

Reducing the risk of crime, violence, terrorism and accidents

Statistically, many foreign cities are safer to street crime than U.S. cities, so you should not be very alarmed. However, minor street crime (such as stealing purses, pick pocketing, and stealing laptops/cameras) exists everywhere, so precautions should be taken to avoid these kinds of risks.

With regard to the threat of terrorism, in those cities where danger might exist, the U.S. consular authorities will inform travelers registered with the U.S. State Department as soon as any remote threat appears. A list with the current dangerous travel areas can be found on the Department of State website. Keep up on local news events and discuss them with your host family, program director, and local friends.

What to do in a Crisis

Call MEDEX first and foremost!

MEDEX will give you a case number if you are sick or injured and need a referral to go to a doctor or hospital. Auburn Abroad students get MEDEX ID cards with all of MEDEX's phone and contact numbers. They can also advise you on local doctors, hospitals, and other services.

You can also contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for a list of English-speaking local physicians, and for medical facilities. If necessary, a consul can assist you in the transferring of funds from your family or friends at home. If you run out of money overseas and have no other options, consular officers can help you get in touch with your family, friends, bank or employer and inform them how to wire funds to you.

If you find yourself in legal difficulty, immediately contact MEDEX or a consular officer. Both can provide a list of local attorneys who speak English and who may have experience in representing U.S. citizens. If you are arrested, consular officials can visit you, advise you of your rights under local laws, and check that you are held under humane conditions and are treated fairly under local law. A consular officer will contact your family or friends if you desire.