

Greetings from the Center for Global Education and Experience at Augsburg College. We are pleased that your student will be a participant in our study abroad program in Southern Africa this coming semester.

Here is [a link to the Pre-Departure Guide](#) that was provided to participants. In particular, please note the information about communication (telephone, mailing address, etc.) in the Local Information section.

### **Accommodations**

While in South Africa, students will stay together in guest houses and hotels, and for one weekend with a family in the township of Soweto outside of Johannesburg.

The students will live for most of the term in a large house in Windhoek. A significant number of class sessions are conducted in this house. We have a competent, well-experienced staff in Windhoek who will provide excellent leadership during the program. Students will also have homestays with families in Windhoek and in a rural community in the north of Namibia.

Our host families go through a close screening process before they are chosen, and are required to attend an orientation session which includes briefings about the homestay program, its objectives, logistical information health and safety as well as other general guidelines.

### **Safety and Security**

Two concerns that are frequently expressed when it is learned that the students will travel to Namibia and the Republic of South Africa are health and safety. Please be assured that the safety of our program participants is of the highest priority, and we monitor the situation in southern Africa even carefully. Basic tips on personal safety and health are given in the Pre-Departure Guide, and more detailed information is provided to students during orientation in Namibia. Additionally, we keep a very close watch on the situation in Southern Africa. The Center for Global Education and Experience has permanent staff, consultants, and numerous resource persons in the region with whom we keep in close contact.

We also receive regular safety and security reports from the [Overseas Security Advisory Council](#) (OSAC) and we regularly check international travel warnings and public safety announcements, provided by the U.S. Department of State.

Additionally, our medical and emergency services provider, [Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc.](#), (EIIA) sends us regular international security reports and provides us with pre-trip resources.

Over the past 40 years CGEE has coordinated more than 1,500 semester and short term programs around the world for over 20,000 participants, and has therefore gained a great deal of experience traveling in these regions. We would not hesitate to cancel or to re-route any portion of the program if we it unsafe to travel there.

### **Health Issues**

As far as health is concerned, it is not uncommon for a long-term visitor to have a bout or two of diarrhea sometime during the stay. This is more likely to occur in rural areas than in the capital. Reasonable precautions in eating and drinking can minimize the occurrence of this discomfort. Our staff will instruct the students about safe eating habits particularly as to what to do during the family stay.

In the case of a more serious illness, there are good doctors and hospitals in Namibia and South Africa if a situation calls for professional health care. During family stay, host families are provided emergency health kits, and training on how to use them.

### **Contact Information**

The following resources may prove helpful:

#### **Center for Global Education and Experience, Augsburg University, Minneapolis, Minnesota:**

24-hour Emergency Cell Phone, Minneapolis Office: 612-817-2830

[Margaret Anderson](#), Program Manager, Phone: 612-330-1685

#### **Center for Global Education and Experience in Windhoek, Namibia:**

[Albertina Shifotoka](#), Site Director

011-264-811-292-773 – Cell Phone (emergencies only)

011-264-61-228-773 – office number to contact staff

011-264-61-250-737 – house phone for students to receive phone calls

#### **Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc.**

- [FAQ](#)
- [General Information Brochure](#)
- [Member Card](#)

## Helpful Websites/Resources

- [Center for Global Education and Experience](#)
- U.S. Department of State: Of particular interest:
  - [Countries and Regions](#)
  - [Travel and Living Abroad](#)
  - Official Blogs ([Namibia](#)) ([South Africa](#))
- [The Namibian](#) (Namibian newspaper)
- [Mail and Guardian](#) (South African newspaper)
- [CNN World News - Africa](#)
- [Advice for Parents at StudentsAbroad.com](#)

The experience your student is about to have is a very intense and challenging one. For many students, the study abroad experience stimulates a great deal of reflection about personal values and life directions, and you may notice some changes upon returns home. Your student will likely want to share all the adventures with you and may, at times, find it difficult to communicate the intensity of the experience. An accepting and open environment will make it easier to share and integrate the experience.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns:

612-330-1159

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