



Come October 31<sup>st</sup>, you may see many ghosts, zombies and ghouls wandering the streets. But don't fear! The dead have not come back to life. It's just Halloween—a fun, festive holiday when (mainly) children dressed in costumes wander from house to house, declaring “Trick-or-Treat” in exchange for tasty treats.

Halloween has long been a tradition in the US, the UK, and Ireland, and recently has become popular in other parts of the world like Australia and New Zealand. Originally called Samhain, it was a Celtic holiday celebrating the return of the dead to Earth. It later became a feast during the Roman Empire, and transformed during the medieval era into a celebration the night before All Hallows Day which honors all Christian saints.

# Happy Halloween

In modern times, the feast has been lost, but the celebration has remained. The

official colors of Halloween are black and orange and it's common to see decorations such as Jack-O-Lanterns (carved pumpkins), tombstones and spider webs placed outside people's homes. Also, many people partake in costume parties and you can even visit “Haunted Houses,” which are not for the weak-hearted!

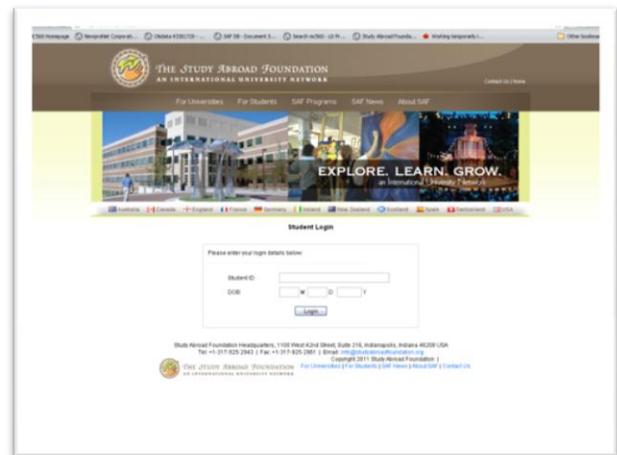
So be sure to get out and experience some of this unique culture. And if you can't think up a costume, you can always throw on a bedsheet and say you're a ghost! Happy Halloween!

## SAF Student Portal

SAF HQ uses the SAF Student Portal to keep up with our students studying abroad all over the world. Please login to the SAF Student Portal

([www.safdb.net/portal](http://www.safdb.net/portal)) using your SAF ID number and your date of birth (you should have received both of these about a week before you arrived at your host university via email). Through the SAF Student Portal you can communicate with us on a variety of topics:

- Student Arrival: Confirm arrival at your host university
- Host University Details: This section provides details on how to access your host university portal (passwords, etc.)
- Course Registration: Here you will list the courses you ultimately enroll in at your host university. This is very important to facilitate transfer credit.
- Student Travel Details: We expect that you will travel during your study abroad experience and we encourage you to do so. However, it is helpful if you log your travel plans in the SAF Student Portal so we can be in contact with you in case of an emergency.





## GAP

SAF offers a service to its students called Graduate Access Program (GAP). This service facilitates SAF student contact with graduate departments at their host university to get more information on graduate admission processes and procedures. If you signed up for this during your application process with your SAF CO, then one of the program coordinators from HQ will be getting in touch with you in the next few weeks to give you information on contacts at your host university.

## Financial Issues

Every semester, some SAF students receive emails or notifications from their host university concerning a balance on their account, fee deadlines, or an invoice that needs to be paid. Please do not worry. This happens for a number of reasons and SAF has taken measures to reduce this occurrence, but sometimes students still receive notices. If you receive a notice or invoice, please contact Chris Hartley, the SAF HQ Student Accounts Manager at [chris.hartley@studyabroadfoundation.org](mailto:chris.hartley@studyabroadfoundation.org)

or by phone at 1-317-925-2943. Remember, your SAF Program fee includes tuition, mandatory fees, housing while



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classes are in session, housing deposits and arrival transportation. Under no circumstances should you pay money directly to your host university without talking to Chris Hartley or another staff at SAF HQ.

We hope you are having a great start to your semester! Please let us know if you need anything, and we will be happy to help. Our contact information is provided here and we would love to hear from you. Have a great October!

Sincerely, *SAF HQ Staff*

### SAF HQ Contact Details

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