

**FIRST ORIENTATION MEETING
Panama, Winter Session 2013**

1. PAYMENTS DUE

The program fee balance (\$ 400) is due on **November 5**. Students who received a scholarship must check the student portal (go to <http://www.udel.edu/global/> and click on "Study Abroad" and select the last option in the drop-down menu: "Check your application") to determine their exact balance due.

Airline tickets will not be distributed to students who have not paid their program fee in full.

The University will bill you for tuition in November. Tuition is due by **December 1**. TUITION PAYMENTS SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH PROGRAM FEE PAYMENTS. THESE PAYMENTS MUST ALWAYS BE KEPT COMPLETELY SEPARATE.

- Program fee payments should be made online by using the "Payment by Online Check" form available at <https://primus.nss.udel.edu/casforms/studyabroad/winter/>
- For tuition, parents should wait until they receive a bill.

2. REGISTRATION

The pre-registration for Winter Session begins on **Monday, October 29**. All students must take 7 credits (**SPAN306**, **UNIV362** and one of the Literature courses: **SPAN355 or SPAN455**), as well as the 0-credit **UNIV370-053** course. NOTE: All Spanish courses (and UNIV 362) must be taken for credit and grade.

3. CLASSES

Tentative schedule of classes and activities can be found at:
<https://sites.google.com/a/udel.edu/panama-13w/>

Print a copy of the current schedule for your records and check this site regularly for updates.

Note: Punctuality and attendance are mandatory unless you are ill.

4. BOOKS

SPAN306:

- Cubillos, J (2012). *Charlemos*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Higher Ed.
 - Versant Spanish Oral Proficiency Test
- (**Note:** Textbook and the test codes will be distributed at our next orientation meeting).

SPAN355/455:

- Materials will be distributed to you upon arrival in Panama

5. TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

All students must have a valid passport through AUGUST 1, 2013. Students who do not have a passport (or whose passports expire before August 1, 2013) should apply for one immediately. Application materials are available at the Main Street post office. Additional information can be found at:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

Normal processing time is 6 weeks, but for an additional fee (\$60 plus overnight delivery costs) you can have expedited service (usually 2-3 weeks).

IMPORTANT DEADLINE: Students **must** deliver **TWO** copies of their passport signature page to IGS at Elliot Hall by **November 5th**.

6. GENERAL RELEASE (WAIVER) FORMS & OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

All students have completed their General Release Forms and their Online Orientation. Bravo!!

Important Reminder: If you have not done so, be sure to complete your **HTH** (Health Insurance Registration) ASAP.

7. HEALTH-RELATED ITEMS

Students should find out from their insurance company what procedures they should follow if they require medical services abroad. If a director pays for a student's medical services while abroad because the student was short on cash, this payment should be understood as a loan, not as a service covered by the program fee.

If you are taking any medication, bring an ample supply with you, as well as a clearly written copy of their generic (as opposed to brand name) prescription. Even students not on medication should bring with them a small supply of standard, over-the-counter products that they typically use (aspirin, cold medicine, etc.). Students who wear glasses or contact lenses should bring an extra pair with them.

REMIDERS:

1. Watch the General Health Orientation Video and talk to your family doctor about immunizations (see **Health Orientation** handout at the program website).
2. Register with HTH for your Study Abroad Insurance

8. UNIVERSITY POLICIES/PROCEDURES

The director, as a representative of the University while abroad, reserves the right to send students home in extreme cases of violation of University regulations.

Issues such as drinking, drugs, and engaging in illegal activities while abroad are addressed in the Program Orientation Video Series. Be sure to watch it before our next meeting on Friday, December 7 at 4 pm.

9. HOUSING ISSUES

Housing assignments for Panama 13W will be announced at our next orientation meeting.

Please keep in mind that you will be guests in someone's home and that you should behave accordingly. Also, during weekend excursions you will be guests in hotels and need to be respectful of other guests as they come and go, particularly at night.

10. TELEPHONE

Students will most likely **not** be permitted to make long-distance calls from the home of their host. Purchase of a calling card (or a pre-paid mobile telephone) to telephone the U.S is highly recommended (Note: this can be done in Panama). Calls **to** Panama from the US are allowed during reasonable hours (keep in mind the one-hour time difference).

11. MONEY MATTERS

The US Dollar is the currency of Panama, so you don't have to worry about exchanging money prior to departure. Do bring some cash with you, but for security reasons it may be best to access the bulk of your spending money through one of the many ATM machines around Panama City. A major credit card is also highly recommended for larger purchases (and for emergencies).

Note: There will be no refunds for excursions or cultural activities in which you do not participate, meals which they miss, etc. The program is a "package deal", and individual expenses will not be itemized.

12. SERVICE LEARNING

Keep working on your recreational and cultural activities (prepare 14 sessions). Requested options:

- cuenta cuentos
- talleres de danza
- clases de ejercicio

- proyectos de arte
- juegos al aire libre

Consider bringing a care package for your children (fund raising opportunities??). Needed items:

- toallas
- sábanas
- cepillos de diente
- pasta dentífrica
- jabón de bebé
- loción para bebés
- champú para bebés
- cuadernos
- lápices
- lápices de color
- libros para colorear
- libros de cuentos
- juguetes educativos (incl. en inglés)
- dvds educativos
- dvds de danza/ejercicio (ej. zumba para niños)

13. CULTURAL BLOG ENTRY

Personal biography and video greeting (2 minutes). Both in Spanish. Due: **November 19.**

14. MYSPANISHLAB RECORDING

Do the “Antes de Partir” recording activity (La Ciudad de Panamá) by **November 19.** Login information will be e-mailed to you shortly.

14. PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION MEETING

Friday, December 7, (4 pm, 201 JBH)

Housing assignments, pre-departure instructions, ticket distribution