



Understandings Concerning Safety and Other Matters When Studying Abroad

This list, although it cannot be comprehensive, is designed to heighten your awareness of your responsibility to safeguard your security while abroad.

I. Risk Factors and Strategies to Reduce Risk

1. I understand that while traveling abroad I am enrolled in an FIT program and am representing my college and my country. Therefore I will be courteous and respectful of local customs and obey all local laws.
2. I understand that I am solely responsible for my behavior outside of class and that I will avoid situations which may jeopardize my safety or the safety of others.
3. I know how to get in touch with my professor if I need him/her outside of class time.
4. I will notify my coordinator in writing of my absence from the program and how I can be contacted.
5. I have a safe place to keep my passport/visa/tickets while traveling i.e., a hidden belt or document holder.
6. I have a safe and secure location to keep my passport/visa/tickets at my program residence abroad.
7. I have photocopies of my passport/visa/tickets/credit card kept in a separate, secure place from my passport/visa/tickets/credit card, as well as at home. (Do not keep official documents and copies together.)
8. I will not give my passport/visa/tickets to anyone who asks to have them unless it is a person who is officially responsible to collect it.
9. I am aware of any travel advisories issued by the U.S. State Department for the countries to which I will be traveling.
10. I am aware of the prevailing national sentiment toward the U.S. and U.S. citizens in the countries I will visit and that some individuals may be hostile to Americans.
11. I understand that it is better to act and dress conservatively—so that I am not easily identified as a tourist or a U.S. citizen.
12. I know which non-verbal behaviors are considered inappropriate/rude and which are commonly used (certain hand gestures, greeting by bowing, kissing or shaking hands, etc.) in the country I am visiting.
13. I will keep abreast of social and political conditions which may affect my welfare by reading English language newspapers, keeping connected via the internet, and by calling home frequently.
14. I know the location and telephone number of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in each country I plan to visit.
15. I am aware of what my program, the Embassy and the Consulate can and cannot do to assist me in the event of a crisis.
16. In case of a serious crisis, I will comply with any evacuation procedures arranged by the US State Department or by FIT.

17. I accept responsibility to participate in the program's Emergency Action Plan.
18. I understand that although foreign travel is usually a very pleasant experience, travelers are often targets of crime. I will spread my valuables in different places so that I will have some money, tickets or documents, if I am robbed. (Do not carry valuables or bring expensive jewelry.)
19. I have a small flashlight to carry with me.
20. I know which forms of public transportation are safest to use.
21. I understand that no visitor shall be admitted to my room under any circumstances.
22. I am aware that the possession, use, and distribution of illegal drugs and unlawful use of alcohol can lead to suspension and/or expulsion from FIT as well as possible arrest.
23. I understand that driving is very different in Europe/Asia and that renting a car or moped may not be worth the risks involved.

II. Medical Care and Insurance

24. I know what my health insurance policy does and does not cover.
25. I know how to pay for health services if I need them.
26. I will learn the location of the nearest hospital to my study-abroad site.
27. I will contact my program professor if I need a doctor visit or to go to the hospital.
28. I have left an emergency contact at FIT and with the FIT program professor/academic coordinator. This person will be notified if I am ill or have an emergency.
29. I am carrying first aid items and whatever medications I need, including some extra in case of an emergency.

III. Methods of Communication While Abroad

30. I have been provided with concerning my program and I have shared this information with my family members.
31. I know how to use the country's communication system and have more than one way to keep in touch with home while abroad (i.e., through e-mail, calling card, fax, etc.)
32. I have all the important telephone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses for FIT's Office of International Programs, including the emergency after-hours numbers for Security 001-212-217-7777 and will keep them with me at all times while abroad.
33. I know the address and telephone number for my hotel(s) abroad and have communicated this to my family.
34. I know how to dial international and local telephone calls from the country in which I will be studying, and how to use a calling card.

IV. Air Travel

35. I understand that my baggage will be x-rayed and that film and computers must be hand carried.
36. I have checked the websites of the airports and airlines that I will be flying to/from to find out any new regulations or requirements they may have put into effect. (i.e., arrive three hours early for international flights, no curbside check-in, etc.)
37. I am familiar with the currency of the country I will be traveling to and have sufficient foreign currency to take public transportation or a taxi to my destination.
38. I am aware of the limitations on the insurance provided by my international student card.
39. I will notify the airline in advance in the number of days required to confirm my return flight.
40. I understand that I may be searched at any airport.
41. I know what is legal and illegal to put in my carry-on luggage and am aware that I will have to give up any item which is not permitted on board (e.g., scissors or knives of any kind—these can be put in checked luggage).
42. I understand that there may be travel delays due to conditions that are unforeseen, such as: weather, labor strikes, emergencies, etc., and that I may be inconvenienced by these delays.
43. I understand that I may be required to apply for a student visa and comply with all regulations on obtaining a study visa outlined by the Consulate General of my host country.

I have read the safety precautions and other concerns on this document and understand that it is in my interest to comply with them.

Print Name

Student's signature

Date

Study Abroad Program or Course Number

Academic Program Director or
Course Instructor