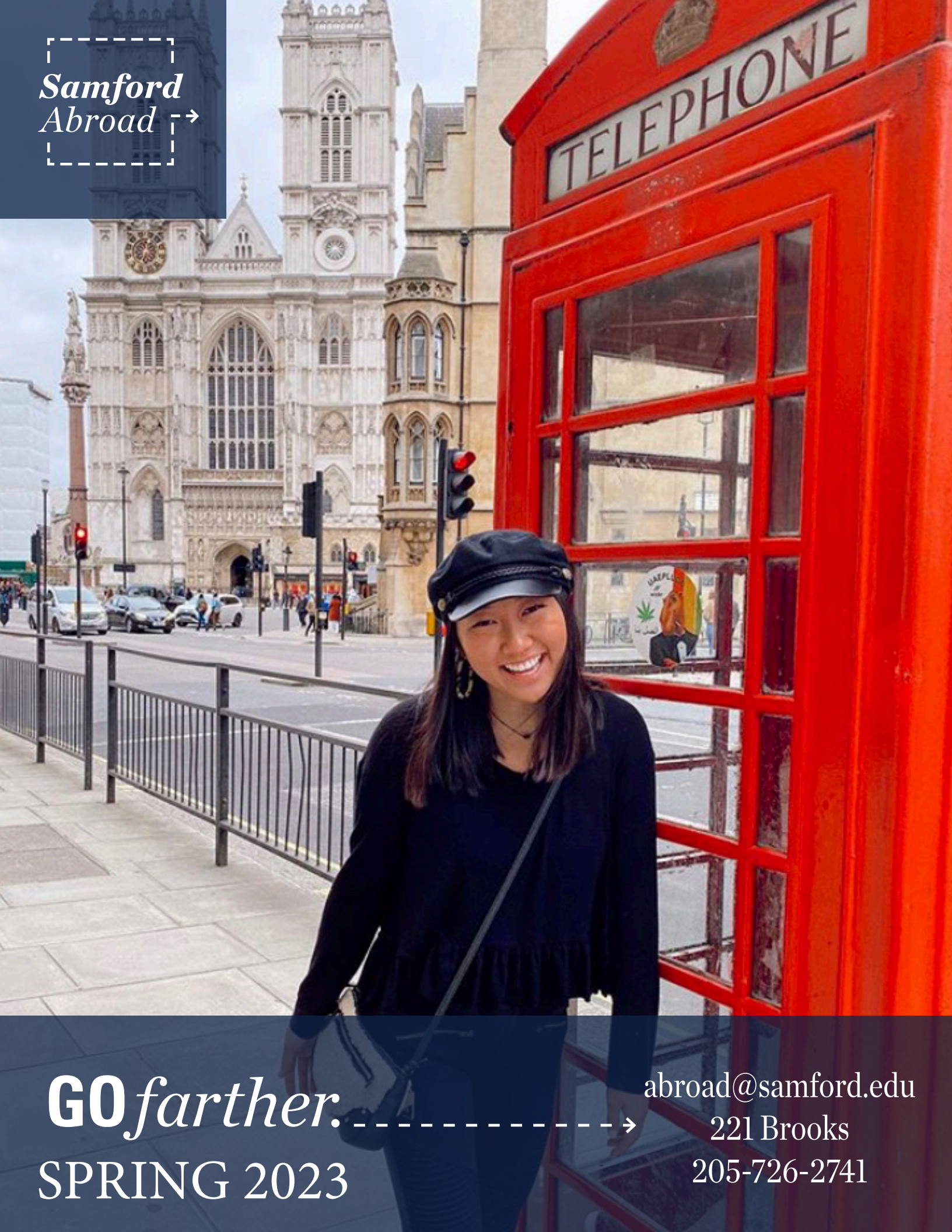


Samford
Abroad

GO *farther.*

SPRING 2023

abroad@samford.edu
221 Brooks
205-726-2741

YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

THERE ARE ANSWERS!

We are thrilled you are seeking information about your student's study abroad experience! This guide will list FAQs and give you general information about costs, deadlines, safety procedures, pre-departure orientations and more.

Please jump right in by looking for your question on the next page and clicking it to be taken to your answer!

Sometimes the answer is...

ASK YOUR STUDENT!

Because your student is at a postsecondary institution, the right to access educational records has transferred to them. Information pertaining to specifics about their education is protected and cannot be shared without the student's written consent. Information about the FERPA law that dictates this can be found here.

You may have program-specific questions that our staff **cannot legally answer** unless your student is present (including: flight details, itineraries, etc.).

This is actually a GOOD THING!!

You should see the Study Abroad experience as another step in moving from "doer" for your student to "cheerleader"! We have created a timeline of the different stages of the Study Abroad experience and included a list of questions that we strongly encourage you to ask your student to help make sure ***they*** are taking care of the required steps ***AND*** communicating that information to you.

Trust us! We have a variety of resources and orientations for your student that will prepare them for their time abroad! I look forward to working closely with them and cannot wait to hear about their experiences upon return!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lackey
Samford Abroad Advisor
Global Engagement Office, 221 Brooks
jlackey1@samford.edu
(205) 726-4849

QUESTIONS FOR THE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

What are the costs for Daniel House and Affiliate programs?

What is the billing schedule?

What is required on the application? What are they commiting to?

How are they accepted into their program and when will they know?

What orientations sessions will my student be required to attend?

What health and safety resources does my student have?

How will you help my student adjust to Life Abroad?

What should my student pack?

What re-entry activities are planned to help my student return to SU?

Samford Abroad

COSTS and BILLING

DANIEL HOUSE - Samford in London
Application Fee: $100 + Tuition: $17,205 + Room: $4,200 + Board: $2,700 + Program Fee: $4,425 (Plus additional $200 for students registered in SOA 200 course)

Tuition is based on Samford's current tuition rate. Samford and Federal Aid apply.

Room rates are comparable to the higher rates of on-campus housing.

Board fees are provided via direct deposit to your student while abroad. Funds are loaded in multiple installments over the course of the semester.

Program Fee includes round-trip airfare, travel health insurance, course activities, in-country transportation (zones 1-2), and one weekend excursion.

Not included: Initial cost of Student Visa (later reimbursed on top of first installment of board funding), transportation "top up" fees (outside of zone 1 & 2), travel insurance covering theft of property, disruption of travel, etc., and independent travel funding.

AFFILIATE PROGRAM - various locations
Program cost varies per program
Program Fee typically includes tuition, course activities, excursions, & support Not typically included: airfare, Visa costs (if applicable)

Samford's preferred affiliate providers - CAPA, CEA, and ISA - have been vetted and approved as they comply with Samford policies and health and safety standards. Direct billing is available for each of these programs.

BILLING:

E-bill Generation: January
E-bill Payment Due: February

Exact dates can be found online at
samford.edu/departments/files/Financial_Services/Billing-Schedule-and-Refund-Schedule.pdf

APPLICATION MATERIALS

All materials are completed, read and signed electronically by your student.

LIST OF **KEY** MATERIALS that your student must agree to:
Withdrawal and Cancellation Policy
Medical Consent
Emergency Contact Information
Eligibility Requirements
Passport Requirement
Waiver, Release, and Indemnification Agreement
Internship Agreement (Daniel House Semester Only)
Vaccination Agreement

IMPORTANT POLICIES agreed to in the Application:

Students must present a valid passport with six months validity after program end date at the time of acceptance into program; passport not needed at time of application; Students without a valid passport at the time of Commitment Date will forfeit their acceptance

Students who withdraw after the deadline date will be responsible for all expenses paid on their behalf for the program, flights, insurance, and other fees

Students may only make deviations to their flight arrangements within a prescribed window communicated to them via email.

Students refusing an internship placement may be removed from the Daniel House program

Students who fail to follow the agreed upon rules of behavior at the Daniel House may be sent home early from their program without reimbursement

Students are required to have a full sequence of all pertinent vaccination requirements of their destination including the COVID vaccine.

This is NOT an exhaustive list of all the required materials. Please speak with your student about all the additional materials and policies.

Acceptances:

Pending, Accepted, Waitlisted, & Denied

After students apply for a program, they are evaluated based on criteria that includes eligibility, GPA, class, major, and timestamp of application. Semester Daniel House students are also evaluated on a personal statement and recommendation letter.

Students will be notified via email once a decision has been made and their status changes to either “accepted”, “waitlisted”, or “denied.”

“Accepted” students must login to their application portal at abroad.samford.edu, click “Commit” and complete additional application materials prior to Decision Date. Failure to follow these steps will result in a student being moved off the class roster.

"Waitlisted” students will be notified via email if a spot becomes available.

Students will only be “denied” if they fail to meet eligibility requirements per the Eligibility Requirements document that they signed in their application.

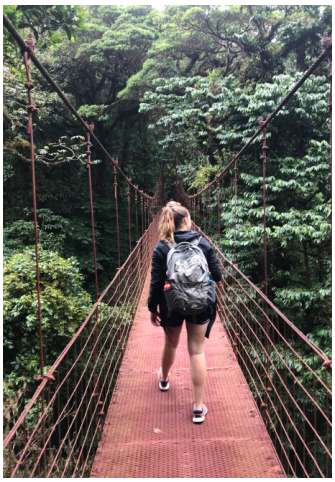
Spring 2023
Acceptance Date: August 2022
Commitment Date: August 2022
Pre-Departure Orientations: Begin September 2022

PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATIONS

Daniel House - May Term / Summer:

"You're Going Abroad! Now What?"

Daniel House Orientations (1-2)



Faculty-Led:

"You're Going Abroad! Now What?"

Faculty-Led Orientations (1-2)

Health & Safety Orientation

Daniel House - Semester:

"You're Going Abroad! Now What?"

Daniel House Fall Orientations (2)

Health & Safety Orientation

Student Visa Workshop

Health & Safety

Safety for Samford University faculty, staff, and students is our number one priority. In order to mitigate risks, adequate planning and preparation is required. The Global Engagement Office (GEO) develops programs that include best practices in health and safety. We want students to be aware of the need for responsible behavior abroad and aware of the exciting possibilities that our programs offer. Planning for safety is essential to all study abroad program designs.

The following is a condensed list of ongoing practices and procedures taken by the Global Engagement Office in order to mitigate risks as well as educate students and faculty leaders prior to and during their time abroad:

- The GEO maintains a continuously updated International Emergency Preparation and Management Plan on which all staff members are trained.

- We require students and faculty to have an international data plan on their phone and to download and activate the AlertTraveler app which provides health, safety and security alerts based on GPS location.

- We require students to fill out a Student Action Plan so each student plans, alongside their family, for various potential situations abroad.

- We enroll students and faculty in GeoBlue International Health Insurance which provides worldwide health insurance coverage for routine and emergency care 24/7/365.

- Students are instructed to enroll in STEP (Smart Traveler Enrollment Program) so they will also receive any Department of State information for their region. This enrollment also ensures that the US Department of State knows where our students and faculty are in case there is an incident or need for evacuation.

- Before sending faculty leaders abroad, GEO provides them with full emergency protocols and instructions, resources for health and safety issues, and 24-hour emergency contacts.

- The GEO also provides faculty leaders with student medical information, emergency contact numbers and copy of insurance cards.

More information can be found online at abroad.samford.edu on the Health and Safety Page.

ADJUSTING TO LIFE ABROAD

When your student talks with you after arriving in their host country, they may share their first impressions with you, including things that are “different” or make them uncomfortable. For instance, the internet might be slower or not as available as it is in the U.S., the housing may be older than they expected, and locals may seem unfriendly. As a family member, you will likely be your student’s first call when they are faced with a new situation — before they have thought through how to manage the situation for themselves or contacted the Global Engagement Office, faculty leader, or on-site affiliate staff. You may even receive several such calls in the first few days as your student copes with homesickness, needs a sympathetic ear, or wants to be reassured that they’ve made the right choice.

While it’s natural to want to resolve these issues so your student can continue having the great time they were expecting, students should be encouraged to communicate their feelings and concerns to the Global Engagement Office, faculty leader, or on-site
affiliate staff. These people want to help them and are trained to assist your student as needed through this expected transition.

Encourage your student to connect with the Global Engagement Office staff who will help explain cultural differences and provide resources to make your student’s transition easier. Remember, roommate challenges or academic issues are opportunities for your student to speak for themselves and resolve their concerns independently, which builds their confidence and coping skills.

PACKING LIST

CARRY- ON

Passport and any necessary visas
Immigration Letter provided by Samford (Daniel House Only)
Airline Boarding Pass(es)
CDC Vaccination Record Card
U.S. and foreign currency in small amounts as contingency
Copies of all important documents and emergency contacts
Credit and debit cards
Smartphone with either an international plan or the capability for a SIM card insert
Phone charger
Eye glasses and/or contact lenses
Prescription medication in original container, back-up supply, and letter from doctor
Instructions for treating any allergies or unique medical conditions
Laptop and other small electronic devices
Extra change of clothes

CHECKED LUGGAGE

Extra copies of important documents and emergency contacts
Clothing
Toiletries
Nail clippers*
Electric or manual shaving razor*
Over-the-counter medicines
Extra laptop battery and/or flash drive
Small umbrella
Small purse or pouch
Converter or transformer volt electrical devices
Plug adapter

*May get confiscated if placed in your carry-on bag if amount exceeds the limit.

Check with https://www.tsa.gov and Airline Website

RE-ENTRY

All students participate in a Re-Entry Workshop after their return to campus. Students are given an opportunity to debrief with their peers and also learn helpful tools for communicating those experiences to friends, family, and future employers.

Not only does this workshop aim to counteract the effects of reverse culture shock by facilitating meaningful conversations, but also teaches students how to leverage their coursework and cultural experiences on a resume and cover letter.

Questions for your student:

Remember, we prize the autonomy of your student and want them to feel empowered and supported as they go through the full study abroad experience independently.

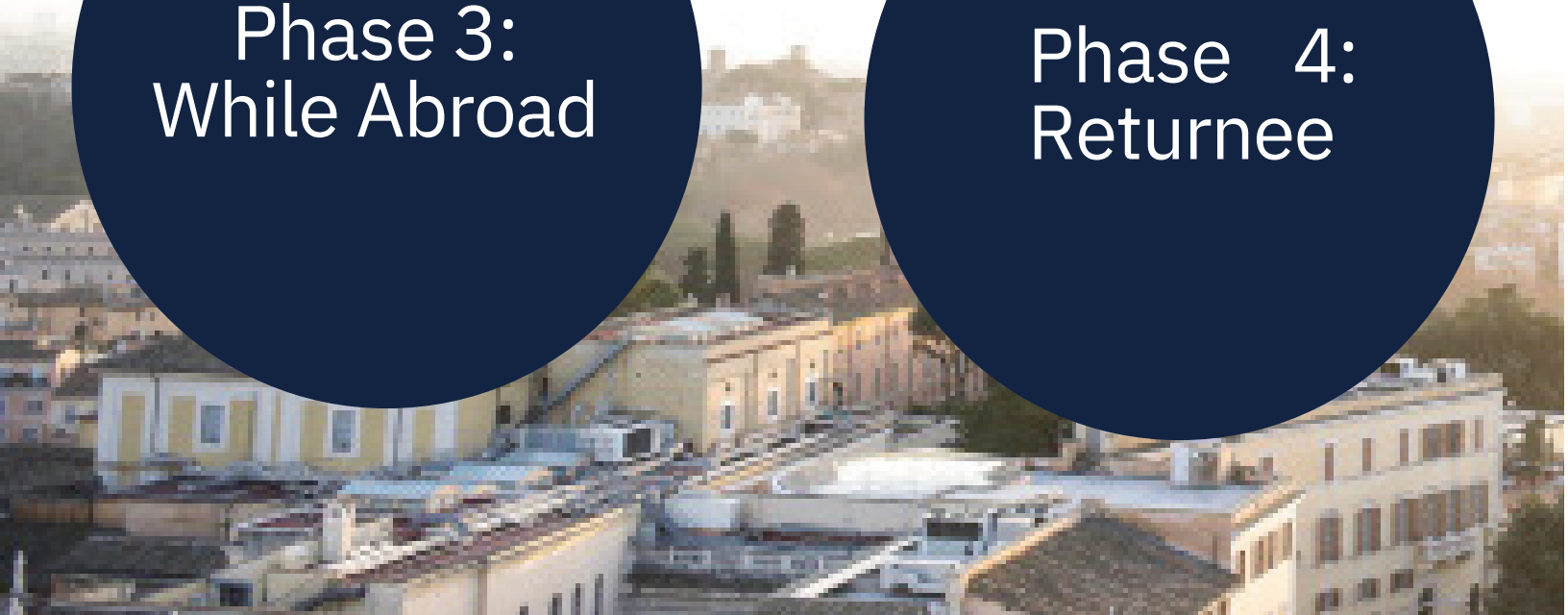
In each Phase, we're suggesting questions for you to ask that will provide your student with that support and provide you with information that our staff may not be legally able to share.

Phase 1: Application

Phase 2: Pre-Departure

Phase 3: While Abroad

Phase 4: Returnee



Phase 1:
Application

What program have you applied for?

Do you feel confident about completing all the required questionnaires, signature documents and materials?

Do you have a valid passport?

What is the program cost?

Phase 2:
Pre-Departure

What are the times/dates/cities for your flight?

What are some key take-aways you've had from your orientations? Have you created your travel action plan?

Have you printed your important documents to carry with you?

Phase 3: While Abroad

Have we paid your Samford e-Bill?

How has your transition been to your host country?

What are two things you've learned so far that you would like to share?

Phase 4: Returnee

What re-entry events have you attended?

In what ways can I support you in your transition back to the States?

Director of Global Engagement, Lauren Doss

Samford Abroad Director, Jill Fisse

Samford Abroad Advisor, Jennifer Lackey

221 Brooks
Monday-Friday, 8AM-4:30PM
205-726-2741