

**Global Education Office
Reves Center for International Studies
The College of William & Mary
School of Education**



Rwanda Summer Handbook

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Summer in Rwanda



Visa Information and Budgeting

Travel Documents

Passports

You should apply as early as possible before departure to secure your passport through a Passport Agency (found in major cities), a local issuing office, a Federal or State Court House, or a Class I Post Office. Start the process early so that there will be plenty of time to resolve any problems that may arise. If you will be using your current passport, make sure that it is good for six months after your return to the U.S. If it is not, you will need to renew it.

Guidelines on renewing your passport or applying for a new one can be found at:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>

Visa

All visitors to Rwanda who are not Rwandan citizens will need a visa to enter the country. US citizens: obtain visa before traveling or a 30-day tourist visa at port of entry for \$30. **Credit cards are not accepted at all land border crossings.** Visit travel.state.gov for more information on requirements for Rwanda. Students are also able to call the Rwanda Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection for more information at this number M-F 10am to 5pm EST: +1 (202) 232-2882.



You can also choose to submit an online application and receive a digital visa prior to your arrival. Please visit rwandaembassy.org/consular/visa-information for more information about Rwandan Visas.

Budget

Your budget for incidental expenses will depend on your personal taste/extravagance and the amount of independent travel you intend to do before or after the program. The program fee covers most of your necessary expenses: tuition, housing, meals, and transportation and entrance fees for program excursions. You are responsible for your round trip airfare to Adelaide, incidentals, laundry, personal expenditures and any additional travel. Entertainment, travel and incidentals during the weeks of the program may vary greatly with individual tastes. You should expect to budget around one and a half times the amount you normally spend at home per week, or roughly \$175-\$225 per week, keeping in mind that expenditures will depend largely on your own spending habits and plans to travel.



Traveling to Rwanda

NOTE: You are responsible for your own travel arrangements to and from Rwanda

Airport Pick-Up

You are responsible for your flight arrangements to and from Rwanda. Your accommodations will be available from **May 24**. The Program Directors will contact students later about specific arrival times and airport pick-up plans. This means for most students, leaving the US on **May 22 or 23** (depending on the length and location of your layover) in order to arrive on the 13th (you lose a day crossing the International Dateline). Please carefully check your flight itinerary before purchase to ensure that you are arriving on the 24th. The program officially ends June 7th (i.e., you will need to leave by that date or make arrangements for your own housing for that night and beyond). Please notify the Program Directors immediately if your travel plans change or your flights unexpectedly change.

From the Airport to your housing: Students will be met at Rwanda airport by the Program Directors and our partners at Aegis Trust who will arrange for transportation to the hostel.

Please be aware that you will not be able to find a direct flight from the US to Rwanda and that your plans are likely to involve two if not three layovers. Be sure that you have entered your complete flight into the GEO's application portal so that those waiting for you in Rwanda may be able to check on any potential delays that you may have incurred along the way. Also, dress comfortably for the long hauls, and make sure to move around periodically during your trans-oceanic flight.

Immigration

Give yourself at least 2 hours to go through Customs and Immigration in Rwanda (and maybe 3 hours to allow time to get to your connecting flight because of a change in airport). You will probably have free time, but every so often the lines are incredibly long and slow. Once you check your bags in the States (even if you are flying to make a connection before you fly to Rwanda), you will not have to retrieve your bag until you disembark the plane in Rwanda. Of course, always check this policy before you go. On your flight, you will be given an arrival form to fill out and give to customs; make sure you have the address of your accommodation in Rwanda handy, as you will need it to fill out the form.

Once in Kigali, you will have to pass through customs. This can be stressful, but here's a step-by-step guide of how the process works:

- Disembark the plane and proceed through passport control. Don't worry about missing it, everyone from your flight will be heading to the same place. This is where you get your visa checked out and your passport stamped. They will look at your arrival form and mark it if necessary. Remember that you are not coming to study in Rwanda (like you would be if coming for a full semester or year abroad) but rather you are coming on a study trip from your university in the United States.
- Collect your bags at baggage claim. You **MUST** have your bags to pass through customs and to recheck on the other side.
- Move to customs. They may ask you a few questions (e.g., "Do you have any fresh fruit?"), then will check and collect your arrival form.

Coursework

You will receive information on what materials you will need at your program orientation. **Be sure that you arrange to purchase your textbooks and other materials (if applicable) before you leave the campus at the end of the Spring Semester.** Plan to read as many of your texts as possible before you leave the United States consistent with an individual professor's instructions. Check with the professor of your courses for his/her particular suggestions.

During your stay in Kigali, the majority of your course will take place at:

Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre

The Kigali Genocide Memorial is managed and run by Aegis Trust on behalf of the National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide (CNLG). This is a visitor center for students and visitors who wish to better understand the events of the 1994 genocide. The remains of nearly 250,000 people are interred here. The Center is located in Gisozi, 10 minutes from the center of Kigali.



Excursions & Activities

Official and Personal Travel Options

The Rwanda program will include local field trips to locations that relate directly to these fields of study, such as visits to the Akagera National Park. Overnight excursions may include Volcanoes National Park, a park in the northwestern part of the country and a known haven for mountain gorilla and golden monkeys, and Lake Kivu, one of the African Great Lakes bordered by Volcanoes National Park.



Living in Rwanda

Housing

Students will be housed at Aegis Trust's local student hostel. The hostel is dormitory style housing and will be separated by gender. Each bunk will have their own mosquito net. Students should bring their own towel. We recommend a quick dry micro-fiber towel so as it is easy to dry and clean. There are no laundry facilities on site, however there are cleaners that come in periodically that will clean your laundry if you wish (this will cost an extra fee not covered by the program). You can also opt to do hand laundry and bring Woolite.



Meals

All meals will be provided by Aegis Trust or on excursion location. The dorms are located a few minutes' drive from the center of the city, however there are some restaurants nearby if students wish to find a coffee or snack.



Communication

The GEO provides local cell phones for all students on William & Mary summer programs with *homestays*. Students that are not participating in a program with a homestay are responsible for researching and arranging their communication plan.

PLACING INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS

See the “Handy Information” section for a time zone conversion chart before you call!

Calling Galway from the United States: Dial 011 +-353-91 + Local Number

Calling the United States from Galway: Dial 00-1+area code + phone number.

Emergency Numbers

Police: 112 or 999

Medical Emergencies: 112 or 999

Fire: 112 or 999

Health & Safety

Immunization

- Most travelers to Rwanda get vaccines/medication for Hepatitis A, Typhoid, and Malaria. Some travelers also get Hepatitis B, Rabies and Yellow Fever. You are encouraged to consult the Center for Disease Control to verify which vaccinations are recommended for prolonged stay in Rwanda:
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/rwanda>
- Remember to consider any additional travels you might want to undertake while abroad for the summer. If you prefer to talk to someone in person about the currently recommended immunizations, you can call Travel Health of Williamsburg at (757) 220-9008 (located at 287 McLaws Circle), or consult with a physician in your area who has some expertise concerning immunizations for international travel.
 - Some students have recommended Travel health of Williamsburg 287 McLaws circle #2 Williamsburg Virginia

Medications

- Please remember that, while abroad, it is advisable to consistently follow your doctor's specific medication instructions and continue taking any medications you are prescribed. Any changes to medication levels should only be undertaken in direct consultation with the prescribing doctor. While travel abroad always has the potential to influence changes, good or bad, in your physical and mental health, do not assume that temporary variations in your condition are indicative of longer lasting changes. If you feel that an alteration in any prescribed medication levels may be warranted, consult a medical professional before making any changes.

Travel & Country Information

We encourage all students to research their study abroad destination. The State Department has important information available online. Be sure to read up on Rwandan history, culture, and current events before your arrival, as well. Knowing as much as possible about where you are going will not only make you more comfortable during your time in the country, but will also allow you to talk more knowledgeably with your new friends and teachers.

Kigali

Kigali is the modern capital city located near the center of Rwanda. The city is spread across numerous hills that surround the area, filled with unique neighborhoods with local bars, cafes, and restaurants. Kigali is noticeably clean, particularly due to the fact that plastic bags are banned in the city. This is also due to *Umuganda*, a weekly service that typically takes place on the last Saturday of the month where community members get together to keep the streets clean. Although Kigali does not experience a significant number of visitors each year, you will likely be greeted with a warm welcome from the locals, so take time to explore the city.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Reves Center Contacts

You may call the Reves Center and its advisors at the numbers below between 8am and 5pm (Virginia time), Monday through Friday. In case of an emergency that falls outside of these times, please call William & Mary Campus Police at (757) 221-4596. Campus police will then forward your call to the correct person or office.

GEO Center Advisor: Marina Knapp (mpknapp@wm.edu) - +001 (757)221-1627

Reves Center for International Studies

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Fax – (757) 221-3597

*To call the U.S. from abroad: 001+ (Area Code) + phone number

In Kigali, Rwanda

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