

Health & Safety Resources

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U.S. Department of State Resources

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

Free service to assist U.S. citizens in an emergency

<https://travelregistration.state.gov>

Students Abroad

Security considerations specifically for college and university students <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>

Country-Specific Information Factsheets

Safety and security details for hundreds of countries

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4965.html

Links to US Embassies and Consulates Worldwide

<http://usembassy.state.gov/>

Travelers Health Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov

Alcoholics Anonymous www.alcoholics-anonymous.org

Overeaters Anonymous www.aa.org

National Association of Anorexia Nervosa

www.anad.org

Association for Safe International Road Travel

www.asirt.org

SAFETI Project Website www.globaled.us/safeti/

NAFSA Responsible Study Abroad

<http://www.nafsa.org/resource/library/default.aspx?id=16949&terms=Responsible+Study+Abroad%3a+Good+Practices+for+Health+>

With Regard to Study Abroad, Kalamazoo College:

- ◆ Cannot guarantee or assure the safety of participants or eliminate all risks from the study abroad environments.
- ◆ Cannot monitor or control all of the daily personal decisions, choices, and activities of participants.
- ◆ Cannot prevent participants from engaging in illegal, dangerous or unwise activities.
- ◆ Cannot assure that U.S. standards of due process apply in overseas legal proceedings or provide or pay for legal representation for participants.
- ◆ Cannot assume responsibility for the actions of persons not employed or otherwise engaged by the program sponsor, for events that are not part of the program, or that are beyond the control of the sponsor and its subcontractors, or for situations that may arise due to the failure of a participant to disclose pertinent information.
- ◆ Cannot assure that the cultural values and norms of the United States will apply in the host country.

Center for International Programs

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Health, Safety, and Security for Study Abroad Participants

Statement of Purpose

Because the health and safety of our study abroad participants are primary concerns, we have developed these lists of "good practices" to provide useful practical guidance to institutions, participants, and parents, guardians, or families.

The following statements are intended to be aspirational in nature. Although no set of practices can guarantee the health and safety needs of each individual involved in a study abroad program, they address issues that merit attention and thoughtful judgment. They are intentionally general and they cannot possibly account for all of the inevitable variations in actual cases that arise.

Therefore, as specific situations arise, those involved must also rely upon their collective experience and judgment while considering the unique circumstances of each situation.

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Student Responsibilities

- ◆ **Read and carefully consider** all materials issued by the CIP and the host institution that relate to safety, health, legal, environmental, political, cultural, and religious conditions in host countries.
- ◆ **Conduct your own research** on the country(s) you are visiting with particular emphasis on health and safety concerns, social and cultural norms and customs, and political situations.
- ◆ **Consider your physical and mental health**, and other personal circumstances, when applying for or accepting a place in a program; make available to the sponsor accurate and complete physical and mental health information and any other personal data that is necessary in planning for a safe and healthy study abroad experience.
- ◆ **Assume responsibility for all the elements** necessary for your personal preparation for the program and participate fully in orientations.
- ◆ **In consultation with a reputable travel clinic**, obtain all necessary immunizations, prescriptions, and health teaching for the program abroad.
- ◆ **Obtain and maintain insurance coverage** and abide by any conditions imposed by the carriers.
- ◆ **Inform parents/guardians/families**, and any others who may need to know, about your participation in the study abroad program, provide them with emergency contact information, and keep them informed of your whereabouts and activities.
- ◆ **Understand and comply** with the terms of participation, codes of conduct, and emergency procedures of the program, and obey host-country laws.
- ◆ **Be aware of local conditions and customs** that may present health or safety risks when making daily choices and decisions. Promptly express any health or safety concerns to the program staff or other appropriate individuals before and/or during the program.
- ◆ **Avoid all illegal drugs** and excessive consumption of alcohol.
- ◆ **Behave in a manner that is respectful** of the rights and well being of others, and encourage others to behave in a similar manner.
- ◆ **Accept responsibility** for your own decisions and actions.
- ◆ **Become familiar with the procedures** for obtaining emergency health and law enforcement services in the host country.
- ◆ **Follow the program policies** for keeping program staff informed of your whereabouts and well being.

CIP Responsibilities

- ◆ **Be in regular contact** with host institution or program, as well as other sources in-country and in the US about health, safety, and security issues.
- ◆ **Collect information** regarding available medical and professional services available at Kalamazoo sponsored programs and as requested from non-Kalamazoo programs; as necessary provide this information for participants and their parents /guardians / families, and assist participants in obtaining the services they may need.
- ◆ **Provide health and safety training** for Kalamazoo program directors and staff, including guidelines with respect to intervention and referral, that takes into account the nature and location of the study abroad program, and possible limitations inherent in such settings.
- ◆ **Hire staff and vendors** (e.g. tour and transportation companies) that have provided reputable services in the country in which the program takes place.
- ◆ **Have contingency and crisis** response plans.
- ◆ **Provide basic health, safety, and security** information to students and parents; and indicate resources where students and parents can inform themselves further.
- ◆ **Provide pre-departure orientation** to all study abroad students, and in-country orientation to students at Kalamazoo sponsored programs.
- ◆ **Consider health, safety, and security issues** as well as disciplinary history when evaluating an individual student's application to a particular program.
- ◆ **Require all study abroad participants** to have health insurance and require medical evacuation insurance for selected countries.
- ◆ **Respond to expressions** of health, safety, and/or security concerns by students, parents, faculty or staff.
- ◆ **In cases of serious health problems**, injury, or other significant health and safety circumstances, maintain good communication among all program sponsors and others who need to know.
- ◆ **Provide all participants** with a study abroad handbook informing them of all applicable policies, regulations, and codes of conduct.
- ◆ **Provide information** for participants and their parents / guardians / families regarding when and where the sponsor's responsibility ends, and the range of aspects of participants' overseas experiences that are beyond the sponsor's control.

Parent, Guardian, and Family Responsibilities

- ◆ **Obtain and carefully evaluate** your student's program materials, as well as related health and safety information, as provided by the sponsor and other sources.
- ◆ **Be involved** in the decision of your student to enroll in a particular program
- ◆ **Discuss with your student** any of his/her travel plans and activities that may be independent of the study abroad program.
- ◆ **Engage your student** in a thorough discussion of safety and behavior issues, insurance needs, and emergency procedures related to living abroad.
- ◆ **Be responsive** to requests from the program sponsor for information regarding your student.
- ◆ **Keep in touch** with your student, but keep in mind that local conditions may prevent the student from immediately responding to you.
- ◆ **Be aware** that your student rather than the program manager may most appropriately provide information.
- ◆ **Be sensitive** to local customs and cultural norms in the host country and the homestay or dorm.
- ◆ **Remember time differences** when phoning your student.
- ◆ **Understand** that if you call the CIP about your student, we will contact the program and the student; however FERPA may prohibit us from responding to you directly.

