

LInC FAQ's

What is LInC?

LInC is NOT a trip. Yes there is a travel component, but LInC is actually a class in which students learn about global business theories and practices which, instead of looking at the ENTIRE world, looks at a specific region/country (makes it easier to deal with). Classes are held on the USC campus for 7 weeks prior to departure, where we help introduce students to those basic theories (which are the same in each location) as well as some cultural, economic and political background on the region/country (this is where it differs) to help the students understand why theory A works this way in the US and that way in the country they are visiting. The travel component the students will meet with business leaders and government officials who will talk about their companies, the challenges of doing business in a global context, and other topics covered in the class. At the end, the students will use this information as part of their final project for the class.

The classes are taught by some of the finest professors at USC to guarantee an enriching academic experience all while including an opportunity to visit a foreign country and meet and network with business professionals and alumni abroad. Win-Win-Win.

When do we Travel? What do we do in country?

As mentioned above, we will be meeting with business leaders and government officials in each country (what companies we visit differ each year, and normally are NOT set until 3-4 weeks before departure-CEOs and CFOs are busy people and getting them to commit 4-5 months in advance is not easy) during the weekdays. On the weekend, we will have a large cultural event, such as a city tour or other type of cultural visit. Some locations also have a social engagement project. There is usually 1 day free for students to explore (souvenir shopping) on their own. A few evenings (after visits) are also set aside for the students to explore parts of the city (many evenings we have cultural events or dinners planned which can limit free time). We try and pack as much activity into 8 days as is possible.

Those travelling in March (spring break) will start classes the first week of classes in January and then for 2 weeks after returning, those travelling in May will start class in mid-February and will travel after classes end in May. Details on classes will be sent at a later date. But each location will have its own, unique class.

How do we pay/when are fees due?

The travel fees for the program are \$3,650- this includes round-trip airfare, hotel in country, breakfasts each day, lunch during required visits/excursions, 1-2 dinners, local transportation and guides, airport transfers in country, and 1-2 cultural excursions. **Fees do NOT include personal expenses, the most dinners, lunches during the weekend, and any visa costs.** We do not expect students to need more than \$350 in "pocket money" to cover simple meals and in-city transportation. Of course, we have seen students spend more than that on souvenirs, so budget according to your lifestyle. Please note that your fee does not use for paying faculty and staff travel.

The travel fees are charged to your USC account (the same place where tuition, USC housing, etc) are charged, and are due the same date as Spring tuition. You will NOT pay our office or a travel agent, but will pay USC just as you would for your other fees. You can even factor these into your Spring payment plan if

you wish (you need to work with the USC cashier after the fees are assessed for this). We try to make it as easy as possible.

Do we need a visa?

Depending on what country you are going to and what country passport you hold, you MAY need a visa. If you do, our Global Programs Office will assist all students with the application. No need to worry NOW about this. Just make sure you have a VALID Passport (good for 6 months AFTER the program ends so let's say expires no earlier than September 2023 for LInC Dubai and Madrid and November 2023 for the LInC Singapore 2023) with you when you return from Winter Holiday as you will need this to travel as well as if you need to apply for the visa.

You will also need to provide a copy of your passport by the end of November, so if your passport is in a box, buried in your backyard, time to call your parents to have them dig it up and send you a legible copy before November.

Will I be safe?

USC Marshall is dedicated to ensuring that all students are not placed into a situation which places them at risk-We do NOT travel into areas which have been determined will pose a serious threat to our students. We are constantly working with various risk assessment agencies, as well as local officials, alums, friends and colleagues to assess the safety in all locations where we have students. Each trip will have 3-4 USC faculty or staff accompanying it (we aim for around an 8 to 1 student/faculty ratio). USC Marshall has been leading programs such as this for 30+ years (this is the 15th year for LInC), and our faculty and staff go through a variety of informational and training sessions before they travel. All programs have at least 1 person who has travelled with students for more than 2 years, with many having 5 or more years of travel experience with students.

In addition, all students will be covered by international insurance, as well as support and risk services provider International SOS, who maintain offices in over 40 countries worldwide, but also monitor health and safety conditions around the world.

When will I know where I am staying/flying?

We will provide the hotel and flight information during the class in Spring. The entire class will all be on the same flight (as will all faculty and staff)- all students are expected to fly with the group (this is to ensure safety and arrival of all students). The school purchases air ticket and arrange accommodation for all LInC participants. USC Staff and faculty will accompany the students through immigration, to baggage claim, and to the hotel. Generally rooms are double-occupancy (2 per room) and for safety, we only stay at 3-4 star hotels with English speaking desk staff.

Notes for LInC Singapore students

You will depart from Los Angeles on May 11th, while the move out date is on May 10th. The Office of Global Programs and Partnerships can issue a letter of support for you to submit to the Housing Office to request for an extension. However, you will have to pay a \$75 fee for one night extension to the Housing Office.