

HARVARD  
UNIVERSITY



**INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH, STUDY, WORK, OR TRAVEL**

**TAKING PLACE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND  
GENERAL RELEASE FORM**

***THIS IS A RELEASE OF LEGAL RIGHTS –  
READ AND UNDERSTAND BEFORE SIGNING***

I am a graduate or professional school student at Harvard University (“Harvard”) and will receive or have received funding and/or the opportunity to earn academic credit from Harvard for research, study, work or travel in a foreign country or countries (the “Project”). I have chosen to undertake this Project voluntarily. I was not required to undertake this Project as a condition of receiving my degree. This agreement confirms my understanding of the following:

1. Risks Associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic. I understand that, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, local and national governments have enacted or may enact border, travel, and stay-at-home restrictions; and that the trajectory of the virus at the local, national, and international levels is unpredictable. Moreover, health care systems in many countries either are overwhelmed or are at risk of becoming overwhelmed by COVID-19 cases. I further understand that Harvard’s current policy permits Harvard-related international travel for those who are fully vaccinated and prohibits all other Harvard-related international travel until further notice, with limited exceptions upon request via a petition process established by the Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs. I confirm that I either: (a) am fully vaccinated and traveling to an international destination; or (b) am not fully vaccinated and I voluntarily have chosen to petition for an exception to Harvard’s prohibition against Harvard-related international travel.

I understand that all activities I undertake as part of the Project must comply with all national/local/domestic travel restrictions, self-isolation/quarantine requirements, and lockdown orders. I agree to abide by all of these, even if they prevent me from conducting activities that may have been planned as part of the Project.

In addition to the other risks described in this document, I recognize that my participation in the Project means I may be subjected to potential risks, illnesses, injuries, and even death as a result either of contracting COVID-19 or of any actions or omissions of governments, private entities, or other parties with respect to COVID-19. I have made my own investigation of these risks, understand these risks, and assume them knowingly and willingly.

2. General Risks of International Travel; U.S. State Department Warning. I understand that participation in the Project and international travel involves risks not found in study at Harvard. These

include without limitation risks involved in traveling to and within, and returning from, international locations; foreign political, legal, medical, social and economic conditions; different standards of design, safety and maintenance of buildings, public places and conveyances; and local weather conditions. The country or countries to which I will travel may have health and safety standards that differ from those enjoyed in the United States, and I recognize that I may be subjected to potential risks, illnesses, injuries and even death. I have made my own investigation of these risks, understand these risks and assume them knowingly and willingly.

I also acknowledge that in working, living and traveling in cities abroad, I may experience problems associated with urban living, including increased crime, pollution, high population density or standards of living and health standards that are different from those to which I am accustomed in the United States. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to take every precaution to safeguard my health and to protect my personal belongings from damage or theft. I acknowledge that Harvard recommends that I never travel alone, particularly at night. Being alone, especially at night, may present additional danger to my safety and well-being.

Although Harvard is providing funding and/or academic credit for the Project, Harvard's evaluation of the Project has been solely on its academic merits. Among other things, Harvard is not in the position to evaluate, and therefore has not evaluated, whether the Project will take place in a safe and secure environment. These are judgments that I recognize I must independently make.

I have read and understood all information on the U.S. State Department website (<https://travel.state.gov>) about the country or countries to which I am traveling, including, without limitation, the U.S. Department of State Consular Information Sheet and the State Department Warning (if applicable). I also have reviewed the U.S. Centers for Disease Control health advisory information relating to travel abroad found at <https://www.cdc.gov/travel>, and any additional information available from the World Health Organization website (<https://www.who.int/>).

3. Health Insurance; Medical Care; Health and Safety Concerns. I understand that I am responsible for obtaining any recommended immunizations before traveling to my destination. I carry valid and current medical insurance and have a valid insurance identity card to bring. I have determined that this insurance is adequate to cover injuries or illnesses that I may sustain while participating in the Project. I will be solely responsible for payment in full of all costs of medical care I may receive overseas.

I am also aware that, during my participation in the Project, I will be automatically enrolled in the emergency international assistance and response program administered by International SOS, provided that my information is entered in International SOS MyTrips or the Assistance App. The assistance program for international travelers offers medical information and evacuation, emergency assistance including translation services, legal referrals, and general travel advice and is a supplement to, not a substitute for, health insurance. I have reviewed the information about this program available at: [globalsupport.harvard.edu](http://globalsupport.harvard.edu). However, I understand that International SOS is bound by local governmental regulations and its ability to respond may be limited during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I understand and agree that if, during my participation in the Project, Harvard learns that I am experiencing serious health problems, have suffered an injury, or am otherwise in a situation that raises significant health and safety concerns, then Harvard may contact the person whose name I have provided as my "emergency contact." I understand that Harvard ordinarily will not initiate such contact without first having a discussion with me.

4. Cost. I understand that I will be responsible for all costs of the Project beyond those covered by any award or financial aid that I may receive, as well as any additional expenses that I may incur during the Project.

5. Standards of Conduct. I recognize that I assume an important personal obligation to conduct myself in a manner compatible with local laws and regulations; with all of Harvard's policies and guidance with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, as set forth on the University's website at <https://www.harvard.edu/coronavirus>; with Harvard's policies for student conduct (including without limitation those set forth in the *Student Handbook* and in any Project-specific materials); and with the policies of my host institution (if any). I promise to act responsibly and will become informed of, and will abide by, all such laws, regulations, policies and standards. I will comply with Harvard's policies, standards and instructions for student behavior. I agree that Harvard has the right to enforce all standards of conduct described above.

6. Risks of Particular Activities. In addition to complying with all national/local/domestic travel restrictions, self-isolation/quarantine requirements, and lockdown orders that may be imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, I agree not to engage in activities deemed by Harvard or commonly understood to be dangerous to individual safety. These include, but are not limited to, motorcycling, hitchhiking, driving or renting a car (unless doing so is necessary for me to participate in the Project), parachuting, bungee-jumping, hang-gliding, riding in private airplanes, rock climbing, white water rafting, scuba diving, and any other activity so designated by Harvard.

7. Travel Arrangements. I understand that Harvard does not represent or act as an agent for, and cannot control the acts or omissions of, any host family, employer, transportation carrier, hotel, tour organizer or other provider of food, goods or services involved in the Project. I understand that Harvard is not responsible for matters that are beyond its control, and that it cannot warrant the safety or convenience of the circumstances under which I will be living or working.

8. GENERAL RELEASE. Knowing the risks described above, I agree, on behalf of my family, heirs and personal representative(s), to assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding my participation in the Project. To the maximum extent permitted by law, I release, hold harmless and agree to indemnify Harvard, and its officers, governing board members, faculty, staff, representatives, employees and agents, from and against any present or future claims, losses, liabilities, costs and expenses for injury to person or property, or for any other damage, which I may suffer, or for which I may be liable to any other person, related to my participation in the Project (including periods in transit to or from my destination), resulting from any cause, including but not limited to negligence on my part or on the part of any of the released parties. However, I understand that nothing in this paragraph shall act as a waiver of any rights I may have under the Massachusetts Workers' Compensation Act.

I certify that I am age 18 or older. I have carefully read and freely signed this Assumption of Risk and General Release Form. I understand and agree that no oral or written representations can or will alter the contents of this document. I agree that this agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (excluding its conflict of laws principles), which shall be the forum for any lawsuits filed under or incident to this agreement or the Project.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

*United States:*

First Contact

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (cell): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Second Contact

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (cell): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

*Site:*

Site Name (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (cell): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_