

National Clearinghouse on Disability & Exchange

Access the World



Increasing participation of people with all types of disabilities in international exchange



About Us

The National Clearinghouse on Disability & Exchange, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Mobility International USA, aims to increase participation of all people with disabilities in the full range of international exchange opportunities.

We provide tips and strategies for people with disabilities and international program staff on how to prepare for an inclusive international exchange.

Tips for International Exchange Programs

- 1 Add disability-inclusive language for outreach
- 2 Share stories of people with disabilities on social media
- 3 Educate staff on disability support
- 4 Budget for reasonable accommodations
- 5 Ensure equal access to your program

Visit us online to read more tips!

Tips for Participants with Disabilities

- 1 Research funding options, including scholarships
- 2 Learn about disability culture in your host country
- 3 Connect with travelers with similar disabilities
- 4 Confirm you have full insurance coverage abroad
- 5 Create a back-up plan for emergencies

Building Bridges Between the International Exchange and Disability Communities



Resources for Schools & Organizations

- Free consultation on participant issues: “A blind student wants to go to Spain, where do I start?”
- Assistance understanding participant rights: “What rights and resources does an international student with a disability have in the U.S.?”
- Trainings and collaborative initiatives
- Materials and tools to plan for inclusion
- Outreach: videos, posters, postcards, podcasts, publications, and more!

“ After talking to your staff and receiving many resources and contacts, I feel confident that our international office is on the right track to support our visiting international fellows to thrive during their program. ”



“ As a wheelchair user who needs personal assistance, information like this makes me happy...I have always felt that overseas experiences were so far out of my reach and now I know what is possible. ”

Resources for Program Participants

- Funding options to go abroad: “Are there any scholarships available?”
- Disability tipsheets for travel planning: “Can I get personal assistance abroad?”
- Connect to disability organizations worldwide
- Strategies from people with disabilities who have done it
- A World Awaits You (AWAY) publication: A Journal of Success in International Exchange for People with Disabilities

Discover a World
of Opportunities:

Volunteer
Study
Teach
Research
Intern

“ All my life, people told me my disability would not stop me from doing whatever I wanted to do. Successfully completing a trip abroad allowed me to really believe that. ”

— HABEN GIRMA

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