

TIE FAQs

What is TIE?

Transfer International Experience (TIE) is an academic course (**BUAD 206**) that combines classroom learning with an international travel component to explore global business in a specific region or country.

Taught by distinguished USC Marshall faculty, the course integrates **eight weeks of on-campus instruction** with firsthand international field trip experience. During the semester, students build a foundation in global business concepts, which they apply abroad through company visits, discussions, and a final project. **TIE classes begin in mid-February.**

When do we travel, where do we go, and what do we do on the trip?

The group will depart from Los Angeles to **Lisbon**, Portugal, on **Saturday, May 16, 2026**, and will return to Los Angeles on **Sunday, May 24, 2026**.

Senior students attending the commencement should email the Marshall Undergraduate Office at uginternational@marshall.usc.edu and copy the Marshall Global Programs and Partnerships at marshall.tie@marshall.usc.edu to arrange an alternative departure from Los Angeles on **Sunday, May 17, 2026**.

During the trip, students will have the opportunity to engage with business leaders and, where possible, government officials through site visits. The program schedule includes cultural activities and some free time for personal exploration.

Program Fees

Program fees include round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, breakfasts, select group meals, program related in-country ground transportation with a local guide, some cultural excursions, program development fee, and other program-related costs, such as venue rental, gifts for hosts, translation services, etc.

Personal expenses, most dinners, and visa costs are not included. Students should budget approximately **\$400** for personal spending during the trip.

Fees are billed to your USC account and are due to be paid with spring tuition. You can include them in your USC payment plan.

Passport and Visa Requirements

According to international standards, a passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the end of the trip. Therefore, your passport should be valid until at least the end of November 2026. If your passport is not valid, make sure to apply for a new one as soon as possible.

Visa requirements vary based on your citizenship. The Office of Global Programs and Partnerships will provide information on whether you need a visa and, if so, how to obtain one for traveling to Portugal.

Safety

USC Marshall is committed to student safety and only operates programs in low-risk destinations, continuously monitored by multiple safety and risk assessment agencies. The TIE group will be accompanied by three trained USC faculty or staff members.

All participants are covered by USC Overseas Student Health Insurance and International SOS (ISOS) services for the entire duration of the TIE trip.

Flights & Accommodation

All flight and hotel arrangements are made by USC Marshall. Students travel together on the same group flight and stay in 2–3-star hotels (double occupancy) with English-speaking staff. Faculty and staff accompany students throughout travel.

Flight and hotel details will be available on Brightspace during the spring semester.

Since the TIE trip is part of an academic program, USC Marshall **does not allow any non-enrolled individual** to participate in any program activities and/or use any program-arranged facilities, **including sharing the program-arranged hotel rooms with students.**

Dormitory Extension

Since the TIE trip **departs after USC's official move-out date**, students needing extended on-campus housing may request an extension through USC Housing. The Marshall Global Programs and Partnerships Office can provide a letter of support to help secure a reduced nightly rate, if the extension is approved.