

Apps Abroad

What you should use, why you should use it,
and what to still be cautious about.

COMMUNICATION & CURRENCY

App: Viber

Cost: Free **iPhone/Android:** Yes/Yes

Review: Pros: Many students report using this to call and text home while abroad. Anyone with the app can communicate while on Wi-Fi.

Cons: Must be downloaded while still in the US as there is a texted activation code which will use data.



App: Duolingo

Cost: Free **iPhone/Android:** Yes/Yes

Review: Pros: Start learning a new language with their fun and easy to use levels. If you already know some of a language, you can “test out” of levels. Can turn off the speaking practice as well.

Cons: It’s basic skills, and some of the more useful words for living abroad are learned a bit later.



App: Google Translate and World Lens

Cost: Free **iPhone/Android:** Yes/Yes

Review: Pros: Translate words and phrases with all the skill of Google. And use the amazing technology of World Lens: just hold up your camera to text you want to translate and see the translation on your screen!

Cons: Works best with short phrases and bold fonts. Does not always translate in context.



App: Currency XE

Cost: Free **iPhone/Android:** Yes/Yes

Review: Pros: Multitude of currencies updated every minute. Currency advisor tells you the pinned currency’s most used denominations and other tips.

Cons: Doesn’t update exchange rates without a connection but can still use the converters.



PLANNING

App: City Maps 2Go

Cost: Free **iPhone/Android:** Yes/Yes

Review: Pros: You can download the map and related articles for any city which can be accessed without internet.

Cons: Tours and Activities not available without internet.





App: TripAdvisor

Cost: Free **iPhone/Android:** Yes/Yes

Review: Pros: You can download the guide for any city which can be accessed without internet, including hotels, restaurants, museums, including reviews. Very comprehensive.

Cons: Downloading takes up space and time.



App: TriplT Travel Organizer

Cost: Free **iPhone/Android:** Yes/Yes

Review: Pros: Great way to organize your trips, from your entire study abroad program, to individual travel in-country: flights times, hotels/check-ins, activities/tours.

Cons: Must sign up with TriplT to use, but it is still free.



App: GateGuru

Cost: Free **iPhone/Android:** Yes/Yes

Review: Pros: Add your flights to keep track of departure/arrival times and gates and flight changes. Maps of airports and airport amenities.

Cons: Some features like airport maps not available offline. Airports not always listed by city, but by airport name, e.g. 'Logan' instead of 'Boston'.

ACCOMMODATION

App: CouchSurfing

Cost: Free **iPhone/Android:** Yes/Yes

Review: Pros: Resource to find free accommodation options when you travel. Filter by certified users, age, gender, and recommendations when available.

Cons: None with the app. Use caution when exploring this option, never give out personal information ahead of time and meet the person in a public space where possible.



App: Airbnb

Cost: Free **iPhone/Android:** Yes/Yes

Review: Pros: Find whole apartments, private rooms, or shared rooms for rent. Filter search options. Website also.

Cons: Must contact individual owners through Airbnb to book. Be mindful of any additional fees.



App: HostelWorld

Cost: Free **iPhone/Android:** Yes/Yes

Review: Pros: Search for more inexpensive accommodations, including hostels, hotels, B&Bs, campsites, and apartments. Sort options by rating, price, location within city, and various amenities included. Website also.

Cons: Use caution when booking with credit cards on a mobile device.

