

## **Guidelines for Students Planning to Study Abroad in Countries with Active State Department Travel Warnings**

The faculty and staff of the University of Maryland – College Park are dedicated to the provision of international opportunities for all College Park students. The importance of a global education has never been more evident. UMCP recognizes the growing relevance of overseas study and supports students in their plans to study abroad.

At the same time, the University is concerned with the well-being of its student body. We recognize that the United States government has designated certain countries to be dangerous locations for American travelers. Terrorism, war, disease and other risks must be taken seriously, both by the university staff and by individual students and their families. As a result, the University of Maryland – College Park does not sponsor any programs to countries where travel warnings are in effect.

As permitted under University policy, we will allow students to transfer credit to Maryland from study abroad programs and/or foreign universities in such countries. However, in such situations, the University observes the following policy: **if the U.S. Department of State issues a travel warning for a country in which you plan to study, you must complete the attached waiver before you leave for your study abroad program.** If you are under 18 years of age, your parent or guardian also must sign the form. If you are 18 years of age or older, your next-of-kin also must sign the form. The waiver asks you and your family to acknowledge that you are aware of the travel warning and of the risks inherent in travel to your destination. You must also acknowledge that the University of Maryland does not sponsor the program nor recommend participation on the program. Finally, you must accept responsibility for your safety while overseas.

## Release of Liability for Dangerous Travel Abroad

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have been informed that there are risks involved in travel to \_\_\_\_\_. I acknowledge that I have read and understood the U.S. Department of State Travel Warning, dated \_\_\_\_\_, regarding travel to and in \_\_\_\_\_. Despite the travel warning and the University's recommendation to avoid studying in \_\_\_\_\_, I have decided to pursue my plans to study abroad as a registered Maryland student.

I acknowledge that my participation in this program is voluntary. I furthermore acknowledge that the University does not sponsor this program, nor is the University responsible for my safety while overseas. I know that I am not required to study in \_\_\_\_\_ to complete any requirements at the University of Maryland, and I am aware of other study abroad options available to me.

I am aware that I may be subject to risks including, but not limited to, terrorism, war, disease, injury, death, property damage and/or other unforeseeable dangers. I voluntarily assume all risks and release the State of Maryland, the University of Maryland, and its officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims, demands, and causes of actions, and from liability of any kind or nature whatsoever, including but not limited to bodily injury, death, and property damage, arising out of or relating to my participation in this study abroad program. I understand that this release includes all transportation to and from the program and all aspects of my time overseas, whether my activities are directly related to the program or not.

Further, I understand that I may not receive academic credit nor financial refund if I opt to leave the study abroad program early due to security concerns.

I have read and signed this document with full knowledge of its significance. If I am not 18 years of age, the signature of my parent or legal guardian indicates full agreement with and acceptance of the terms of this release. If I am 18 years of age or older, the signature of my next-of-kin indicates full agreement with and acceptance of the terms of this release.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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