It's extremely important to know your finances before leaving for study abroad, and how you plan to stretch your dollar. For one, don’t assume that one euro, franc, pound, yen, etc. is the equivalent to one dollar. Check out a currency exchange rate website (such as http://www.xe.com/) and become familiar with how much your dollar is worth in the different country.

Have at least two debit cards and leave one at your place of residence in case you lose one or it’s stolen. Be aware that some places don’t accept American debit cards, so have cash with you most of the time. Let your bank know you will be abroad so they don’t cancel your card for fear of fraud or theft. Know the fees of your credit agency for withdrawing money abroad. Although uncommon among students, it may be worth it to open an account over in a foreign bank and have your money wired to this account if your staying for a long period of time. In Europe, especially, this can be useful since you can get a chip-and-pin card which are more used and user friendly than American cards (check out this site for more info on chip-and-pin cards http://www.ricksteves.com/tms/article.cfm?id=243&extras=false.)

It’s a good idea to make a photocopy of both sides of each of your credit/debit cards (and know your PIN number) so that you have the account numbers and phone numbers to call in case of theft.

You should take some foreign currency with you before you depart-ask your bank for the specific currencies that you need. Don’t leave it till the last minute since it may take a week or so for foreign currency to arrive.

Try and set up a budget before you leave and stick to it in order to prevent overspending, which can be ridiculously easy to do.

Talk with former study abroad students or foreign students so that you can know some “ins” on special offers, or student rates and discounts. For instance, you can get into certain museums for discounted price, even for free, if you are a student.

It would be helpful to get a train/tram pass (especially if you live in a metropolitan area) as soon as you can, because individual rides can really add up. Plus, if you can get a large area ticket, you can visit surrounding cities/areas, and use their busses, trains and trams at no extra cost.

SUU students must be able to prove that they have $1000 for every month they will study abroad (of course, you don’t have to use that much money).

Understand you will probably spend a lot your first week there since you will be purchasing all the items you need for the duration of your stay.