



Potential Risks to Student Participating in a Study Abroad Program

- Once you leave U.S. jurisdiction, you are not covered by U.S. laws or U.S. Constitutional Rights. Should you be detained or arrested for breaking any laws, remember when you are in a foreign country you do not have the “presumption of innocence” that you enjoy in the U.S.
- Political changes may occur during your experience making your presence in the country more risky.
- In some countries, and certain areas within countries, there may be an anti-American sentiment. Growing anti-American displays of violence require that U.S. students be extra prudent and cautious. In such situations wearing clothes that label you as an American, for example, university or pro-team shirts may target you for difficulties. Check the U.S. State Department Travel Advisories regularly: <http://travel.state.gov/>.
- Women face unique challenges when traveling abroad. In many countries there are strong differences between how women are expected to act in public and in private. Dress, behavior, activity, eye contact and topics of conversation are shaped by spoken and unspoken cultural norms.
- Travel arrangements may change requiring unexpected alternative travel arrangements, which may increase the risks for your safe travel.
- There may be unexpected road hazards and traffic conditions making travel more hazardous than you experience in the U.S.
- Traveling alone or at night increases risks of scams and robberies.
- Your experience may require more traveling than you would normally do at home. This means you may be using a variety of public transportation such as buses, trains, metros, taxis, and plane. Use care when using public transportation. Do not display money, wallet or other valuable items. Never leave luggage unattended. Beware of pickpockets and purse-snatchers especially in crowded areas as you may be bumped casually and be unaware of any violation.
- Be careful of being befriended by strangers. Do not give out your name or address to unknown people. Do not take food or drink from unknown people.
- Robberies may be more commonplace. Exercise the same precautions you would in any U.S. city. Always be alert to where you are, what you are doing and who is around or may be watching you. Do not walk alone at night. Never carry large amounts of cash. Use money

belts or a concealed purse for your passport, visa, money, credit cards and other documents.

- Food and water conditions may be unsanitary or different and cause illness.
- There will be numerous cultural and language barriers which you may learn about and should act accordingly.
- Health care may not be as readily available, and may not be provided at the same level as you have experienced in the U.S.A.
- Do not accept or transport packages, boxes, suitcases, etc., from anyone unless you know the person and contents. Unsuspecting travelers have been given such to bring to the U.S.A. only to find they contain drugs or other illegal items.

Be cautious and alert. You should always remain aware of where you are, what you are doing, and who is around you.

Student Name: _____

Date: _____