

HARVARD  
UNIVERSITY



**International Research, Study, Work, or Travel  
*in Elevated Risk Locations***

**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 student at Harvard College and have received funding and/or will receive academic credit for research, study, work, or travel in a country or countries outside of the United States (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; local political, legal, medical, public health, social, economic, and weather/climate conditions; disease outbreaks, including without limitation pandemic or endemic diseases; different capabilities of emergency response; different standards of design, safety, and maintenance of buildings, public places, and conveyances; and different standards of data privacy and information security. The country or countries to which I will travel may have health and safety standards and protections for civil rights and liberties that differ substantially from those 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 remote areas and/or cities abroad, I may experience challenges such as delayed access to emergency services, insufficient communication networks, increased crime, pollution, high population density, or standards of living and health standards that differ from those in the United States. I will take every precaution to safeguard my security and health and to protect my personal belongings and information, as well as any Harvard-owned equipment and devices I bring with me as part of the Project (if applicable), and non-public Harvard data or research information that I collect, store, or access during the Project (if applicable), 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 locations to which I am traveling has been determined to present an "Elevated Risk" (as listed on <https://www.globalsupport.harvard.edu/travel/risk-ratings>) based on guidance from several sources including the U.S. State Department, other government agencies, 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 travel alerts and advisories 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 alert or advisory 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 <https://www.travel.state.gov>). I also have read and understood the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention health advisory information relating to travel abroad found at <https://www.cdc.gov/travel>. Finally, I have read and understood any applicable export control policies and procedures for the country or countries to which I am traveling to or through, and for the United States, including without limitation with respect to any medications, controlled substances, research data, scientific equipment, electronic devices, and biological samples I may be carrying or shipping.

**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 the emergency international assistance and response program administered by International SOS, provided that I enter my information in International SOS MyTrips or the Assistance App (unless I am told that my information will be entered on my behalf by a Harvard administrator). The assistance program for international travelers offers medical and security information and evacuation, and 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: <https://www.globalsupport.harvard.edu/travel/emergency-support>. However, I understand that International SOS is bound by local governmental regulations and its ability to respond also may be limited in certain circumstances, such as, for example, an outbreak of disease or armed conflict.

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 parent(s)/legal guardian(s) 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. 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.

**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 Harvard’s policies and instructions for student conduct (including without limitation those set forth in the *Harvard College Student Handbook* and in any Project-specific materials); with any other relevant Harvard policies, guidance and/or instructions; and with the policies of my host institution (if any). I promise to act responsibly and will become informed of and comply with all such laws, regulations, policies, guidance, instructions, and standards. I agree that Harvard has the right to enforce all standards of conduct described above.

**5. Risks of Particular Activities.** In addition to complying with all national/local/domestic travel restrictions or orders, including without limitation any requirements imposed during a health or other emergency, 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, parachuting, bungee-jumping, hang-gliding, riding in private airplanes, rock climbing, whitewater rafting, scuba diving, and any other activity so designated by Harvard.

**6. 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, travel document services vendor, or other provider of food, goods, or services involved in the Project. I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain the correct travel documentation, including, without limitation, passport, visa(s), and work permit(s), as applicable, and adhere to the entry and exit requirements of the country or countries to which I am traveling to and through. I also 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.

**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 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

*United States or home country:*

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

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Site:*

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

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

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_