

HARVARD
UNIVERSITY



**HARVARD-ORGANIZED INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COURSE
TAKING PLACE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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

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

Name of Participating Student: _____

Course Number and Name: _____

Responsible Faculty Member: _____

Destination(s): _____

Date(s): _____

I am a student at Harvard University (“Harvard”) and have chosen voluntarily to enroll in the course described above, for which I will receive academic credit and also may receive funding (the “Course”). (“Course” is understood to include all activities at destinations, and all travel to and from such destinations.) I understand and agree that research or study in a foreign country or countries is a requirement of the Course. However, I was not required to enroll in this Course 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 requires all members of its community to comply with the University’s COVID-19 vaccination and booster requirements. I confirm that I am in compliance with Harvard’s COVID-19 vaccination and booster requirements, and with any other public health measures required by Harvard and that I will comply with all applicable requirements of any national, state or local government, including masking and testing.

I understand that all activities I undertake as part of the Course 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 Course.

In addition to the other risks described in this document, I recognize that my participation in the Course 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 Course and international travel involves risks not found in study at Harvard. These include without limitation risks involved in traveling to, from, and within 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 wellbeing.

I understand that, although Harvard has organized the Course, it cannot eliminate all risks or guarantee my safety while I am abroad. 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/>). With knowledge of this information, I have made the independent judgment to participate in the Course.

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 Course. 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 Course, 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. 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 authorize Harvard to obtain appropriate health care for me in the event that I need it but am unable to obtain it for myself. I further agree to hold harmless and indemnify Harvard for any and all actions taken by Harvard to provide or obtain emergency medical care for me during the Course. I also understand and agree that if I experience serious health problems, suffer an injury, or am otherwise in a situation that raises significant health and safety concerns, then Harvard may contact my parents or any other 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. 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 Course-specific materials); with the policies of my host institution (if any); and with any instructions given by the Course leaders. 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.

5. 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 Course. 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.

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, for graduate or professional students, the Responsible Faculty Member has determined that doing so is necessary for me to participate in the Course), 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. 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 Course. 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 Course (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 Course.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Student Name (print): _____

Harvard College Residential House Affiliation (if applicable): _____

If student is under age 18, the parent and/or legal guardian must sign below:

I, the undersigned parent and/or legal guardian of the student listed above (the "Student"), do hereby consent to his or her participation in the Course and in international travel as part of the Course. I, as the parent of the Student and on behalf of the Student, 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 or the Student may suffer, or for which the Student may be liable to any other person, related to the Student's participation in the Course (including periods in transit to or from the Student's destination), resulting from any cause, including but not limited to negligence on the part of the Student or any of the released parties.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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): _____