



# Travel Newsletter

Institute  
for Study  
Abroad  
BUTLER UNIVERSITY

## EGYPT

Spring 2012

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### Important Reminders

#### Documents

Before you get on a plane, make sure you have:

- Your **passport**
- **Tourist visa** (stamped in your passport)

Remember, you will not be allowed to board your flight and/or clear immigration in Egypt without these items.

#### Payments

Make sure you have paid your **program fee** and/or taken care of your financial aid. We can't place you in housing if your program fee isn't paid.

#### Travel notification form

Send us your **travel notification form** if you haven't already done so. We need to know when to expect you in case you don't arrive on time.

### Check In and Boarding Passes

#### Allow plenty of time

You should plan to arrive at the airport three hours before your international flight. This will allow you enough time to check in, get a boarding pass, clear security and make it to your gate.

#### Check in!

You must check in with Chris Harrison or Jenny Cataldi, who will accompany the group to Egypt. You will receive specific instructions from them on where to meet for check in prior to your departure.

#### Checking your baggage

At your domestic airport, find out if your domestic airline has an agreement with your international carrier to check baggage. If so, your domestic airline may be able to check your bags all the way through to Cairo, and you will also receive your international flight boarding pass at your domestic airport.

If your bags can't be checked through to your final destination, you'll have to do the following once you arrive at your international departure airport: Claim your luggage, check in and re-check your luggage with your international airline, and go through security again to re-enter the gate area.

Get to the gate in plenty of time so you don't miss your flight!

## Travel Problems?

Advantage Travel arranges a group flight to Cairo on behalf of IFSA-Butler students. The group flight is **mandatory** due to the lengthy and complicated entry procedures that all visitors must undergo at the Cairo airport.

**Students on the group flight should contact Advantage Travel at 800-788-1980 and let them know about the flight delay or missed connection.** Advantage can help get you on a new flight if necessary. Leave a message if no one picks up; Advantage checks messages regularly and will return your call.

Any student with a change in travel plans must call IFSA-Butler at 800-858-0229 to let us know about the change in plans. We will then inform Chris Harrison of any delays on your behalf. We monitor messages on flight days, so please leave a detailed message if you do not speak with someone directly.

Be sure to include your name, location, airline, new flight number(s), departure and arrival times, and the name, telephone number and room number of your hotel (if necessary).

**Call IFSA-Butler on our general line at 800-858-0229 to ensure that the correct person gets the message. Please do not leave a message about travel problems on your program advisor's voicemail.**

## Baggage Allowances

Check with your domestic and international airlines for baggage allowances. If you try to check luggage that exceeds their limits, you may have to repack or pay an excess baggage fee. Do not overpack!

We do not recommend bringing items such as bikes. If you feel you must bring your own, call both your international and domestic carrier for information about packing and excess baggage fees.

Do not lock your luggage. The U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has asked travelers to keep suitcases unlocked so they can be easily searched. Putting locks on your luggage can result in damaged, lost or delayed bags.

## Security Check

You will have to undergo numerous security checks. Do not joke about having weapons or explosives. Be patient and cooperative with all airport personnel.

You may be required to turn on electronic equipment or remove batteries from electronics. Be sure your electronics are fully charged, and include the power cord or battery in your carry-on.

## Your Carry-On Bag

Be sure to pack:

- Passport\*
- Tourist visa (stamped in your passport)\*
- Plane tickets or e-ticket confirmations\*
- Cash, ATM card, credit cards\*
- This newsletter
- Insurance coverage details\*
- List of contact names, phone and fax numbers, and email for:
  - Parents and relatives
  - Study abroad advisor at your home college
- Camera
- Medications and prescriptions\*
- Spare glasses/contacts
- Academic documents
  - Updated transcript
  - Course descriptions from home college
  - Rules of transfer credit from home college
- Toiletries (liquids, gels and/or aerosols must be 3.3 ounces or less and fit comfortably in one clear, re-sealable quart-sized plastic bag)
- Something to read/listen to
- Water (purchased after clearing security)
- Change of clothes in case your luggage is lost

*\* Keep these items and other valuables secure and with you at all times.*

## Travel Tips

Below are some tips for staying comfortable during your long flight and once you land:

- Wear loose, layered, comfortable clothes.
- Try to sleep as much as possible on the plane.
- Drink as much water as possible on the plane.
- Avoid drinking alcohol, which will dehydrate you.
- Don't nap when you arrive in Cairo! Your body needs to get used to the different time zone. Go out in the sunshine, if possible, and get as much fresh air as possible.

## Before Landing in Cairo

We recommend going to the bathroom on the airplane as close to your landing time in Cairo as possible. You may have to stand in long lines at the airport once you arrive, and if you leave to go to the restroom you will forfeit your place.

## Customs Forms

As your plane descends into Egypt, your flight attendants will hand out an arrival/departure card. Complete the card and keep it with your passport; you will give the card to someone at customs/immigration in the Cairo airport.

## Clearing Immigration

Be prepared to stand in long lines in the Cairo airport. When you go through immigration, an official will ask for the purpose of your visit. Explain that you are a student and present your **passport** and **arrival/departure card** from the airplane.

If an official asks for your address, give the address of our Egypt office:

Student name  
IFSA-Butler Egypt Office  
c/o Mohamed El-Komi  
Apt. 704, 7th Floor  
5 Misaha Square, Dokki  
Cairo, Egypt  
Phone: 002-02-333816736

If you are bringing any prescription medicines with you to Egypt, pack your doctor's prescription, as well as a letter from your doctor explaining your need for the medication. Have both ready to show to the customs officers. They usually don't ask about medicines, but have your prescription ready just in case.

Customs can be long and confusing in Cairo. We recommend that you dress conservatively, and be respectful and as cooperative as possible at all times.

## Lost Luggage

If your luggage is missing, don't panic. We will help you file a lost luggage claim form. Give the IFSA-Butler Egypt office address; your luggage will be delivered to that address when it shows up.

## Traveling to Orientation

Because the group flight is mandatory for all students, the group will travel together with our Egypt resident director to the orientation venue. Our Egypt resident director will meet students at the Cairo airport.

## Currency

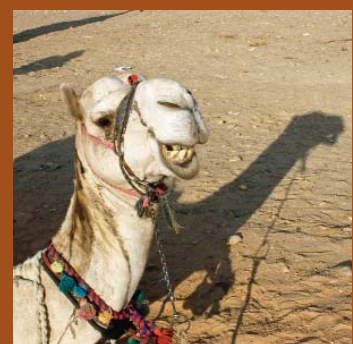
You can change money or cash traveler's checks at any bank in Egypt during regular hours. Normal business hours for banks are Sunday to Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Exchange offices such as Thomas Cook can be found in tourist areas and major cities. They are generally open during the day and in the evenings from 6-9 p.m. See *Preparing to Study Abroad* for more information about exchanging money.

## Updated Calendar

We've included an updated Egypt program calendar in this mailing. Please check to see if any dates have changed. Remember all exam dates are provisional; you should verify exam dates after arriving at your host university before confirming your plane ticket home.



**Questions? Call us at 800-858-0229 or visit us online at [www.ifsa-butler.org](http://www.ifsa-butler.org).**



# Program Calendar

## Egypt Spring 2012



	<b>Arabic Language at Alexandria University</b>
Mandatory group flight departs	January 18
Arrive in Cairo	January 19
Program Starts	January 19
IFSA-Butler Orientation	January 19-29
Residence Begins	January 19
Classes Begin	January 30
Classes End	May 25
Program Ends	May 25
Departure Date	May 26

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**These dates are correct as of October 5, 2011, but must be regarded as provisional, given the mutability of Egyptian university calendars.**

Upon arrival at your host institution, check the program end dates for changes. You must complete all course obligations prior to departure. In addition, you should not make plans to travel on the program end date since there may be exams on that day.

Program housing is available only until the date listed as "Departure Date" on the calendar.

**Exams must be taken where and when scheduled.** Under no circumstances may students request that an exam time be changed. In Egypt exams are taken under formal examination conditions, and changes cannot be made for individuals.