

Waiver and Travel Warning for 'Intercultural Communications and Religious Conflicts in the Middle East' course, GVPT 309I, traveling to Israel and Egypt (leaving U.S. for Egypt on May 28, departing Israel for U.S. on June 19, 2008).

(To be returned to Study Abroad with original signatures and the rest of the application materials. Your application will not be considered without this Waiver, signed by you, the "Applicant", and either your Parent/Guardian or your Next of Kin, and without completed application materials).

The University of Maryland, College Park aspires to provide facilities and conditions for its overseas programs that are safe. In this case the United States government has designated certain countries to be a dangerous locations for American travelers and issued a travel warning for Israel on July 13, 2007. Accordingly, the purpose of this Waiver is to ask you, as the "Applicant," and your Parent/Legal Guardian, or Next of Kin to accept responsibility for your health and safety, decisions, and actions while participating in the 'Intercultural Communications and Religious Conflicts in the Middle East' course (the "Course"). All students must complete a general waiver for UM study abroad programs, and this waiver provides specific information and guidelines for this program.

All of the undersigned, the Applicant, the Parent/Legal guardian, or Next of Kin, in consideration of acceptance of Applicant for participation in the Course offered by the University, do hereby agree that:

1. **Informed Decision.** Before signing this Waiver, the Applicant, the Applicant's Parent/Legal guardian, or Next of Kin acknowledge that they have read the materials provided by University that describe the Course, the Applicant's responsibilities while participating in the Course, and the potential health, safety, and other risks associated with Applicant's participation in the Course, including terrorism, accidents or illness, disease, poor sanitation, inadequate medical care and facilities, crime, the hazards of travel by air, train, boat, and motor vehicle, and natural disasters. Applicant, the Applicant's Parent's/Legal Guardian, or Next of Kin have taken the opportunity to ask any questions they may have about the Course, and the responsibilities and risks involved.
2. **Responsibility for Preparation.** Applicant agrees to attend pre-departure programs, orientation programs, and other programs or meetings which the University may conduct regarding the Course.
3. **Compliance with Laws, Regulations & Rules.** Applicant shall abide by all laws of the country or countries visited, including but not limited to laws governing the use of alcohol and drugs. If Applicant chooses to use alcohol, as allowed by law, Applicant agrees to do so responsibly and at his or her sole risk. Applicant agrees to comply with all rules, regulations, and standards of conduct, including but not limited to violations of the University's Code of Academic Integrity

<www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html> and the University's Code of Student Conduct www.jpo.umd.edu/conduct/conduct.html. The University, their agents, and employees, in the event of violation, reserve the right to limit or terminate Applicant's participation in the Course. If Applicant's participation in the Course is terminated for violation of any of the above mentioned laws, rules or regulations, Applicant's return home shall be at Applicant's sole expense.

- 4. Safety.** The U.S. Department of State issued a travel warning for Israel on July 13, 2007. The Applicant, the Applicant's Parent/Legal Guardian, or Next of Kin acknowledge being informed that there are serious risks involved in travel to Israel

Applicant and the Applicant's Parent/Legal Guardian, or Next of Kin acknowledge that they have read and understood the U.S. Department of State Travel Warning, dated July 13, 2007 regarding travel to and in Israel (attached here in its full version). Despite the travel warning, Applicant has decided to pursue his/hers plans to study abroad in Israel and Egypt as a registered Maryland student.

Applicant agrees to (1) obey all the requests and directions of Faculty Directors on the program (Edward Edy Kaufman and Talaat Shehata), (2) be in close communication and contact with the Faculty Directors about Applicant's actions and safety issues (3) stay with the group, (4) not to leave the guarded housing facilities in Cairo and Jerusalem without faculty permission, (5) only use transportation provided by the Course, (6) not to be out on the streets of Jerusalem after dark without faculty permission, or unless there is a scheduled activity, (7) remain vigilant and exercise a high degree of caution and common sense while in Egypt and Israel and (8) comply with the emergency procedures for this course.

Applicant and the Applicant's Parent/Legal Guardian, or Next of Kin acknowledge that Applicant's participation in this program is voluntary. Applicant is not required to study in Egypt and Israel this summer to complete any requirements at the University of Maryland, and is aware of other study abroad options available.

- 5. Possession of Legal Documents.** At all times during my travel, Applicant agrees to be in possession of a valid United States passport and if not a United States citizen, a valid foreign passport, or official travel document and any visas (e.g. tourist or student visa) or other immigration documents (e.g. U.S. "green card", Form I-20) required for entry into a foreign country and re-entry into the United States. Applicant has attached a photocopy of each and every necessary travel document referenced above that is required for his/her participation in the study abroad program.
- 6. Accommodations.** Applicant agrees that if he/she requires an accommodation due to disability and/or religious observances in order to fully participate in the study abroad program, he/she will follow (or has already followed) the proper procedures for assessment and approval of such accommodation by the necessary

University parties as reasonable and in a timely manner – at least two (2) months prior to departure. Such approval of accommodations must be granted prior to participation in the program.

7. **Release of Claims.** Applicant, individually, and on behalf of Applicant's heirs, successors, assigns and personal representatives, hereby releases fully and finally from any and all liability and claims, and covenants not to sue or cause to be sued in any judicial or administrative forum, the State of Maryland, the University, and their officers, agents, and employees with respect to any and all matters relating to or arising from Applicant's participation in the Course, including but not limited to the operation or management of any means of transportation (to and from the destination and during the Course). Applicant's Parent/Legal Guardian, or Next of Kin hereby release fully and finally from any and all liability and claims, and covenants not to sue or cause to be sued in any judicial or administrative forum, the State of Maryland, the University, and their officers, agents, and employees with respect to any and all matters relating to or arising from Applicant's participation in the Course, including but not limited to the operation or management of any means of transportation (to and from the destination and during the Course).

8. **Changes in the Course.** The duration, itinerary, or other details of the Course may be canceled, curtailed, altered, or modified without prior notice or obligation to Applicant, except that in the event of cancellation, refund shall be made of all monies paid by or on behalf of Applicant to the University for participation in the Course, excluding the non-refundable application fee and deposit. If the Course is curtailed, refund shall be made of an appropriate share of such monies paid to the University, said sum to be determined by the University in its sole discretion.

9. **Withdrawal and Refund.** Refund of monies paid to the University by or for Applicant for participation in the Course, excluding the non-refundable application fee and deposit, shall be made upon withdrawal from the Course only in the event that Applicant gives written notice to the University of his or her withdrawal at least eight weeks prior to the start date of the program (April 1, 2008).

Further, Applicant understands that he/she may receive neither academic credit nor financial refund if Applicant opts to leave the course early due to security concerns.

10. **Health, Safety and Health Insurance.** Applicant and Applicant's Parent/Legal Guardian, or Next of Kin understand and have familiarized themselves with the health and safety issues while overseas as explained on the University of Maryland Study Abroad website (<http://www.international.umd.edu/studyabroad/4450>). Applicant acknowledges that he/she is responsible for obtaining all recommended and necessary immunizations. Applicant warrants that he/she is responsible for educating and informing him/herself and discussing with his/her health care provider diseases,

illnesses, and other health concerns that may result from traveling and participating in the Course. Applicant further warrants that he/she has been examined by a qualified physician of his or her choice; that such physician was in possession of all pertinent facts concerning Applicant and the Course; and that such physician has advised Applicant of the medical advisability of participation. Applicant assumes all risk and responsibility for his/her medical needs while a participant in the Course, and acknowledges that the University of Maryland is not responsible for the provision and quality of medical treatment or hospital care received while such a participant.

In the event of a medical emergency, however, Applicant authorizes the University to take action deemed in good faith to be necessary for his/her health and safety. Applicant assumes full financial responsibility for, and releases the University from any and all liabilities resulting from the good faith exercise of this authority.

APPLICANT WARRANTS THAT HE OR SHE IS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES COVERAGE FOR EXPENSES INCURRED WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THIS COURSE (EMERGENCY, EVACUATION AND REPATRIATION).

10. **Modification.** This Waiver shall not be modified except by another agreement in writing signed by the Applicant.

11. **Governing Law.** The terms of this Waiver shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maryland.

The Applicant and the Parent/Legal Guardian or Next of Kin acknowledge that prior to signing this Waiver, they have read this Waiver, have full understanding of its terms and conditions, and voluntarily execute it with the understanding that the University shall rely on the statements and warranties herein contained.

Student Signature

Date

Printed Name of Student

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian or Next of Kin

Date

Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian or Next of Kin

Relationship to Student



U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

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Travel Warning

United States Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs
Washington, DC 20520

This information is current as of today, Fri Feb 01 12:41:31 2008.

ISRAEL, THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

July 13, 2007

This Travel Warning is being issued to update information on the general security environment in Israel, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, and to reiterate threats to American citizens and U.S. interests in those locations. The Department of State urges U.S. citizens to remain mindful of security factors when considering travel to Israel and Jerusalem at this time. In addition, the Department of State urges U.S. citizens to defer travel to the West Bank and to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip. This warning supersedes the Travel Warning issued January 17, 2007.

American citizens in the Gaza Strip should depart immediately, a recommendation that the State Department has maintained and renewed since the deadly roadside bombing of a U.S. Embassy convoy in Gaza on October 15, 2003. This recommendation applies to all Americans, including journalists and aid workers.

The Gaza Strip has witnessed considerable violence in recent months, both between Palestinian factions and between Israeli security forces and armed Palestinian groups. Similar incidents have also occurred in the West Bank. Violent demonstrations, kidnappings and shootings have also occurred in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Areas of violent conflict shift rapidly and unpredictably. Militants have continued to abduct Western citizens, and terrorist organizations have threatened attacks against U.S. interests. Hamas, a designated foreign terrorist organization, violently assumed control over Gaza in June 2007, making the already dangerous security situation there even more precarious. The American International School in northern Gaza was the target of an attack on April 21, 2007.

Militant groups in Gaza persist in launching rocket attacks against nearby Israeli towns. The IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) often responds to such attacks. It also continues to

carry out security operations in the West Bank, including targeted attacks and ground incursions, which have led to deaths and injuries to bystanders. Rocket fire from Lebanon, except for one recent incident, has ceased since the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 in August 2006.

Some Americans and Europeans involved in demonstrations and other such activities in the West Bank have become involved in confrontations with Israeli settlers and the IDF. The State Department recommends that Americans, for their own safety, avoid demonstrations.

For safety and security reasons, U.S. Government American personnel and dependents are prohibited from traveling to any cities, towns, or settlements in the West Bank, except for mission-essential business or other approved purposes. For limited, personal travel, U.S. government personnel and family members are permitted to travel through the West Bank using only Routes 1 and 90, to reach the Allenby/King Hussein Bridge or the Dead Sea coast near Ein Gedi and Masada. They are also permitted to travel north on Route 90 from Allenby/King Hussein Bridge to the Sea of Galilee. All of these routes are for transit only, with stops permitted only at Qumran National Park off Route 90 by the Dead Sea. Each such transit requires prior notification to the Consulate General's security office and must occur during daylight hours. U.S. Government personnel and family members are permitted both official and personal travel on Route 443 between Modi'in and Jerusalem without prior notification, during daylight hours only. Travel to the Gaza Strip by U.S. Government personnel is prohibited. The Department of State strongly recommends that private American citizens not travel to the Gaza Strip. Those in Gaza should depart immediately.

All travelers who enter or travel in the West Bank should exercise particular care when approaching and traveling through Israeli checkpoints and should expect delays and difficulties. Travelers should also be aware they might not be allowed passage through checkpoints.

Israeli authorities are concerned about the continuing threat of suicide bombings. The January 2007 bombing in Eilat, the April 2006 and January 2006 suicide bombings in Tel Aviv, the December 2005 suicide bombing in Netanya and a similar incident in Hadera in October 2005 are reminders of the precarious security environment. The threat of such attacks is ongoing. The U.S. Government has received information indicating that American interests could be the focus of terrorist attacks. For that reason, American citizens are cautioned that a greater danger may exist in the vicinity of restaurants, businesses, and other places associated with U.S. interests and/or located near U.S. official buildings, such as the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem.

American citizens are urged to exercise a high degree of caution and common sense when patronizing restaurants, cafes, malls, places of worship, and theaters, especially during peak hours. Large crowds and public gatherings should be avoided to the extent possible, and personnel should be alert to street vendors who sometimes aggressively harass tourists. American citizens should take into consideration that discos and nightclubs, as well as public buses, trains and their respective terminals are "off-limits" to U.S. Government personnel.

Violence between organized criminal elements sometimes occurs in areas frequented by foreigners and has occasionally resulted in death or injuries to bystanders. While American citizens have not been the target of such violence, they should be aware of their surroundings and follow common sense precautions to avoid it.

The State Department urges American citizens to remain vigilant while traveling throughout Jerusalem, especially within the commercial and downtown areas of West Jerusalem and the city center. Israeli security services report that they continue to receive information of planned terrorist attacks in and around Jerusalem. The last terrorist bombing in Jerusalem was on September 22, 2004. Spontaneous or planned protests within the Old City are possible, especially after Friday prayers. Some of these protests have led to violent clashes. The Old City of Jerusalem is off-limits to U.S. Government personnel and their family members after dark during the entire week and between the hours of 11 am and 2 pm on Fridays.

Americans in Israel, Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are strongly encouraged to register with the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv or the Consular Section of U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. U.S. citizens who require emergency services may telephone the Consulate General in Jerusalem at (972) (2) 622-7250 or the Embassy in Tel Aviv at (972) (3) 519-7355.

As a consequence of the current limitations on official travel to the West Bank, and the prohibition on travel by U.S. Government employees to the Gaza Strip, the ability of consular staff to offer timely assistance to U.S. citizens is extremely limited, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Current information on travel and security in Israel, Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or, from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. For additional and more in-depth information about specific aspects of travel to these areas, U.S. citizens should consult: the Country Specific Information for Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza; the Middle East and North Africa Travel Alert; and the Worldwide Caution Travel Alert. These are available on the Department's Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>. Up-to-date information on security conditions can also be accessed at <http://usembassy-israel.org.il> or <http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>.