

AIRFARE TIPS & OPTIONS

Looking for cheap student airfares? Trying to find the best agent to assist you with your travel needs and answer questions? Here are a few suggestions to get you started.

The UI Office for Study Abroad encourages students to shop around for the best options when the time comes to book your travel arrangements. There is a lot of expertise in the travel industry right here in Iowa City, so don't be shy about comparing different prices and special packages before making your final decision. Also, it is not usually a good idea to purchase a one-way ticket to your destination. Most countries will require you to show proof of intention to leave the country (i.e. outbound plane ticket) upon arrival before granting you entry to their country.

LOCAL AGENCIES

Short's Travel Service
319-353-6611
www.shortstravel.com

AAA Travel
319-354-1622
www.aaa.com

Winebrenner Red
Carpet Travel
319-351-4510
www.winebrenner.com

Travel Concepts
319-351-1911

Meacham Travel
Service
319-351-1360
www.meachamtravel.com

STUDENT TRAVEL AGENCIES

As a student you can save lots of money on flights. Sites like those listed below offer cheap flights and great flexibility because they are geared specifically towards students.

Student Universe * very good * www.studentuniverse.com

Student Universe offers many of the same student discounted deals as STA Travel and Travel Cuts. They do not have offices overseas and will direct you to contact the airline if you have any questions or problems outside of hours that the U.S. Service Center is open. Also, look at Go Deals, a daily discount to a certain city, the city changes everyday so check often.

STA Travel *very good* www.statravel.com, 1-800-781-4040

STA Travel offers student tickets with extended validity (most of the time 6 months- 1 year long stay) and reasonable change fees (some as low as \$25) for you to change your mind about your return date. STA Travel offices are located world-wide so you can often get in contact with an STA Travel agent near your study abroad site. They offer student tickets/discounts, know budget travel options within foreign countries, have package deals and encourage alternative destinations. They often require the purchase of the \$22 International Student Identity Card, or ISIC.

Travelosophy www.travelosophy.com,

Travelosophy offers special fares to students, youths and teachers traveling abroad for stays of up to 1 year. These fares afford student travelers great flexibility, such as one-way fares, date changes, open return dates and an entire network of destinations. Offers links to a lot of other great sites for student travel. Worth checking out.

Travel Cuts (world-wide) www.travelcuts.com, 1-800-592-CUTS (2887).

Similar to STA Travel, although a smaller company and Canadian owned. You will be able to find "partner offices" that will assist you abroad, although they won't be "Travel Cuts" offices specifically. Travel Cuts also offers student tickets (lengthy validity and reasonable change fees), budget travel options within foreign countries, and package deals. They also often require the purchase of the ISIC (see below).

AESU Travel www.aesu.com, 1-800-638-7640.

Online click on STUDY ABROAD FARES and use the **Promoter Code 463**, or when calling mention the **code** to receive a \$20 discount. AESU uses this Promoter Code system to give you additional discounts. The ISIC card (see below) is not required for their airfares. They offer flexible tickets with extended validity so be sure to mention if you would like the option to change your dates of travel later. Make sure you know the rules of your ticket before purchase.

International Student Identification Card (ISIC)

If you are a full-time student and at least 12 years of age, the ISIC is your passport to loads of savings on travel arrangements, accommodations, museums, cultural events, entertainment and much more! Benefits include: Discount student airfares and other great travel products, access to thousands of discounts in over 100 countries, international recognition of your full-time student status, access to a network of over 5,000 student travel organizations that can give you information on local ISIC discounts, 24-hour Help Line emergency service, and basic travel insurance (for trips outside the U.S.). **All for just \$22!**

You can apply for an ISIC card at The Office for Study Abroad, 1111 University Capitol Centre!

OTHER MAJOR SEARCH ENGINES

Check a lot of websites, do your research, often you can find a cheaper flight this way. Be aware though that you are going to be gone for an extended period of time and shop for airfare accordingly, the cheapest flights usually require a stay of under a month.

www.kayak.com
www.SideStep.com
www.priceline.com

www.hotwire.com
www.expedia.com
www.cheaptickets.com

www.lowestfare.com
www.orbitz.com
www.travelocity.com

More Tips for Finding a Cheap Flight

1. **Be Flexible with Your Travel Dates**, leaving earlier in the morning or later at night may give you a cheaper flight. Make sure that you arrive on time for your program's orientation!
2. **Book at least two weeks ahead, preferably three and often much earlier than that**. The earlier you can book your flight the better, but make sure that you have all your information correct. For trans-continental flights you should generally book several months in advance as these flights can fill and leave you without any reasonable alternatives.
3. **Fly Midweek**, flights leaving Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are often cheaper. Important: if booking your flight midweek means arriving earlier than your program's date, be aware that you will probably be on your own to arrange accommodations and keep yourself occupied until the program starts. This might not be a good idea for first time travelers.
4. **Avoid Busy Holidays**. Try not to fly during a holiday or holiday week and realize that different countries have different holidays. For example, flights after Labor Day are much cheaper than flights before so if you can fly out after September 1st do so. Of course, if your program starts in August don't fly out in September.
5. **Sleeping in Airports**. Check out sleepinginairports.com for an idea of what your destination airport will be like and the stories are hilarious. Also, it could come in handy on the off chance that delays or cancellations force you to spend the night in an airport.