

# SETTLING IN AROUND THE *World*

NATA International Committee provides resources to help members succeed worldwide

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**A**ustralia, Belgium, Canada, China, Germany, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Panama: There are athletic trainers stationed all around the globe.

With the increased, and rapidly growing, demand for ATs in more countries than are countable on fingers, the NATA International Committee (IC) works to create resources to help ATs succeed overseas.

“We were founded specifically to assist members who are working or living or stationed abroad,” said NATA IC Chair Matthew Kutz, PhD, ATC, CSCS. “What’s so fun about this committee is how much athletic training has grown internationally, and that creates an incredible opportunity for ATs to live and travel abroad.

“With the military setting hiring as much as they have, there’s so many opportunities for ATs to be abroad and a need to broaden the scope. Our particular committee has seen tremendous growth. Matter of fact, a year or two ago, China made an initiative to hire 100 ATs.”

The IC launched the NATA International Ambassador Program, a program designed for ATs needing assistance when moving to or practicing in a foreign country.

The International Ambassador Program launched in 2018 to serve NATA members who are moving abroad, presumably to a country where they have little exposure or experience, by connecting them with other athletic trainers (ambassadors) who currently live in that host country or have significant international experience. The reason for the connection is for the ambassador to offer assistance to the incoming athletic trainer by helping them integrate into their new international community as seamlessly as possible.

Specifically, the ambassador can offer advice on how to navigate the logistics of an international move including finding schooling for school-aged children, locating relevant and safe places of worship, connecting to realtors for housing recommendations, banking and insurance needs, securing necessary visas, finding reliable health care and other logistics.

## Connections Go Far

There are currently 24 ambassadors in 18 countries, one of whom is Jared Maisel, MS, ATC, CSCS. As an AT and teacher currently based in Brussels, Belgium, and previously based in China, Maisel connected with Conor Davis, ATC, in 2019. Davis was looking for information on Vietnam as he was going to move there, Maisel said.

Maisel, having previously visited the country many times personally and professionally, provided Davis with the necessary tools and information he’d need as he acclimated.



The NATA International Committee helped facilitate and create the NATA International Ambassador Program that assists ATs when moving or practicing athletic training in a foreign country.

“Conor’s situation was different from mine when I was in Shanghai, but the formula to maximize one’s potential for an athletic trainer internationally is generally the same,” Maisel said. “We talked a number of times, and he brought me up to speed on his current living/working situation there as well as his goals.

“I educated him on my experiences as an athletic trainer in the international school setting. So, I just gave him some concepts to think about and apply to his personal practice that could potentially set him up for success with organizations in the south Vietnam area. I actually had a colleague at a well-known international school near where Conor was living, so I simply reached out to help with gathering more information.”

Knowing Davis may need additional support during his time in Vietnam, Maisel connected him to a large network of ATs in that region: the Asia-Pacific Athletic Trainers’ Society. Once in that community, things fell into place, and Davis progressed in his career and took on new opportunities to live and work internationally through that network, Maisel said.

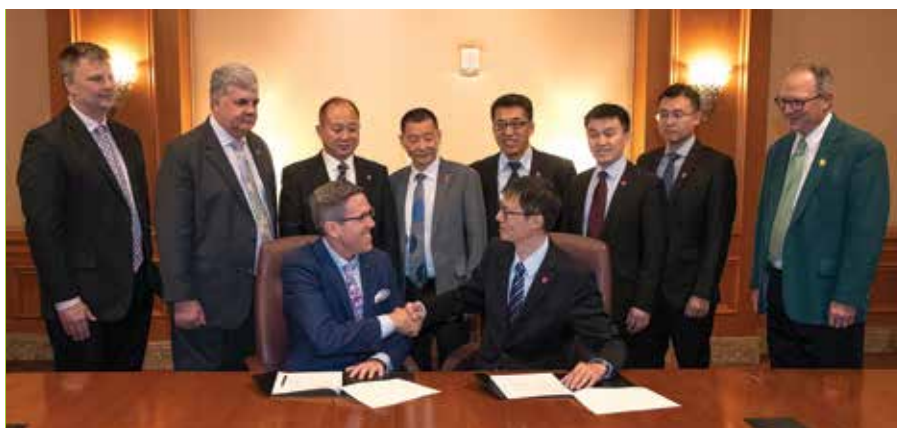
Maisel has used his international experience to help a handful of ATs over the years. The NATA Ambassador Program not only provides new international ATs with vital information and support, but also leaves a lasting impression on those ambassadors who see their connections succeed.

“It’s very fulfilling and inspiring to collaborate with ATs who are already abroad or looking to do so and hear about their situation, goals, objectives, resources, etc.,” Maisel said. “I feel like I always learn something new from these conversations, and I hope I can be of assistance by speaking of my experiences or just connecting them with someone else that could also be helpful.”

For more information on the NATA Ambassador Program, visit [www.nata.org/working-internationally](http://www.nata.org/working-internationally).

### New Resources for Success

In addition to the ambassador program, the NATA International Committee has created new resources to help members succeed abroad. Most recently, the NATA LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee collaborated with the



## Tips for Success Abroad

In order to prepare NATA members to travel and work abroad, the NATA International Committee creates resources that can be used for international success. Most recently, NATA IC member Meghan McKay, MEd, LAT, ATC, led the task force in charge of putting together a tip sheet for ATs who are traveling, both domestically and internationally, titled “International Travel Planning Checklist,” [www.nata.org/sites/default/files/ic\\_travel\\_checklist\\_with\\_hover\\_2.pdf](http://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/ic_travel_checklist_with_hover_2.pdf).

This document is intended to provide the AT with a generalized checklist of things to prepare for prior to traveling. Whether traveling with a team, for a conference or speaking engagement, study or relocation abroad, this checklist can help plan for the unpredictable situations one can encounter when traveling.

With six categories – health, financial, travel, communication, safety and documentation – the checklist asks questions that ensure ATs will be successful abroad, such as:

- Have you registered and received global health insurance?
- Have you learned the local driving practices and downloaded local navigation apps?
- Have you located the local embassy?
- Have you created travel notices with your financial institutions?
- Have you contacted the NATA International Ambassador where you are visiting?
- Have you created copies of visas, passport and other important documents?

Follow the checklist tips for success, and for more information and resources from the NATA IC, including translated infographics in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish, visit [www.nata.org/professional-interests/international/resources](http://www.nata.org/professional-interests/international/resources).

NATA IC to create an interactive map on the NATA website that provides members of the LGBTQIA+ community with safety information for each country.

The NATA IC and the LGBTQ+ AC began this project as part of the NATA Diversity, Equity, Inclusive and Access Response Plan. They are working on a “Safety Travel Map,” an interactive world map that will include information for various locations on relevant topics, such as the country’s friendliness

toward the LGBTQIA+ community, Kutz said.

Additionally, the IC is launching a cultural attunement webinar series. This series will consist of two webinars each year focused on diversity and inclusion topics that ATs would need to know when traveling outside the U.S. The webinars will be available to watch after the events on-demand at [www.nata.org/professional-interests/international/resources](http://www.nata.org/professional-interests/international/resources). §