



## **Cayman Islands**

### **A to Z: What You Need to know**

#### **Program website**

The majority of program information can be found on the program website at:

[www.stetson.edu/law/studyabroad/cayman/](http://www.stetson.edu/law/studyabroad/cayman/)

#### **Program Calendar and Class Schedule**

The program calendar and class schedule are published when the program opens for applications. Both are subject to change, and when changes occur, students who have applied to the program are notified via e-mail of those changes. Please check periodically to ensure you know what is planned, where you need to be, and when you need to be there. Many events, especially field trips, are mandatory components of the program, and you need to be prepared. You can also find the date of the final exams on both documents.

#### **Cayman Islands Facebook group**

A private Facebook group is set up for each program. The link is sent to the group periodically as new applicants apply. The intention of the group is an effort to facilitate the participants getting to know each other prior to arrival in the Cayman Islands. There is no pressure to join, but we have used these for our programs in the past and find that it is a great way for the students to get familiar with each other before they arrive to the program and meet in person. It is also a great way to find people to join you in activities on the Island. During the program, it is often used as a message board for gatherings, posting pictures, etc.

Staff from the International Programs Office as well as the faculty members and Resident Directors are often members of this group, so please keep it clean because we'll be watching! Only those participating in this study abroad program are admitted into this group - it is very much a closed group. **If you have a name on Facebook that is not similar to your real name, please let our office know as she will not allow you into the group if she does not recognize your name.**

While items will be posted in this group, this will be a secondary mode of communication. Important information posted in the group will be repeated in an e-mail for those who choose not to join the Facebook group. No one will miss out on program information because he/she did not join the Facebook group.

#### **The Application Process**

##### **•Stetson University College of Law students:**

To be eligible for the Fall Intersession Cayman Islands program you need to have completed your 1L year and be in good academic standing. If you meet these criteria, you may complete the online application. It is not necessary to pay your

program deposit at the time you start your application; however, paying your program deposit will secure your spot in the program. You will not be accepted into the program until you have paid your program deposit.

•**Non-Stetson Law students:**

We welcome your applications and participation in our program! Our programs are richer for having students from other law schools in them, and no admission preference is given to Stetson University College of Law students. Most schools will require you to submit paperwork to them in advance of committing to our program, so you may need to start with your home institution first.

The criteria for non-Stetson University College of Law students are 1) completion of your 1L year, 2) be in good academic standing with your home institution, and 3) currently attend an ABA-approved law school. Your home institution will likely have a minimum GPA requirement, so you will want to check with them to be sure you meet their criteria as well.

What we need from you

1. **Law School Questionnaire (LSQ)** – Within your application, you will find the Law School Questionnaire. You will print out this document, complete the top section and sign it, then give it to your school (usually the Dean of Academics). Your school will complete the rest of the document and scan or mail it directly to [international@law.stetson.edu](mailto:international@law.stetson.edu). Your application will reflect when we receive your LSQ.
2. **Official Transcripts** – Please send an official law school transcript to the following address:

Office of International and Graduate Programs Office  
Stetson University College of Law  
1401 61<sup>st</sup> St S  
Gulfport FL 33707

Note: If you are an attorney or are a law student from another country, please confirm with our office at [international@law.stetson.edu](mailto:international@law.stetson.edu).

**Application deadline:**

**November 1**, If the program is not full, it may be possible that we can extend the deadline a few days.

**Financial responsibility/obligation**

After **November 1**, you are financially responsible for the program in its entirety. This includes the cost of tuition, housing, fees, and any other costs Stetson University College of Law has incurred on your behalf. **Should you withdraw after November 1, you are still financially obligated for these costs.**

**Financial Aid**

All of our programs are eligible for financial aid. The aid covers items listed in the Student Budget posted on the program website. Please contact your Financial Aid Office when you commit to the program so you can complete the additional required paperwork necessary to facilitate the processing of your financial aid package for this program (and there *will* be additional paperwork!).

The e-mail address for the Stetson University College of Law Financial Aid Office is [finaid@law.stetson.edu](mailto:finaid@law.stetson.edu). Should you have further questions, or need to send a consortium agreement, please contact them directly.

## Student Agreement Form

Please read this agreement prior to digitally signing it. You will be held to the standards asserted in this document, and you should know what it is to which you are agreeing.

## Passports

Yes, you will need one. You are also required to provide your passport information in your application, complete with a copy of the photo page of your passport. **Please be sure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months past the return date of your travel – this follows U.S. State Department guidance as many countries require this.** Better safe than sorry!

## Travel Itinerary

We ask that you provide us with your flight into and out of the Cayman Islands. You need to **fly into the OWEN ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON GRAND CAYMAN** (there are other Cayman Islands airports, but they are on other islands!). The belief that ticket prices go down a few months closer to the date of travel does not hold true for the Cayman Islands during the winter holiday period. In fact, you may fall victim to a lack of flight options that may end up costing you more. If you are committed to the program early, it is advisable to purchase your ticket earlier rather than later to get the best price and to ensure that you can actually GET there. If you are uncertain, travel insurance is also an option you can pursue on your own.

## Non-Stetson Law Students only: Transcript request form

Located in your study abroad application, please print out and complete the Transcript Request Form, then scan it to international@law.stetson.edu. We need this on file to send your Stetson University College of Law transcript to your home institution when the program is over. This form needs to be received by December 15.

## Before You Go

### **•Stetson e-Mail accounts for NON-Stetson students**

Non-Stetson students will receive Stetson e-mail credentials from our office around mid-November. Please set this e-mail up and ensure that it is working prior to leaving for the program. You will need these credentials for several reasons:

1. To pay your invoice online;
2. To take your exams;
3. To enroll in Alert Traveler (risk management app); and
4. To access your grades;

## Pay Your Account Balance

**Your account balance must be paid prior to your arrival to the program.** If you encounter issues with financial aid availability with your school, please let our office know as soon as possible so we can work with you. Late payments incur late fees that start at \$200!

## Register for U.S. Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

We strongly encourage everyone to enroll in the U.S. Department of State's STEP program. It takes about 2 minutes (tops), and puts you on their notification list while you are overseas. Their definition of the program: "The Smart

Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.”

Please see the STEP Enrollment page (<https://step.state.gov/step/>) for more information, and please do take the time to register your trip with them.

### **Notify your Bank(s) and Credit Card Providers**

Let your financial institutions know that you will be traveling abroad as many of them will disable your card as soon as you start using it overseas if they are not aware of your travel plans.

### **Currency**

The Cayman Islands uses the Cayman Islands Dollar, but they also use the United States Dollar. You can use either one. If you use an ATM there, however, you will receive CID. Bottom line: currency exchange is not necessary.

### **Pack your Emergency Contact Card**

You will receive an Emergency Contact Card. Please be sure to carry your Emergency Contact Card on you at all times during the program. This card speaks for you should you not be able to speak for yourself.

### **Cost**

The Cayman Islands is expensive. That’s it. It’s expensive. Budget wisely, and expect that it will be expensive. In the hotel every room has a kitchenette, and we encourage everyone to plan to “eat in” as often as possible. If you eat out for every meal, you will quickly spend a lot of money. However, being prepared before you go and managing your expectations will make your trip more enjoyable.

### **On the ground**

Transportation from Airport to Sunshine Suites

Taxis will cost approximately \$30 USD from the airport to the hotel. Try sharing to save money – split the cost! Closer to the start date, arrival times might be a good topic to post in the Facebook group to coordinate taxi options.

### **Sunshine Suites Resort – Accommodations**

**All students participating in the Fall Intersession Cayman Islands program are required to stay in our program housing.**

**NO EXCEPTIONS.** Students may bring family members, should they wish to do so, and will need to select a housing choice that accommodates their needs. Please advise our office if you intend to bring family members.

You may also book additional nights before and after the program directly with the hotel. These additional nights **will not** be billed to you on your Stetson invoice for the program. Please let them know you are with the Stetson group, and they should extend our rate to you. If you experience any issues with this, please let me know. You can find their contact information at [www.sunshinesuites.com](http://www.sunshinesuites.com).

Please be sure to complete your Housing Preference Questionnaire in your study abroad application.

### **Credit Card Holds**

Sunshine Suites requires a credit or debit card when you check in. They ask for this and put a hold on your card for \$100-200 until you check out. This is a typical practice for hotels and should be anticipated. While this hold is on your card, those funds will not be available to you. Please plan accordingly.

You will need to settle your account with them upon check out, and you can use that hold to cover those expenses should you wish to do so.

### **Meals**

As every room has a kitchenette, we encourage students to buy groceries and “eat in” now and again to save money. Meals in the Cayman Islands can be expensive, and it all adds up quickly in twelve days.

### **Classroom**

All classes will be held at Truman Bodden Law School, Second Floor, Old CIBC Building, 54 Edward Street, George Town, KY1-1110 Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. We have two classrooms to use for our program there along with an office for the Resident Director(s).

### **Daily SHUTTLE**

The classroom space is approximately 10-15 minutes by bus from the housing location. A daily shuttle bus will depart at 8:30 am sharp to take students and faculty to the classroom space in downtown George Town. The buses will depart after class to return students and faculty to the housing location. Those who miss the bus are responsible for their own transportation. Punctuality is important because the buses do not wait for those who are late as it holds up the entire program.

### **Accessibility**

ADA-compliant facilities, such as ramps, accessible bathrooms, etc., may not be available in all Cayman Islands buildings and transportation as the Cayman Islands Disability Policy was only implemented in 2014. More and more accessible facilities are being built and provided, but not every business may be compliant. We do our best to assist anyone who may need assistance, so if you have accessibility needs, please let our office know as early as possible for planning purposes.

### **Your Resident Director**

The Resident Director is responsible for ensuring that the plans for the program run smoothly. This ranges from coordinating with the shuttle buses getting students to/from class to being on call in the event that someone is sick or injured. If you experience travel delays in arriving to the program, be sure to let your Resident Director know.

### **Mandatory Orientation and Welcome Reception**

The Mandatory Orientation introduces students to the Resident Director and sets the parameters and expectations for the program. **Please be sure to arrive in time for the orientation on December 25 at 8 pm.** It takes approximately 20 minutes to get from the airport to the hotel. The Mandatory Orientation will be held poolside.

**A Mandatory Welcome Reception will be held on December 26 at 4:00pm** to allow students to mingle with other students, the Resident Director, and our faculty. The location will be poolside.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Opportunities abound for fun excursions in the Cayman Islands, such as horseback riding on the beach, bioluminescent tours, cave tours, Sting Ray City, snorkeling, Starfish Point, and much, much more. We encourage students to partake of these opportunities on their own during their free time, but we also try to facilitate some of these excursions to take advantage of group discounts and to keep us together.

The extra-curricular activities are completely optional and at your own cost. Your Resident Director will be coordinating some of these and will be in touch with you about options and cost. Please understand that it is difficult to plan for large groups, so if you commit to an excursion, please remain committed.

### **Attendance and Field Trip Policy**

The official Attendance Policy will be provided to you closer to the start date, but students are required to be in class every minute of the first and last days of classes. Students can miss no more than one hour and twenty minutes of days 2 and 3. Students who miss time on the first or last day or exceed the maximum allowable time for absence on days 2 or 3 will not be eligible to sit for the final exam for the course that week.

Students are also required to attend all mandatory field trips. Those who miss required field trips will not be eligible to sit for the final exam for the course offered that week. Please refer to the Class and Field-Trip Attendance in Study-Abroad Programs policy.

### **Attire**

Classroom attire should be similar to what you wear to class normally on campus. Some field trips, such as trips to Court, will require that you wear court attire. More information about attire requirements for field trips will be provided.

### **Insurance**

All participants are required to have the Stetson-provided insurance. This insurance covers accidental illness or injury. Do NOT cancel your regular health insurance. This insurance is also not rental coverage should you rent a car or bike; you would be best to purchase the insurance offered through the rental company. Our strongest recommendation, however, is to use public transportation whenever possible.

Should you seek medical assistance during the trip, you will need to pay for the visit and any prescriptions upfront, and then submit a claim with those receipts. Those who need to file insurance claims can contact the International Programs Office ([international@law.stetson.edu](mailto:international@law.stetson.edu)) directly for the forms and instructions.

You do not need to sign up for this insurance as you will be covered as a participant in the program for the program dates.

**The insurance provided is NOT travel insurance and does NOT cover lost or stolen items or cancelled airline tickets.**

### **Fitness Center**

This is located across the street in the Westin (on the beach). There is no key or code needed. Guests can just walk in and use the fitness facilities. Sunshine Suites also tells us that there are lots of jogging trails around. For more information on those trails, please see the front desk at the hotel.

### **Laundry facilities**

On the premises, coin operated, and accepts Cayman quarters which you can change at the front desk. It is approximately CI\$2/load to wash, CI\$2/load to dry, and CI\$1.25 if you need detergent. If you plan to do laundry there, I would suggest purchasing detergent pods before you go and packing them in your suitcase - they will likely be more expensive to purchase there.

### **Grocery stores**

Cost-U-Less (the Caribbean version of Costco but no membership required) is just a 5-minute walk, and Foster's Food Fair IGA, a full supermarket, is an easy 10-minute walk. Bring a reusable grocery bag in your suitcase for ease of carrying!

## Academics

### Course Materials

No books are required for this program. All materials will be posted on CANVAS.

### ADA Accommodations (Academic)

If you are requesting ADA Accommodation(s), ESL Testing Modification(s), or both, you must submit your request through Stetson's website at: <https://www.stetson.edu/law/accessibility/register-request.php>.

If you have further questions, please contact the ADA Coordinator at [ada@law.stetson.edu](mailto:ada@law.stetson.edu).

**Please remember that time is of the essence; all ADA Accommodation and ESL Testing Modification requests must be renewed each semester prior to being implemented. No retroactive academic adjustments will be granted.**

### Exams

You will have 2 one-hour, take-home exams sent to you via e-mail to your Stetson e-mail account. These exams will be sent to you on **Monday, January 8, 2024 at approximately 10 am EST**. You will have until **Monday, January 15, 2024 at 5 pm EST** to take and upload your 2 exams to our Registrar's Office. If your exam is not uploaded by the deadline, you will receive a "zero."

## After the Program

### •Course and Program Evaluations

Students will be sent the course evaluations via email on the last day of class for each course taken during the program.

Program evaluations will be done electronically, though still anonymous, at the end of the program. We encourage your constructive feedback as we strive to continually improve our programs. If something works, tell us, and if it does not, please tell us that too. Suggestions are also welcome!

### Grades

Grades will be due for your classes around the end of January. You will be able to view them through your MyStetson account. All students receive Stetson numerical grades; however, non-Stetson students' grades will be reflected as P/F on their home institution's transcript. Please check with your respective institution for clarification.

Transcripts will be mailed to all non-Stetson students.

### Final Notes

We strive to provide all of our students with not just an educational opportunity, but also with a cultural experience that will remain with them long after they finish our program and earn their credits. For this reason, we wish to offer a few final thoughts to help make this experience the best one possible for all participants.

1. Not all students are on the same journey; be respectful of each other's individual journeys. Some may be there to pick up extra credits in a short amount of time; some may be beach people; some may just want to get away.

2. The Cayman Islands is much like the United States, but it is NOT the United States. Many amenities there will be just like what you can expect here in the U.S., but if something is not “just like here,” take it for what it is – a cultural difference/experience.
3. Keep an open mind. Speak with the locals and be a good ambassador for all Americans and for Stetson University College of Law as well.

9/15/23