



HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Harvard University Risk and Release Form
HARVARD COLLEGE

FOR COUNTRIES DETERMINED TO HAVE AN ELEVATED-RISK LEVEL

ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND GENERAL RELEASE FORM

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

I am a student at Harvard College and have received funding and/or will receive academic credit 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 of International Travel; Elevated-Risk Determination. 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 substantially below 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 not equivalent to life in the United States. I will 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 am aware that, in accordance with Harvard’s policy for undergraduate travel abroad, one or more of the countries to which I am traveling has been determined to present an “Elevated Risk” based on a current U.S. State Department warning and/or other reliable information relating to security and safety. I acknowledge that I have read and understood any and all U.S. State Department warnings that may have been issued. I further acknowledge that I have knowingly and voluntarily decided to go forward with my travel plans in connection with the Project despite any such warning and despite the “Elevated Risk” determination. I also have read and understood the U.S. Department of State Consular Information Sheet about the country or countries to which I am traveling (available on the State Department website at <http://travel.state.gov>).

2. 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 Harvard Travel Assist, provided that my information is entered in the Harvard Travel Registry. 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: <http://www.traveltools.harvard.edu>.

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 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.

3. 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 Harvard’s policies for student conduct (including without limitation those set forth in the *Harvard College 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.

4. 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.

5. 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 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) _____

Residential House Affiliation: _____

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 Project and in international travel as part of the Project. 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 Project (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:

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): _____