
Assumption of Risk for COVID-19 Approved Travel and Study Abroad

THIS AGREEMENT must be read, understood and signed by all students requesting approval for travel and study abroad during the designated COVID-19 period through any mode of study at Evergreen: programs, individual learning contracts, internship contracts, SOS programs, exchange programs, consortium study, etc. Certain provisions of this agreement affect the legal rights of students in the event of an injury, death, or other loss, and with regard to [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) protections. **Students must indicate their acknowledgement and sign the agreement at its conclusion.**

Background:

The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in nearly every country on six continents, including in the United States. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”).

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a “[public health emergency of international concern](#)” (PHEIC). On January 31, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19. On March 11, [WHO publicly](#) characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic. On March 13, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak a [national emergency](#). In addition, the U.S. State Department has issued [a Level 4 advisory against international travel](#). As the situation evolves, Evergreen has provided regular [COVID-19 advisories](#) for study abroad on its website.

Actions:

In view of these circumstances, all Evergreen student travel and study abroad through any mode of study is now prohibited for the duration of the designated COVID-19 period. However, while our general guidance for students is to defer study abroad until COVID-19 is under significant control, we understand that conditions within each country and internationally may allow for approved study abroad in modified ways. In accordance, Evergreen is providing this Assumption of Risk Waiver for COVID-19 as a way for students to study outside the U.S. while acknowledging the associated risks.

Terms and Conditions:

In consideration of being allowed to travel and study abroad for credit, and in light of the world-wide presence of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), I, _____ am voluntarily choosing to study outside the U.S., and acknowledge and agree to accept the risks related to international travel and the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as follows:

1. I understand that in addition to the risks outlined in the [Evergreen Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability](#) form that I also signed, I am aware that international travel during the COVID-19 period could expose me to following specific risks. These include COVID-19, a mild to very severe respiratory illness (as described by CDC [here](#)), involuntary hospitalization, quarantine, food or medicine shortages, lack of adequate medical care, civil unrest, failure of communication systems, travel restrictions, inability to return home or travel to another country deemed more safe, foreign government actions, serious bodily injury or death, financial loss, and other risks that may not be foreseeable. _____initials

2. I understand that conditions may deteriorate or change rapidly, that the severity and spread of COVID-19 are unpredictable, and agree that I will need to keep informed and take precautions on behalf of my own health and safety, as well as that of persons in my destination host culture. In addition, I acknowledge that Evergreen's ability to assist me in international circumstances may be limited or non-existent. _____initials

3. I agree to modify my academic studies and activities in consultation with Evergreen faculty and staff as well as host country authorities in view of possible risks to myself and others in the local community. I recognize that not only is my personal health at risk, but that I have an ethical obligation to prevent transmission of COVID-19 to others in my local community who may be at greater risk than I. I agree to follow all recommended guidance from my hosting institution and government authorities with regard to maintaining health and safety. _____initials

4. I confirm that I have secured insurance that meets Evergreen's minimum insurance requirements for study abroad: Sickness and accident (\$25,000); Emergency evacuation (\$100,000); Repatriation of remains (\$25,000) while I am enrolled for credit and outside the country. My insurance provider is: _____, and I have coverage through this date: _____initials

5. The U.S. State Department has an established the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) whereby the U.S. embassy will send registered travelers important safety and health information updates for the country you are in. Evergreen is requiring all students completing this waiver to register for this program. I confirm that I am now fully registered for STEP. _____initials

6. Emergency Contacts: I hereby give permission for Evergreen to concurrently inform my listed emergency contacts of the waiver process to which I am now agreeing. I hereby waive my FERPA protections and allow Evergreen to communicate with those listed contacts. _____initials.

7. Assumption of Risk and Release of Claims: Knowing the risks described above, and in consideration of being allowed to travel and study abroad during the COVID-19 period, I agree on behalf of myself, my family, heirs and personal representatives to assume all risks in connection with my study abroad experience, and to further release, indemnify, and hold harmless the State of Washington, the Evergreen State College, its past and present trustees, officers, employees, agents and their heirs, successors and assigns of each from any loss, liability, harm, injury, death, damage or expense (including reasonable attorney's fees) which may befall me, including all risks connected to my participation, whether foreseeable or not. _____initials

By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to the above and agree to be bound by this agreement.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE _____

STUDENT'S PRINTED NAME _____

DATE _____