Marist International Programs (MIP)

TRAVEL TO YOUR PROGRAM SITE

• The Marist International Program (MIP) fee does not include the cost of round trip air travel. Students will make their flight reservations and ticket payment directly to the travel agency or airline of their choice.

• **Travel arrangements to and from the program site are between the student and the ticket provider. Marist College is not responsible for students’ air travel arrangements and will not intervene or interfere in students’ ticketing arrangements. All questions related to ticketing, flights, re-bookings, changes, etc. need to be directed to the student’s chosen ticket provider and not to Marist College.**

• Program participants must be at the program site on the program start date, specified in writing by the host institution and/or the MIP Coordinator, and must participate in mandatory on-site orientation.

• Flight reservations should be made as soon as appropriate; otherwise, increased fares and limited seats may result.

• Participants must provide their flight itinerary to MIP.

• Some programs include airport transfer on arrival overseas. Find out if airport transfer is included in your program and how to arrange for it. Please note: **Transfer to the airport, on completion of the program, is not included.**

• **There are pros and cons to booking with: (1) an agent; (2) directly with an airline; (3) a travel website.**
  - An agent who specializes in student travel can arrange a group flight, monitor schedule changes and check-in, provide answers and perhaps advice and assistance in some emergencies. There are limitations to what agents are able to do in the event of travel disruptions, including but not limited to emergency situations.
  - Booking directly with the airline may yield a lower fare if schedules and fares are researched in advance of calling; airline agents are usually pressed to complete the sale and take the next call. It may also be possible to book on the airline’s web site at a lower fare.
  - A travel website may offer lower fares with computer-only interaction. Find out if there will be personal assistance in case of questions, schedule changes, flight cancellations, etc., and be familiar with such restrictions on the ticket prior to purchase.

Do your research and weigh the costs and benefits which matter most to you. It is also recommended that you investigate travel cancellation insurance and/or evacuation insurance if you feel such coverage is necessary.

Resources (prior to contacting any of these, first review the pros and cons of agents, airlines and travel websites noted above):

• Advantage Travel of CNY, Inc.: MIP provides official program arrival and return dates to Advantage agents who can create optional group flight proposals for MIP participants. “Established in 1990, Advantage Travel has evolved from a small, local office to a global enterprise with 21 employees, world-wide contacts and exceptional relationships with domestic and international air carriers.” [http://www.advantagecny.com/](http://www.advantagecny.com/)

• STA Travel: “STA Travel is a global travel specialist with 30 years experience advising young people on holidays and adventures abroad.” [http://www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com)

• Booking directly with airlines or purchasing a ticket online: contact information for airlines is available on the web; students may also consider using one of the major online ticketing businesses (e.g., Expedia, Kayak, Student Universe, etc.)

• For baggage and carry-on guidelines and restrictions please visit your airline carrier’s web site. Also visit the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) pages at: [http://www.tsa.gov/](http://www.tsa.gov/)