing your ticket, should an issue arise. If something happens and you need to change your flight, it is much cheaper and easier to do with the flight insurance than if you had not purchased it.

## G. Cell Phones & Internet

Cell phones are an integral part of society today. You will need to give a cell phone number to the Office of International and Off-Campus Programs before you leave or as soon as you can when you arrive. There are several options and each need to be considered. It is possible now to use most smart phones in Southern Africa; HOWEVER, this gets very expensive if you use your plan. Data, calling, and texting charges add up very quickly. If you are going to be bringing your smartphone overseas you want to remember to turn the data roaming off, as that can begin to add up over time as well if you forget.

Utilizing your phone for internet features is what many students decide to do, while purchasing a phone in Botswana for calls among that area. There are many applications for smartphones (including Viber and WhatsApp) that will allow you to make international calls (when in areas with internet) for free. This is a good idea for calling back to the US while a Botswanan prepaid phone may be better for calling within Botswana. However, the choice is up to you and differs based on your cell phone providers international plan.

It is also possible to purchase a pre-paid cellphone for the month. It is worth it to some, but not necessary. When you go to the cellphone store, ask about an international pre-paid plan if your intention is to primarily call home. It will cost more to call friends in Botswana with an International plan. If your intention is to communicate with others in Botswana, the international plan is not as ideal for you and you should get a normal plan. International calling with an international pre-paid plan is very cheap.

Pre-paid phone cards may be found in most drug stores, grocery stores, post offices, etc.... Keep in mind, pre-paid phones are more commonly used because phone plans throughout Southern Africa are more expensive. As always, comparison shop for the best phone and internet deals.

