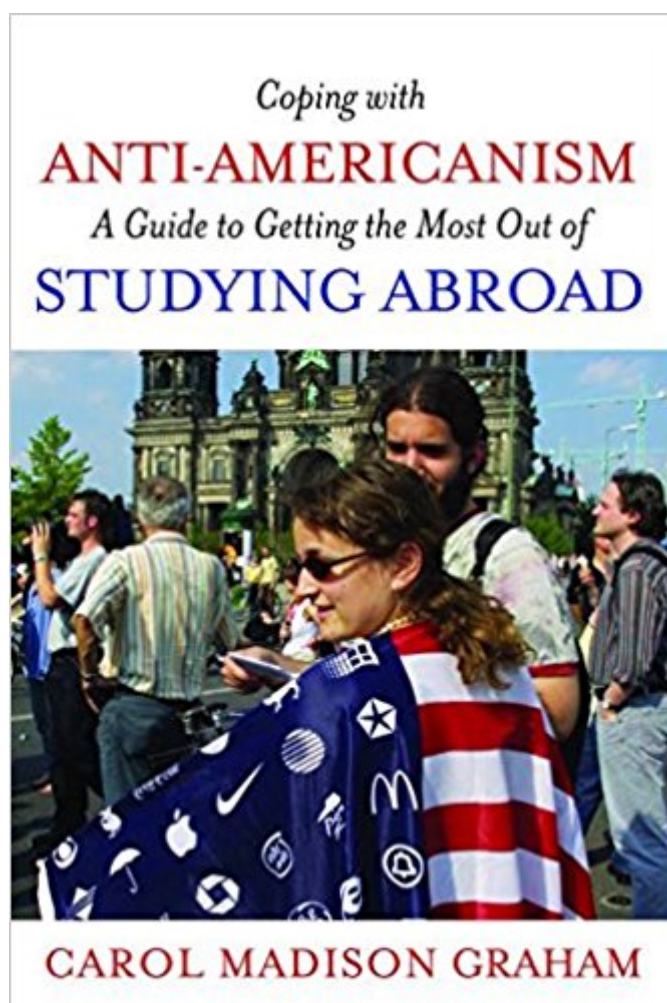


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Coping With Anti-Americanism: A Guide To Getting The Most Out Of Studying Abroad



Synopsis

Today, more and more students are choosing to study overseas. Most relish this opportunity to become "student ambassadors" for their country and community, and eagerly anticipate engaging with the people at their chosen destination. In many cases, however, they quickly encounter obstacles. In *Coping with Anti-Americanism*, Carol Madison Graham shows students how to break out of their comfort zone, thrive in another society, and handle the anti-Americanism they may encounter. This helpful new guide, by a study-abroad program administrator and former overseas student herself, shows how to get the most out of what can be an exciting and rewarding experience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"American students abroad often find themselves on the front lines of public diplomacy. This guide will help enormously when the going gets tough. I would make sure my students read it well before they packed their suitcase." — Dr. Allan E. Goodman, president and CEO, Institute of International Education (Dr. Allan E. Goodman)

"Writing in an engaging and informative style, Carol Madison Graham provides invaluable practical advice on how American students should respond when challenged to defend their perspectives on religion, multiculturalism, education, and foreign policy while studying abroad. With her own powerful narrative, Graham invites her readers to approach their time abroad as a process of self-exploration, as well as a chance to learn about a foreign culture. Whether the reader is preparing to go abroad, coping with the challenges of

studying abroad, or trying to make sense of the experience of living abroad, this book is an outstanding source of wisdom from an author who is ideally situated to know." — Prof. Cornelius O'Boyle, director, London Summer program, and associate director, London Undergraduate Program, University of Notre Dame (Prof. Cornelius O'Boyle)

Carol Madison Graham joined the U.S. diplomatic service in 1981 and served in Tunisia, Lebanon, France, and the United Arab Emirates. Ms. Graham headed international policy for the Bar of England and Wales before joining the Fulbright Commission as executive director. A board member of the Marshall Scholarships and the International Institute for Environment and Development, she also became a trustee of the Carnegie U.K. Trust. She lives in London.

Carol Madison Graham's book on making the most out of study abroad offers students sound practical advice on living and studying overseas. The chapters cover different themes, which make this an easy book to dip in and out of. Having studied abroad myself and having worked with study abroad students for some time, I admire the insightful observations and advice the author gives. I think this book is very beneficial for students from the US who are interested in study abroad, and want to have a 'genuine' experience as opposed to visiting and taking classes in another country. Carol refers to her own experiences as an American in the UK, France and Turkey which makes the book interesting and engaging to read. While many students take a long time to choose study programmes or explore different destinations, equally important is being prepared to get the most out of the experience. I like the fact the book is intellectually engaging, and at the same time offers very practical advice for students. The author gives good tips from encouraging study abroad students to explore more of their host countries than just the capital cities, to engage with foreign languages, and how to serve as ambassadors for the US too. In addition, the book encourages students to learn about their own country and history so that in discussions students are able to enlighten their hosts on their own culture too, by reading kids history texts for example. This is excellent advice and I think probably not always something study abroad students would think of before embarking on their study experience overseas. Each chapter of the book ends with a short essay from various people with experiences of living and adapting to a new culture overseas. This makes the book stand out for me, as it is good to get the perspectives of different people, not just the author - and the differing issues these people faced in other parts of the world. The author advocates reflecting on the 'study abroad' experience and aspects of learning about one's own culture as well as that of a foreign country - which I think is very worthwhile, and an endeavour that

can also add to a student's ability to 'market' their study abroad experience positively to employers after graduation, and stand out. By engaging with this book, I think students will be able to learn a lot about themselves, and to be able to articulate themselves well in job interviews on how they have overcome challenges, are culturally sensitive, independent and confident 'global' citizens. The book looks at 'Anti-Americanism' and getting the most out of study abroad - and I think gives a realistic overview of what students may expect from their experience. Initially I thought the focus on 'Anti-Americanism' may put a slightly negative slant on the book and on study abroad in general, however after reading I think a balanced view is given and that students will gain a lot from reading it. The book does well to show how much can be learned from studying abroad, both about one's own culture and society and that of a new host country. Incidentally, I think this book would also be most useful for international students interested in studying in the US, as the reader learns a lot about US culture, education, traditions and government. An interesting and very useful read, I will definitely recommend that the students I work with read this before embarking on their study abroad experience. Signing up for a study abroad programme is easy, making the most out of it is not - this book gives students practical advice to make the most of what is the opportunity of a lifetime.

Madison Graham's text is essential reading for any American students (and those that advise them) thinking about or preparing to study abroad, and an unrivalled glimpse into the American psyche for those outside of the US. Drawing out practical and theoretical issues surrounding meaningful educational and cultural exchange, the insights in this book will help those that read it to have a richer, deeper experience - going beyond the all-to-comfortable 'bubbles' and ever-easier socially mediated links to home. The unique, insider's perspective in this book draws from a long and distinguished career. It's clear, direct and, often, inspirational. Honestly, don't study abroad without it! Michael Scott Kline
Director, US-UK Fulbright Awards Programme

I'd recommend this book to any American student getting ready to study abroad, and their parents. It's a refreshing reminder of how important it is to have a good working knowledge of our own country's history and politics before we travel abroad. The accounting of firsthand experiences by both the widely-traveled author, Carol Madison Graham, and her contributors, give great insights into both the joys and lessons of venturing into another country.

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