

SIENA ABROAD IDENTITY SERIES:

RACE & ETHNICITY

Wherever you decide to go, you may be redefining what an American is. Diverse representation is vital in creating stronger global citizenship within the U.S. and the world at large. Often, as a student studying abroad, you are seen as American first and a member of your racial or ethnic background second.

Learning how to navigate these nuances is part of why studying abroad is so important and should not deter you from embarking on this journey! Different attitudes exist wherever you go regardless of ethnic or racial background. Doing research on your host country can help prepare you for what to expect while living there.

questions to consider

- Where do people of my race/ethnicity fit into my host country's society?
- What is the history of ethnic or racial tension in the country? Is the situation currently hostile to members of a minority race, majority race, or particular ethnicity or religion?
- Are issues of racism/ethnic discrimination influenced by immigration in my host country? How do politicized immigration concerns fuel racial tensions? What is the character of immigrant communities?
- Are there laws in the host country governing race relations? Ethnic relations?
- Am I likely to be a target of racism/classism?
- What are the similarities with how I am treated in the U.S.?
- What are the cultural norms of my host country?
- How should I act if I find something to be offensive?
- Will there be other students of color on my program?

resources

- [Studying Abroad While Black](#) (YouTube)
- [Minority & Students of Color Abroad](#) (article)
- [black & abroad.](#) (blog)
- ["My Experience Abroad as a Minority"](#) (blog post)
- ["What to Know About Studying Abroad as a Minority"](#) (blog post)
- ["A Latina's Study Abroad Journey"](#) (blog post)

