

DATING WHILE ABROAD

THOUGHTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

WHEN IT COMES TO RELATIONSHIP WELLNESS, WHAT MIGHT YOU WANT TO KEEP IN MIND WHILE STUDYING ABROAD?

Who you could meet while away is often an exciting element of the study abroad experience! Here are a few considerations that might help you navigate the international dating scene. Already dating someone? Take some time to consider how you can continue to nurture that relationship while away!



Research the Local Dating Culture

Do your research! What might be standard in your home country could look very different in your host country. This includes attitudes toward things like gender roles, public affection, LGBTQ+ partnerships, etc. Understanding what norms you may encounter could help you prepare.



Notify a Friend of Your Plans

If you're going on a date, make sure you communicate with a friend about your plans. This should include information about who you're with, where you'll be, when you'll be back, and how to get in contact with you.



Pick a Public Location for a Date

Avoid being picked up by your date and opt to meet them at a public location instead. Choose a place that you feel safe meeting, and make sure you have a way to leave if you start to feel uncomfortable.



Communicate Your Intentions

Communicate openly about the fact that your time abroad is limited. Determine what is best for you and your partner with this limited time.



Don't Stop Learning the Language

If you are dating someone from a country where the native language is not English, continue to practice and use your language skills to communicate even if you both speak English.



Don't Use Someone as a Free Guide or Teacher

It can be tempting to have a native boyfriend or girlfriend so you have someone to show you around town and teach you the local language, but in the end it's just not nice. Make sure your intentions are in the right place.



Communicate with Existing Partner/s Before Departing

Make a plan for how often you will be in touch and make sure that you have communicated your goals/priorities before you leave.



If You and Your Partner/s are Studying Abroad Together...

Make sure you are on the same page with what your goals are for studying abroad and continue to communicate that throughout your time abroad.