CTY welcomes hundreds of students from outside the US to participate in our Summer Programs each year. This international Student Guide supplements your Site Information Packet, which has detailed information about these topics.

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Visa Information

If a student qualifies as U.S. Citizen, U.S. Federal law stipulates the students must use a U.S. passport to enter and depart the U.S., even if they can also claim another nationality.

If a student is currently residing in the U.S. with Legal Permanent Residence status or an appropriate non-immigrant status, no visa is required.

Any other international student admitted to study at CTY who cannot claim U.S. citizen or legal permanent residence is expected to enter the U.S. on an F-1, student visa. This is the only visa type that is appropriate to enter the U.S. for CTY study. The Johns Hopkins University has received authorization from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to issue the I-20 Visa Certificate Form to obtain the F-1 status. The JHU Office of International Services strongly recommends the F-1 status for all students. The decision is ultimately yours. JHU will not be responsible for any issues that might occur when entering a U.S. port of entry under any other visa/waiver status.

Please Note: CTY’s summer programs are considered a full time academic program. Entering the U.S. with a visitor visa (B-1/B-2) or under a visa waiver is not appropriate and CTY will not be responsible for legal consequences encountered by a student attempting to enter the U.S. as a visitor. Beware of U.S. consuls who may suggest these as alternatives under the incorrect impression that the CTY program is a “summer camp.”

Visit [http://cty.jhu.edu/summer/enrolled/international.html](http://cty.jhu.edu/summer/enrolled/international.html) to learn about the visa process

JHU’s Office of International Services (OIS) will contact you within 5 days of receiving your course assignment to begin the process. Follow their instructions to complete the CTY Application for I-20. Complete no later than April 1 for Session 1 and April 15 for Session 2. Complete requests may take up to 2 weeks to process.

Contact the JHU Office of International Students if you have questions about visas. Please use the address ois-cty@jhu.edu or call +1-667-208-7001 only for visa or immigration related questions.

Travel Arrangements

Packing
We recommend that all students try to pack light, and not bring too many belongings beyond what is recommended. Refer to your Site Information Packet for a recommended packing list. In addition, you may email ctyonsite@jhu.edu to: a) inquire if the site can receive packages in advance of the student arrival date so that your child can travel more lightly, and b) find out whether linen service for students traveling internationally is available at your child’s site.
**Arriving Early/Departing Late**
You must receive permission from your site program manager before making travel plans that involve early arrival or late departure. The cost for early arrival or late departure is $75 per day. Early arrival may be available for both sessions while late departure is only available to Session 1 students. Late departure from Session 2 or at any site that only runs for one session is not an option. To get permission for early arrival or late departure, please email ctysitetravel@jhu.edu.

**Unaccompanied Minors and Fees**
When scheduling your child’s flight to and from the CTY Summer Programs site, please read all airline regulations concerning unaccompanied minors before booking the tickets. Airlines and rail carriers use the term “unaccompanied minor” to refer to children who must be supervised by airline or rail carrier staff in order to travel without a parent or guardian. There are extra fees for unaccompanied minors as well as special policies and procedures for travel days. Many airlines also restrict which flights unaccompanied minors may take.

**Child’s age**: The age requirement for unaccompanied minors varies by airline. Please confirm what the age cutoffs are for particular services. Some airlines have an optional service, while others have stricter guidelines.

**Flight scheduling**: Unaccompanied minor status often limits the flight scheduling allowed. Some airlines accept reservations for an unaccompanied child where the child’s connecting flight would be the last flight of the day, but this is strongly discouraged, even if the airline allows it. Your child may become stranded at the airport overnight if a flight or a connecting flight is grounded.

**Fees**: As with age requirements, these details vary greatly from carrier to carrier. For example, some airlines charge an extra $30 each direction for direct flights, while others charge double that amount. In addition, the extra fee for connecting flights is often higher than for direct flights. A few carriers will accept payment in advance or will permit your travel agent to collect the fee. However, most airlines require the fee to be paid at the time of check-in for each segment of the trip. This means that you will need to provide your child with a means of paying the fee when checking in for the flight home.

**Contact Information**: When booking a ticket for a child who is required to travel as an unaccompanied minor, you may be asked for the name of the CTY staff member who will pick up your child at the destination. Because of scheduling issues, the names are not available until just prior to travel. Please ask the airline to accept “CTY Staff” temporarily, and explain that you will call back with more specific information later. Then, a day or two before travel, contact your child’s site to obtain the name of the staff member who will meet your child. Site phone numbers will be available at www.cty.jhu.edu/summer or by calling 410-735-6277 beginning the Monday before students arrive for Session 1. If the airline will not book travel without a specific name, contact your site program manager at the phone number or email listed in your site information packet for instructions.

**Documentation**: At check in, airline personnel provide unaccompanied minors with a badge and a pouch to wear, which allows airport staff or flight attendants to recognize them, until they reach their destination. Be sure that your child understands that the documentation must not
be taken off or discarded until they meet a CTY staff member at the destination airport. If your child has a connecting flight that switches airline, confirm with the ticket agent or airline staff representative that the unaccompanied status transfers over for the entire length of the trip.

**CTY Shuttle Service**

Request shuttle service via your MyCTY account. Refer to the Site Information Packet to verify the airport where CTY Shuttle Service is provided. Review CTY’s Travel Guide [http://cty.jhu.edu/summer/docs/travelguide.pdf](http://cty.jhu.edu/summer/docs/travelguide.pdf) for additional information about the CTY Shuttle Service. Contact [ctysitetravel@jhu.edu](mailto:ctysitetravel@jhu.edu) if there are any changes to your child’s itinerary.

Students arriving on direct international flights should wait just outside of customs to meet a CTY staff person while students arriving on domestic flights meet a CTY staff member just outside the security checkpoint. CTY staff members wear CTY T-shirts for easy identification. Students are shuttled in groups. This means that arriving students may have some wait time before traveling to the site, but they are always supervised.

**Jet Lag**

To minimize the effects of jet lag, the following tips are recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2016/the-pre-travel-consultation/jet-lag](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2016/the-pre-travel-consultation/jet-lag)).

Before travel
- Exercise, eat a healthful diet, and get plenty of rest.
- A few days before you leave, start going to bed an hour or two later than usual (before traveling west) or earlier than usual (before traveling east) to shift your body’s clock.

During travel
- Avoid large meals and caffeine.
- Drink plenty of water.
- On long flights, get up and walk around periodically.
- Sleep on the plane, if you can.

After you arrive
- Eat meals at the appropriate local time.
- Spend time in the sun.
- Drink plenty of water, and avoid excess caffeine.

**Money**

Please consult your Site Information Packet for details about spending money. CTY students who are traveling via air to a summer program will have no opportunity to change money once they arrive. Consider exchanging a reasonable amount of money in cash ($75 recommended) for your child before departure. Do not send blank checks or large amounts of cash with your child. A prepaid gift card (for example, a Visa Gift Card) are better options since they can be protected if lost. We recommend that your child has a combination of cash and prepaid card for safety.
Once students get to the site, there will be few reasons for them to spend money:

- Incidentals (snacks, souvenirs, etc.)
- Key deposit (varies by site)
- Laundry (varies by site)

**Medical Information**

Your Site Information Packet includes information about medical care. The *CTY Medical Form* must be completed. The form is available online via MyCTY. Your child may need to get vaccinations, Tuberculosis (TB) testing, or have a physical exam. Medical documentation must be translated into English.

As you complete the medical form, if you need information about medication names and descriptions, visit [https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/](https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/).

**Tuberculosis (TB) Screening**

Please read the Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Questionnaire section of the *CTY Medical Form* and complete the TB Screening Questionnaire to determine whether your child needs to be tested for TB. Follow the instructions carefully.

TB testing requirements are based upon a student’s history of prior testing for TB and where a student has lived or traveled for four or more consecutive weeks. The form lists countries that are defined by the World Health Organization as having a high incidence of TB. Testing, if required, must be completed 6 months or fewer prior to the student’s arrival to the program.

**Immunizations (Vaccinations)**

Please carefully read the Immunizations section of the *CTY Medical Form* found in your MyCTY account and note which vaccinations are required and which are optional. If your child has not had the required vaccinations, he or she must be vaccinated by your physician before coming to CTY.

**Medications**

In order to maintain a safe environment for students and follow local regulations, CTY has strict policies for handling, distributing, and storing medications. Students are not permitted to keep any medications, whether prescription or nonprescription, including vitamins or herbal supplements, in their possession. Upon arrival at the site, students must turn in all medications to CTY staff unless the medication is for emergency use (e.g., rescue asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto injectors). All nonprescription medications also must be in their original containers with dosage instructions written in English.

For the complete policies regarding medication, please read your Site Information Packet and refer to the Policies and Guidelines on the Medical Forms page of your MyCTY account.
Health Insurance
We recommend that you check with your health insurance provider to make arrangements for coverage while your child is attending CTY Summer Programs. The parent or guardian who signs the CTY Medical Form is responsible for all costs incurred as a result of medical care provided, including the cost of prescription drugs. CTY does not provide medical insurance of any kind for students. CTY will invoice families through their CTY student account for any charges that result from medical treatment received during the session. Be aware that some trips to medical offices can be very pricey with no insurance coverage, thus, it is recommended you check into your insurance policy’s coverage while in the United States or purchase travel insurance.

If your regular health insurance provider does not provide coverage for your child while abroad, consider purchasing short-term coverage. Provided below for your reference are three agencies that provide short-term coverage. CTY does not endorse particular agencies.

CISI: [www.culturalinsurance.com](http://www.culturalinsurance.com)
The Gateway Plans: [www.gatewayplans.com](http://www.gatewayplans.com)
Seven Corners: [www.sevencorners.com](http://www.sevencorners.com)

Students with Learning, Physical, or Medical Disabilities or Needs
If your child has a learning, physical, medical, classroom, or special needs and accommodations or supports will be needed, please complete an online Request for Accommodations form available in your MyCTY account. Click on “Accommodations for CTY Programs and SCAT/STB Testing,” review the terms, and then click “Request/Review Accommodations via CTY’s Accommodate.” If you aren’t sure if your child requires extra support/accommodation email cty-disabilities@jhu.edu with your child’s name and Student ID number. CTY does not discriminate against students with disabilities and works to make reasonable accommodations to meet students’ needs.

Communications

Cell Phones/Computers and Electronic Devices
Students are allowed to use their cell phones but only at designated times. Please review the Site Information Packet for information about contacting your child and technology policies. We also recommend that you check with your mobile service provider to make arrangements for coverage while your child is abroad. If your carrier does not provide coverage, consider purchasing a short-term plan. For your reference, [https://www.campussims.com](https://www.campussims.com) provides mobile coverage for international students in the U.S. CTY does not endorse the service of CampusSIMs or any other service provider.

Mail
Depending on your location, packages you send to your child at the summer site may not reach their destination before the session ends. Take into consideration the amount of time it could take for a package to arrive at the site. Please keep in mind that packages and other mail cannot be returned after the summer.

Special Accommodations
If there is a significant time difference between the site location and your home city,
communicating with your child during the session may become difficult. Please contact the site
director to let them know if you are having trouble reaching your child. The site director will try
to make special accommodations for communication if necessary.

**Students Attending CTY Residential Sites**

For students visiting the U.S. for the first time, the CTY residential program can be an intense
experience. Your child may experience homesickness and culture shock.

Culture shock is a natural part of traveling abroad and experiencing a new or different culture. Some of the effects of culture shock include sleeping difficulties, anxiety, difficulties with concentration, depression, homesickness, isolation, and irritation with the host culture. CTY staff will help students adjust to the academic and residential aspects of the program. We encourage students and parents to communicate with the staff. At each site, there is an academic counselor to help students with social and emotional issues. Call or email the site office if you need to speak with the academic counselor.

It is also a good idea discuss with your child some ways to cope and try to prepare them for the experience abroad before the summer. Some good online resources on studying abroad and culture shock are provided below:

Factors Important to Successful Intercultural Adjustments
[http://www.worldwide.edu/travel_planner/culture_adjusting.html](http://www.worldwide.edu/travel_planner/culture_adjusting.html)

**Transition to CTY and the English Immersion Classroom**

For students participating for the first time at CTY or who are non-native English speakers, the CTY summer program involves a transition into a new academic and social setting. In preparation for the program, talk your child, with school personnel and professionals knowledgeable about your student, or contact the CTY program manager or assistant program manager listed in your Site Information Packet to discuss strategies to prepare your student for the CTY experience. These are some specific aspects of the program that students may find new and challenging:

- being in small classes (15-18 students) where active student participation is expected.
- living without frequent and easy access to the Internet and mobile phones.
- speaking English 100% of the time, inside and outside the classroom.
- sharing living spaces with others.
- encountering others with very different opinions, living styles and cultures.
- experiencing a learning environment where students do not receive grades.
Before Traveling Checklist

☐ Read your CTY Site Information Packet, including the packing list (available on MyCTY).
☐ Respond to the emails from JHU’s Office of International Services to complete the Visa process (before April 1 for session 1, or April 15 for session 2)
☐ Book your flight after receiving your visa.
☐ Confirm if the airline considers your child as unaccompanied minor and pay fees.
☐ Submit shuttle request (via MyCTY).
☐ Complete and submit your child’s Medical Form (via MyCTY).
☐ Make arrangements with your regular health insurance provider about coverage for your child while abroad or consider purchasing short-term coverage.
☐ Create a contact list for your child containing not only your phone number(s) but also the site phone number. Have your child carry this list with them on their trip.
☐ Keep copies of your child’s travel documents for your records (passport, visa, I-20 visa certificate, SEVIS Form, F-1 visa stamp, flight information, and contact list).
☐ Ensure your child carries with him/her (not in check-in luggage) originals and a copy of the travel documents. Your child cannot use copies of travel documents to enter the U.S.

Contact Information for CTY

Questions about Visa? Call +1-667-208-7001 or email ois-cty@jhu.edu
Questions about Courses? Call +1-410-735-6108 or email ctyenrollment@jhu.edu
Questions about Registration? Call +1-410-735-6108 or email ctyenrollment@jhu.edu
Questions about Payment? Call +1-410-735-6066 or email ctyar@jhu.edu
Questions about Travel? Email ctysitetravel@jhu.edu

Questions about your summer program Site? Until the site opens (the Monday before students arrive), contact ctyonsite@jhu.edu.

After the site is opened, contact the site directly. On the Monday before students arrive, site phone numbers and email addresses will become available on our web site (www.cty.jhu.edu/summer) or by calling +1-410-735-6277 (Mon-Fri only).