

Case Study #1

You and a group of friends are traveling around your host country and stop for lunch at a cool restaurant you find while sight-seeing. You set your bag under the table and enjoy the delicious food. When it's time to leave, you suddenly realize that your bag is nowhere to be found. Panic sets in as you realize it contains your wallet, passport, and other items of personal significance. What do you do?

What You Should Do	Case Study Prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alert the waiter or restaurant manager right away and request them to contact local law enforcement • If the restaurant staff cannot call local law enforcement, head to a police station to file an incident report • Contact the U.S. embassy about emergency passport printing and hours of embassy operation • Contact your banks and credit card companies and notify them of the theft. Make plans for new cards to be sent to you or to a family member in the U.S. who can send them to you • Visit the embassy and request an emergency passport to be issued to you • Report the incident to your provider or host university 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not place purses, backpacks, or bags under tables or hooked on chairs. Thieves commonly wait under tables for such opportunities to steal from people • Do not carry all valuables in the same place; invest in a money or passport pouch you can wear under your clothes • Have emergency numbers for the embassy and banks/card companies in a safe place for easy access to report theft • Never travel with items that are extremely valuable or irreplaceable

Case Study #2

With a long weekend ahead of you, you and some friends decide to take advantage and do some traveling. When you are at the gate of departure, an immigration official in your host country says that your passport photo doesn't look right. If you pay \$200, you will be allowed to re-enter your host country, otherwise you will be under investigation. What do you do?

What You Should Do	Case Study Prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not pay the fee if you have reason to suspect that you are being targeted or that corruption may be involved • Stay calm and take a deep breath. Smile politely and ask what your options are. • Apologize for any misunderstandings and let them know that you are willing to work with them • Do not become angry or demanding. Remember that the official still has the authority to not allow you to re-enter • Call your resident director or staff at the host university for assistance if needed • Report the incident to your provider or host university 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research all countries you travel to in advance and note entry/exit requirements – check the www.travel.state.gov site • Document your travel plans and leave arrival/departure information with family/friends • Set aside emergency funds for unexpected expenses • Always inform someone of your travel

Case Study #3

You're taking public transportation on the way home from class. Taking advantage of the time you are riding, you pull out your iPad and do some reading for class. After you get off at your stop, several gangsters approach you and demand your wallet and iPad. What do you do?

What You Should Do	Case Study Prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give the thieves what they want. Nothing is worth your personal safety • Hand over the iPad and toss your wallet to the side. Get away as quickly as you can • Do not argue or attempt to overpower your intimidators • When you return home, contact Apple and see if you can remotely lock your device and recover any information stored • Contact your banks and credit card companies and notify them of the theft. Make plans for new cards to be sent to you or to a family member in the U.S. who can send them to you • Report the incident to your provider or host university 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not flash your phone, iPad, or other valuable electronics while in public spaces, including public parks, cafés, and transportation services • Travel with a buddy whenever possible and do not walk alone at night • Do not carry all valuables in the same place; invest in a money or passport pouch you can wear under your clothes • Have emergency numbers for banks/card companies in a safe place for easy access to report theft

Case Study #4

You're been abroad for 3 weeks now, and it has been very difficult to adjust to your host culture. In fact, you've been really struggling and are becoming increasingly depressed. You stop going to class, stop going out, and don't want to talk to anyone. You have never felt so alone and you just want to go home. What should you do?

What You Should Do	Case Study Prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform your family and resident director/host university immediately • Decide what is the best approach for your health; even if you decide you must leave in the middle of the semester your well-being always comes first • If you decide to stay, speak with your resident director/host university about counseling services or medical staff that are available to you in your host country • If you decide to come home, let your resident director/host university know and contact IPS to what options you may have to withdraw or receive partial or full credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there is no prevention of such situations, always inform others of your well-being while abroad so that we can help you as soon as possible in an event such as this • Listen to your body and acknowledge your feelings; everyone has a different adjustment process to change • Take care of your body and mind while abroad and remember that your well-being is the top priority

Case Study #5

You've just decided to go shopping in your host country to stock up on supplies. You take public transportation to the store, but when you come out you can find no service to take you back home. You hop in a taxi from the street, and give the driver your address. Once you arrive at home, the driver tells you the cost is more than triple what you know the price should be. He demands for you to pay immediately or he will take you to the police station. What do you do?

What You Should Do	Case Study Prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look inside the vehicle for any registration information of the taxi (often hanging on the seats) and silently memorize it if possible • Get out of the vehicle immediately with your bags, then inform the driver that you know the standard rate for the trip and that you will only pay what is fair • Give the driver the money for the fair rate and then insist that is the fair rate • Make a mental note of the license plate and walk quickly away • If the driver persists, call your resident director/host university to help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never get in unmarked or illegal taxis abroad • Pay attention to the vehicle before you get in – what state is it in? Check the license plate and try to memorize the numbers • Insist that the meter be turned on; if the driver says it is broken, negotiate your price before getting in or find a new taxi • If you ever feel unsafe, stage a pretend phone call and state that you are on your way to meet them and are in a taxi at such a location • Always have heightened awareness in taxis

Case Study #6

You and a group of friends are out for a night of fun, when you run into a group of locals. You spend an hour with them and have a blast, but they're a little rowdy. They invite you to go back to one of their places and keep the party going. Your friends are all for it, but something just doesn't feel right to you. Your friends say that you will ruin the night if you make them all go home with you. What do you do?

What You Should Do	Case Study Prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always follow your instincts and stand up for yourself • Insist a friend travel back with you for safety reasons • If no one will travel with you, call a safe taxi or have a nearby establishment (hotel, restaurant, etc.) call one for you • Inform your friends that you are leaving and note the time (such as by text). Inform them again of your safe arrival home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not underestimate your feelings • While you may want your friends to be safe as well, your first priority is yourself • Be careful of the debilitating effects of drugs and alcohol and avoid making impaired decisions • Make a plan with your friends before going out; make a pact of how to get home and assign a meeting place if lost

Case Study #7

You are hanging out with a local buddy who suggests you go surfing at a private beach area. Up for a good wave, you agree, but tell your buddy that you don't have a pass to enter the beach. He tells you that the locals forge them all the time, and helps you make a fake pass. As soon as you get in, security guards approach you and demand your ID. When it's revealed to be fake, the police show up and take you to the police station. Forgery is a serious crime in your host country, and they threaten to throw you in jail. What do you do?

What You Should Do	Case Study Prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comply 100% with law enforcement and do not attempt to lie or further implicate yourself• Remember that you are now under the host country's legal process and are not assisted by American legal entities• Contact your resident director/host university as soon as possible to request assistance• Avoid getting into legal problems to begin with by following local signs, laws, and jurisdictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remember that locals are affected by laws differently than foreigners – just because a local does something does not make it okay for you to do it as well• Research local laws and take them very seriously at all times to avoid getting into legal situations