

## 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). For seven weeks before departure, classes introduce students to foundational theories that are consistent across all locations. Additionally, we provide cultural, economic, and political context specific to the region or country they will be visiting. This helps students grasp why Theory A operates differently in the US compared to the destination country. During their travel, 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.

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/network with business professionals and alumni abroad. Win-Win-Win!

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

As mentioned above, we will be meeting with business leaders and government officials in each country (companies 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. Programs will also include a cultural event, such as a city tour or other type of cultural visit. Some locations also have a social engagement project. Students also have the opportunity 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 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 later, but each location will have its own unique class.

### How do we pay/when are fees due?

The travel fee for the program 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, most dinners, lunches during the weekend, and any visa costs.** We do not expect students to need more than \$400 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 is not used for paying faculty and staff travel.

The travel fees are charged to your USC account (the same place where tuition, USC housing, etc.) 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's office 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, The Office of Global Programs and Partnerships 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 - valid through September 2025 for LInC Dubai and Madrid and November 2025 for LInC Seoul, Singapore, and Tokyo) 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, 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 in an at-risk situation. We do NOT travel to areas that pose a serious threat to our students. We are constantly working with various risk assessment agencies, as well as local officials, alums, peers and colleagues to assess the safety in all program locations. Each trip will have 3-4 USC faculty or staff (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 17<sup>th</sup> year for LInC), and our faculty and staff go through a variety of 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 (ISOS). ISOS maintains offices in over 40 countries worldwide, monitoring 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 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 tickets and arranges accommodation for all LInC participants. USC Staff and faculty will accompany the students through immigration, 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.

### **\*Note for May LInC students**

You will depart from Los Angeles after USC's official move out date. Please request a letter of support from The Office of Global Programs and Partnerships, which you will submit to the Housing Office to request an extension. With this letter of support, residents approved to stay in university housing beyond the end of their contract will be charged a fee of \$75 per night for each approved. Residents that fail to check out by 5pm on the day their contract ends, and do not have an authorized late vacate will be charged a fee of \$200 per night.