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. A few good places to start:

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<tr>
<th>Meacham Travel Service</th>
<th>AAA Travel</th>
<th>Winebrenner Red Carpet Travel</th>
<th>Hawkeye World Travel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(319) 351-1360</td>
<td>(319) 354-1662</td>
<td>(319) 351-4510</td>
<td>(319) 351-0300</td>
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**STUDENT TRAVEL SERVICES**

As a student you can save a lot of money on flights. Travel agencies and airfare finder sites like those listed below are catered towards students and offer low-cost airfare with flexibility (open jaw and multiple destination tickets) and often times discounted hotels, hostels and tours.

**STA Travel**  
[www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com)  
This student travel website offers student tickets with a price beat guarantee, extended validity (most of the time for 6 months to 1 year long stay), and reasonable change fees (some as low as $25) if you decide to change 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 many budget travel options, have package deals and encourage alternative travel destinations.

**Student Universe**  
[www.studentuniverse.com](http://www.studentuniverse.com)  
Student Universe offers many of the same student discounted deals as STA Travel. 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 office is open. Check out the ‘Fareplay’ feature- you tell them what airport you’re leaving from and they’ll give you the great deals of the moment.

**Travel Cuts (world-wide)**  
[www.travelcuts.com](http://www.travelcuts.com)  
Similar to STA Travel, this company is Canadian owned but serves the US as well. 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.

**OTHER MAJOR SEARCH ENGINES**

Check a lot of websites, do your research, and 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. Make sure you know what their airfare change fees are!

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<td><a href="http://www.sidestep.com">www.sidestep.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.dohop.com">www.dohop.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.orbitz.com">www.orbitz.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.hotwire.com">www.hotwire.com</a></td>
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</table>
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 your arrive on time for your program’s orientation!

2. **Book at least two weeks ahead (earlier if you can)**
The earlier you can book your flight the better, but make sure that you have all your departure and arrival information correct.

3. **Fly Midweek**
Flights leaving Monday-Thursday are often cheaper. Remember: 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 begins. This might not be a good idea for first time travelers.

4. **Avoid Busy Holidays**
Try not to fly during a 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. (However, if your program starts in August you should not fly out in September!)

5. **If you Must Sleep in an Airport....**
If you have an overnight layover, check out the website [www.sleepinginairports.com](http://www.sleepinginairports.com) for an idea of what your destination airport will be like. Most large airports offer a rest area (or even an actual hotel on site) where you can lounge and rest without noise or distraction.