Health and Safety Issues and Challenges for Study Abroad: Risk Management Resources

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CSU Risk Management Conference
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The Center for Global Education

is an international research and resource center that provides support for international learning at colleges and universities, providing support for faculty, staff, students and parents with information and resources about a variety of issues including integrated international learning, health, safety, diversity, and the impact of study abroad on student retention and success.

RESOURCES YOU NEED:

- Educators
- U.S. Study Abroad Students
- International Students in U.S.
- Parents
Study Abroad Challenges:

- The Media: Highlighting Negative Incidents
- US Perspective: State Dept. Travel Warnings
- Daily Challenges:
  - Students are High Risk
  - Alcohol And Drugs
  - Transportation Safety
  - Mental Health Issues
  - Sexual Harassment and Assault
  - Students With Special Needs
  - Parents
Welcome to France

- This is Your First Day in Paris
- Fire Breaks Out in Room
- Fire Exits?
- Fire Safety Standards?
- Emergency Number for Help?
- Cell Phone Working?
- French Language Skills to Ask For Help?
- What to Do in Case of a Fire?
  - Think Back to Elementary School
Response Issues

Who is there?
Many Offices Adding International Options

• Study Abroad
• Athletics
• Community Service
• Campus Ministry
• International Research
• International Development Projects
• International Internships
• Other
In Case of Crisis
Where are they?

- Various Housing Locations
- Various Class Locations
- Weekend Excursions
- Weekend Free Time Travel
- Spring Break for Some
- Inconsistent Communication Devices
- Inconsistent 24 Hour Assistance
- Lack of Emergency Plans & Practice
- Limited Tracking Capability
- Uncontrollable Communication
  - Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, etc.
In The News… Pan Am 103

This page is dedicated to the thirty-five Syracuse University students (126k gif) who were killed on December 21, 1988 when Pan Am flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland. It contains important legal developments, cases, laws and treaties which are related to the bombing.

This page is designed as a public educational resource. It is NOT the private website created especially for the victim families, which is confidential.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

- Timeline of Lockerbie Case Developments prepared in 2001 by Syracuse University College of Law
- The Scotsman (Scotland's leading newspaper) Lockerbie section
- Pan Am 103 links from About.com
- Syracuse University's Lockerbie Scholars and Remembrance Scholars
- Victims of Pan Am Flight 103, Inc.
- Creating the Lockerbie Trial – Families Project Website
- Libya, Lockerbie and the Long-Delayed Settlement
- The Lockerbie Settlement: Survivors and Sanctions
- Videos from the Syracuse University Pan Am 103 Archive:
  - Pan Am Flight 103 Syracuse University Memorial Service January 18, 1989
  - Dedication of the Syracuse University Place of Remembrance for Pan Am Flight 103 April 22, 1990
  - Lockerbie, Scotland Memorial Services, December 1989

(Windows Media Player is required for viewing these videos)

THE CRIMINAL TRIAL IN THE NETHERLANDS

- CNN Lockerbie Bombing Trial Page
- BBC Coverage of the Trial
- Appeal Decision of March 14, 2002
Egypt protests: Canada and US evacuate citizens

The US and Canada are among a number of governments evacuating citizens from Egypt amid continuing unrest.

The US and Canada said chartered flights had begun leaving for "safe havens" in Europe and Turkey on Monday.

The US said it had evacuated more than 1,200 Americans and expected to fly out 1,400 more in the coming days.

Tens of thousands of people protested in Cairo for a seventh day, defying the start of a new curfew and calling for a general strike.

Both the US and Canada said evacuated citizens would be asked to reimburse them for the cost of the flights and would have to make their own arrangements to return home from airports in Cyprus, Germany, Greece, London and Paris.

In Washington DC on Monday, US state department spokesman PJ Crowley told reporters that by the end of the day it would have despatched nine flights ferrying US citizens from the country.

In the next few days the US expected to fly citizens from the cities of Aswan and Luxor, he said.
PARIS -- Police say five people died and 57 were injured in a fire in an apartment building near Paris' Pere Lachaise cemetery.

Paris police say four people died when they jumped out windows to flee the flames. A firefighter was seriously injured during the rescue after he fell from a ladder. A 2-year-old girl was taken to a hospital with severe burns.

A fireman was seriously injured during the rescue after he fell from a ladder. A 2-year-old girl was taken to a hospital with severe burns.

Jasmine Jahanshahi, former Dreyfoos student, dies in Paris apartment building fire

By BILL DIPAOLIO
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Updated: 3:34 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, 2011
Posted: 5:28 p.m. Monday, April 18, 2011

PALM BEACH GARDENS — Jasmine Jahanshahi, a former Dreyfoos School of the Arts piano student known for her vibrant personality and independence, perished Thursday in an apartment building fire in Paris that also killed four others and injured 57. She was 20.
Special Issues... “Water Safety” Can Students Swim? In All Conditions?

CU student’s death in Nepal was first fatality for program

By Vanessa Miller (Contact) Wednesday, August 6, 2008

Passage Project: No plans to change safety protocol

Before a University of Colorado sophomore drowned in Nepal, Passage Project for International Education had never had a student die while traveling the study-abroad program, officials said.

“This is the first time anyone has died or had an accident,” said Dan Dawson, business manager at Centennial-based company that offers study-abroad programs and internships in Nepal, India and Tibet.

Keenan Fernandez, 19, of Atlanta, left Boulder in spring for a summer adventure with the Passage in Nepal, officials said. She had three weeks left in the program when she died July 31 while swimming in Sundranj reservoir, 15 kilometers northeast of Kathmandu.

More job opportunities.
Building Safety
Student Fall From Balcony

FSU student dies during study abroad trip in China
Investigation of death is ongoing
1:26 PM, May 24, 2012 | Comments

Written by Kayla Becker
News Editor

The investigation of an FSU student's death last weekend while studying abroad in China is ongoing.

William Cullen Klein, 19, reportedly fell from a residence hall in the early hours of May 18 in Tianjin, China, according to FSU interim News and Research Communications director Jill Elish.
BU student dies in crash while on summer program in Costa Rica

A Binghamton University student died and three more were injured in a van accident in Costa Rica while taking part in a summer program.

Zoe Damon, 20, died Thursday when the van she and other students were traveling in fell down a precipice into a river. According to La Nacion newspaper, the van yielded the right to another oncoming vehicle, skidded on the road and fell 100 feet into the El Guabo River.

"The report from the program is that a section of pavement gave causing the van to roll down an embankment," said Katherine Krabs, BU's vice provost for international affairs.

Damon, originally from Kingston, N.Y., was a junior majoring in biology, according to BU.

There were 16 students on the trip, 13 from BU and one from Northwestern University.
In The News... Terrorism

Friends mourn Cal State Long Beach student killed in Paris terror attacks

In pictures: Mumbai attacks

Mumbai attacks

Key stories:
- Main Mumbai suspect plea guilty
- Shock and surprise in Mumbai court
- Excerpts from Qasab’s confession
- Yorgen Fenech’s links to Qasab
- Suspects ‘tell all’

Analyse and background:
- Police ‘name gunman’
- Mapping the key targets
- Attacks as they happened
- Will India’s avenge four dead?
- Pakistan reaction
In The News… Evacuation Challenges

Evacuation From Beirut (Or, How I Spent My Summer Vacation)

Volcanic Ash Creates Air-Travel Chaos: Worst Delays Since 9/11
One in ten takes drugs to study

Ten per cent of Cambridge students have admitted to taking medication without prescription to help them work. A Varsity survey, completed by 1,000 students, has revealed that one in ten Cambridge students has taken drugs such as Modafinil, Ritalin and Adderall. Meanwhile one third of respondents admitted that, given the opportunity, they would take concentration-enhancing medication. Modafinil has been the focus of media attention, including a BBC documentary, in recent months, as off-prescription use of the drug is growing in popularity. The possession of prescription-only medication without a prescription is “a serious criminal offence” according to the Home Office. It is, however, easy to obtain ...

Submitted by ukstudentnews.co.uk - submitted 7 March 2009, 11:06 GMT
Final autopsy report on U.S. student shows accidental drowning

By Al Goodman, CNN
May 10, 2011 3:28 p.m. EDT

Madrid, Spain (CNN) -- The final autopsy report on a San Diego State exchange student whose body was pulled from a Madrid river last March indicates an accidental drowning death with no signs of external violence, a Spanish court official said on Tuesday.

The student, Austin Taylor Bice, 22, was studying a semester of business courses at the University of Carlos III in Madrid when he went missing after a night out with friends. He was last seen outside a nightclub on the banks of Madrid's Manzanares River. Ten days later, on March 8, police pulled his body from the river.

"There was nothing found in the body that would indicate external factors in the death. There were no wounds on the body," said the official from Madrid's Superior Justice Tribunal. He spoke on the customary condition of anonymity.

He said the autopsy also showed a "high level" of alcohol in the blood.

A Madrid judge has kept the case, which is confidential by law, open for further investigation. There was no immediate word on when it might be closed definitively, the official said.
Sexual Harassment on Study Abroad

A University of Minnesota student who says she repeatedly endured sexual assault and harassment while studying abroad is publicly criticizing the response of the university’s study abroad office. The controversy once again raises questions about the tricky business of dealing with alleged harassment that occurs abroad, at a time that international study continues to grow.

Rachel Jamison, a fifth-year student at Minnesota, has detailed the assault and harassment she reportedly experienced while studying at Tanzania’s University of Dar es Salaam in a 12-page, single-spaced report that relates terrifying tales after terrifying tales of aggressive advances and assaults on the streets of the country’s largest city.

But it was the effect of the harassment on her academics that led her to finally seek help from home; the man who controlled her ability to register for classes allegedly refused to allow her to register until she agreed to a “date” (meaning in this context, Jamison says, sex); her 30-page handwritten research papers were stolen from a department office by a fellow student who she says demanded sex in exchange for their return, and a man at the office for foreign students, her in-country resource office, made her uncomfortable with his alleged inquiries about her sexual habits.

RELATED STORIES
- Kafka at the Border, March 13
- International Rebound, March 23, 2006
- Shift on International Education, Dec. 19, 2005
- The Necessity of Student Exchanges, Nov. 17, 2005
- Exchanges Start to Bounce Back, Nov. 14, 2005
American Student Accused of Stabbing Friend 25 Times in Rome

An American student studying abroad in Italy, Reid Alexander Schepis, has been arrested for allegedly stabbing his roommate 25 times after a drug-fueled night out in Rome on Halloween. (ABC)

By JEFFREY KOFMAN (@JeffreyKofman)
ROME, Nov. 5, 2012

A U.S. student studying abroad has been arrested for attempted murder for allegedly stabbing his friend 25 times after a drug-fueled night out in Rome on Halloween.

At an apartment around the corner from Rome's famous Coliseum, 20-year-old Reid Alexander Schepis, a first-year student at John Cabot University, a private U.S. liberal arts college, allegedly stabbed his longtime friend Fabio Malpeso.

Schepis and 19-year-old Malpeso, friends from New Jersey, were partying late Halloween at a Rome night club. Schepis told authorities he'd used drugs for the first time that night, mixing ecstasy and alcohol.

Exclusive: Amanda Knox's Parents End Their Silence

In Interview With "20/20," Family Defends American Student Suspected of Murdering Roommate

By NIKKI BATTISTE
Jan. 28, 2008

It's a shocking scenario, but for the parents of American student Amanda Knox, this is their harsh reality: Visiting their 20-year-old daughter in an Italian prison 6,000 miles away from their hometown of Seattle.

Knox is a suspect in the brutal murder of her British roommate Meredith Kercher just six weeks after arriving to study abroad in the quaint, medieval town of Perugia in the Umbrian countryside of Italy.

For Amanda Knox and her parents, Edda Mellas and Curt Knox, a dream year abroad has become a nightmare. On the night of Nov. 1, 2007, Knox's roommate suffered an agonizing
Boy, 8, one of 3 killed in bombings at Boston Marathon; scores wounded

Deadly attack at Boston Marathon

Third Boston bombing victim identified as Chinese student Lu Lingzi

Los Angeles Times

Slaying of two graduate students stuns USC; LAPD seeks killer

Memorial on Boston University campus after it was learned that student Lu Lingzi was one of the victims of the Boston bombings. Photograph: Winslow Townson/AP

A Chinese student has been identified as the third person to have died in the Boston marathon bombings.

Boston University confirmed that a statistics student, Lu Lingzi, 23, died when she was watching the race on Monday.
Responses to Crises Abroad
Critical Current Health & Safety Issues:

• Critical Issues
  – Health and Safety Challenges for Study Abroad Students
  – Institutional Study Abroad Program Planning for Health and Safety

• The Study Abroad Context
  – Duty of Care
  – Alcohol Use and Abuse
  – Collaboration with Government Agencies/Resources
  – Physical and Mental Health Issues
  – Countries with Travel Warnings
  – Crisis Management Planning
  – Orientation and Training of Students
  – Responding Abroad – Any Time, Anywhere

• Similar Issues and Potential for Shared Resources
Potential Health & Safety Issues

1. Alcohol and Drug Use and Abuse
2. Conflict Between Students or Between Students and Program Faculty/Staff
3. Crime and Violence
4. Crisis Management
5. Emergency Communication
6. Environmental Challenges/Disaster Response
7. Faculty and Staff Leaders with Limited Knowledge and Skills to Support Effective Decision-Making for Health and Safety Support
8. Fire Safety
9. Kidnapping and Terrorism
10. Legal Issues Abroad
11. Medical/Physical Health Response
Potential Health & Safety Issues

1. Mental Health Support
2. Political Instability Challenges/Response
3. Responding to Discrimination Abroad
4. Responding to Guidance of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Abroad
5. Responding to Guidance by U.S. Department of State Abroad
6. Science Laboratory Hazards
7. Sexual Harassment and Assault
8. Supporting Students with Special Needs and Disabilities
9. Transportation Safety
10. Tropical Diseases/Special Health Issues in the Developing World
11. Water Safety
12. Other Health and Safety Challenges
Who is Trained to...
Respond and/or Lead?

• University Faculty in the U.S.?
• University Faculty Abroad?
• University Staff in the U.S.?
• University Staff Abroad?
• College Students Before Going Abroad?
• Students Abroad on Program-Sponsored Activities?
• Students Abroad During Free Time?
• Onsite Study Abroad Providers Abroad?
• Travel Subcontractors During Excursions?
• Corporate Staff Hired from the Local Country?
Consistent Standards?: Reviewed and Approved or Accredited for Study Abroad?

- Foreign University – **No**
  - Only In-Country Review
- U.S. University Satellite Campus Abroad – **No**
  - Accreditation in US – Limited (if any) Review Abroad
- U.S University Traveling Faculty/Staff - **No**
- Non-University US Provider or Consortium - **No**
- International Independent Program Providers-**No**
- Program Subcontractors – **No**
- Hybrid Program Providers – **No**
Types of Program Sponsors

- Home University Owned and Operated
- Home University Partnerships
- Independent Student
- Individual Faculty/Staff Travel Study Program
- Hybrid Programs
Why Risk Management Support is Critical: IT’S ALL PART OF THE JOB DESCRIPTION

- Academic freedom advocate
- Academic program developer/adviser
- Admissions and enrollment officer
- Academic records officer
- Budgetary officer
- Bursar
- Computer center manager
- Contract developer
- Course development and evaluation administrator
- Crisis and emergency manager
- Cross-cultural issues consultant
- Drug and alcohol counselor
- Equipment manager
- Evaluation officer
- Facilities manager
- Financial aid officer
- Grades department administrator
- Housing rental agent
- Currency exchange expert
- Insurance counselor
- International communications expert
- International law expert
- Internship program sponsor
- Librarian
- Loan officer
- Orientation program administrator
- Paralegal
- Parental liaison
- Personal and professional counselor
- Personnel administrator
- Program developer and evaluator
- Public relations officer
- Recruiter
- Risk manager
- Student affairs administrator
- Student conduct judicial officer
- Students with disabilities manager
- Student health professional
- Testing administrator
- Textbook manager
- Translator
- Transportation supervisor
- Travel agent and tour operator
- Visa and immigration specialist
- Women’s issues advocate
- Writer and editor

TAKEN FROM THE MARCH 1994 EDITION OF NAFSA Newsletter
Safety Abroad First – Educational Travel Information

- SAFETI Clearinghouse Information and Resources
- SAFETI Collaboration Support
The SAFETI Consortium is made up of colleges and universities that are committed to health and safety for study abroad. This includes a commitment to sharing study abroad health and safety resources through the SAFETI (Safety Abroad First - Educational Travel Information) Clearinghouse at the Center for Global Education.

SAFETI Consortium Members
- Alma College
- Alverno College
- American University
- Arizona State University
- Auburn University
- Augsburg College
- Augustana College, Rock Island, IL
- Azusa Pacific University
- Babson College
- Baylor University
- Beloit College
- Bennington College
- Bentley College
- Borea College
- Binghamton University
- Boise State University
- Boston University
- Bowdoin College
- Bowling Green State University
- Bradley University
- Brandeis University
- Broward Community College
- Brown University
- Bunker Hill Community College
- California Colleges for International Education
- California State University Systemwide International Programs Office
- California State University East Bay
- California State University Fullerton
- California State University Long Beach
Do All Your Students Receive a Copy of (and can you prove it)...?

- U.S. Department of State Country-Specific Information Sheets (and Travel Alerts or Travel Warnings where relevant)

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Country-Specific Health Information Sheets
SAFETI Adaptation of Peace Corps Resources

The SAFETI Clearinghouse of the Center for Global Education has developed this website by adapting resources developed by the U.S. Peace Corps that focus on health and safety issues. Each of the following resources may be useful in developing effective policies and procedures and providing resources for students studying abroad:

I. Crisis Management Handbook
II. Crisis Management Workbook
III. Rape Response Handbook
IV. Risk Management Workbook
V. Personal Safety and Awareness Handbook
VI. Team Building Workbook
VII. Pre-Departure Health Training Handbook

A. Understanding and Avoiding HIV Infection
B. Sexually Transmitted Disease
C. Personal Safety
D. Malaria
E. Maintaining Strong Mental and Emotional Health
F. Food and Water Preparation
G. Diarrhea
H. Dealing with Alcohol
I. Water Safety
J. Other Common Health Problems
SAFETI Program Audit Checklist

The purpose of the SAFETI Audit Checklist is to provide a list of health and safety and study abroad issues that an institution can use as a guide to look at the current policies and procedures at their institution.

The checklist is linked to the appropriate page in the Resources for Program Administrators section, which provides background information about each item and samples of policies and procedures from other study abroad programs as well as useful internet links.

A. Program Administration
   1) Program Development
   2) Advising
   3) Orientation
   4) Evaluation
   5) Housing
   6) Country-Specific Issues
   7) Support for Participants with Disabilities
   8) Communication
   9) Privacy Rights
   10) Legal Issues
   11) Conducting a Program Safety Audit
   12) Special Topics: Swine Flu

B. Health and Medical Care
   1) Screening
   2) Advising
   3) Information Resources
   4) Pre-departure Medical Care
   5) Health Services Abroad
   6) Food and Drink Safety
   7) Mental Health Issues
   8) AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases
   9) Common Health Concerns
   10) Support for Students with Special Needs
   11) Drugs and Alcohol

C. Insurance Coverage

Resources for Program Administrators

- Program Administration
- Health and Medical Care
- Insurance
- Personal Safety & Adjustment
- Crisis and Risk Management

About Mental Health Issues

Policy Information:
Mental health issues may arise from a student's previous condition or result from the stresses of travel and life in another country where the language and customs may provide significant challenges.

Mental health professionals on your campus can help provide expertise and resources for study abroad professionals.

The 2nd Edition of NAFSA's Guide to Education Abroad for Advisers and Administrators includes the following statement: "The possibility of known, or new, emotional and mental problems emerging overseas is seen by many experienced education abroad administrators and advisers as a health and safety concern, even for students who did not previously have existing mental health problems."

Resource Library

Best Practices in Addressing Mental Health Issues Affecting Education Abroad Participants

February 1, 2008

NAFSA e-Publications

This document is one of several new Web-based resources called NAFSA e-Publications. E-Publications offer special features including Web pages, downloadable and printable PDFs, and customized tools.

This publication provides education abroad professionals (located both in and outside the United States) with a better understanding of how to identify and help education abroad participants who are facing mental health challenges in increasing numbers.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction (available to nonmembers)
2. Mental Health Concerns: What Are They and How Can Professionals Help?
3. Before They Go I: Collaborating with Counseling Offices
4. Before They Go II: Preparing Staff and Advising Students
5. Handling Emergencies Abroad
6. Legal Concerns
7. Web-based Mental Health Resources for Students and Staff
Higher Education Associations

Study abroad administrators operate within the college and university administrative context. There are many higher education associations that can provide expertise and resources to assist in developing effective policies and procedures.

- American College Personnel Association
- ACPA Commission for Global Dimensions of Student Development
- American Council on Education
- Center for International Initiatives
- Association of International Education Administrators
- Comparative and International Education Society
- The Forum on Education Abroad
  - Forum Code of Ethics for Education Abroad
  - Forum Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad
- IACLEA International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators
- IACLEA International Resource Center
- Institute of International Education
- IIE Open Doors Study Abroad Date
- Interassociational Advisory Committee on Safety and Responsibility in Study Abroad (formerly the Interorganizational Task Force on Safety and Responsibility in Study Abroad)
- Responsible Study Abroad: Good Practices for Health and Safety
- NAFSA: Association of International Educators
  - Knowledge Community for Education Abroad
  - Knowledge Community for Education Abroad Practice Resources: Advising and Pre-departure
  - Responsible Study Abroad: Good Practices for Health and Safety

Promoting Health and Safety in Study Abroad

Responsible Study Abroad: Good Practices for Health and Safety

- Woes in the Development of the Code
- Members of the Task Force

Health & Safety

Resources on health, safety, and security regarding U.S. students abroad. Visit the Document Library for additional resources related to health, safety, and security.

Practice Resources

- Health & Safety
- Responsible Study Abroad: Good Practices for Health and Safety

A. BASIC PRINCIPLES

Members of The Forum on Education Abroad are committed to the following:

- Remaining informed of, familiar with, and adhering to standards and good practices developed by the many international professional organizations,
- Supporting excellence in all aspects of international education, including continuous evaluation and improvement of programs,
- Fostering genuine international partnerships, and
- Fostering student growth in intellectual and intercultural understanding.

On September 24-25, almost 40 Forum members, representing colleges, universities, providers, and international partners, gathered in Providence, Rhode Island, for the 17th Annual Forum on Education Abroad.
Program sponsors should:

A. Conduct periodic assessments of health and safety conditions for their programs, and develop and maintain emergency preparedness processes and a crisis response plan.

B. Provide health and safety information for prospective participants so that they and their parents/guardians/families can make informed decisions concerning preparation, participation, and behavior while on the program.

C. Provide information concerning aspects of home campus services and conditions that cannot be replicated at overseas locations.

D. Provide orientation to participants prior to the program and as needed on site, which includes information on safety, health, legal, environmental, political, cultural, and religious conditions in the host country. In addition to dealing with health and safety issues, the orientation should address potential health and safety risks, and appropriate emergency response measures.
In particular, program sponsors generally:

A. Cannot guarantee or assure the safety and/or security of participants or eliminate all risks from the study abroad environments.

B. Cannot monitor or control all of the daily personal decisions, choices, and activities of participants.

C. Cannot prevent participants from engaging in illegal, dangerous, or unwise activities.

D. Cannot assure that U.S. standards of due process apply in overseas legal proceedings, or provide or pay for legal representation for participants.
2. Responsibilities of Participants

In study abroad, as in other settings, participants can have a major impact on their own health and safety through the decisions they make before and during their program and by their day-to-day choices and behaviors.

Participants should:

A. Assume responsibility for all the elements necessary for their personal preparation for the program and participate fully in orientations.

B. Read and carefully consider all materials issued by the sponsor that relate to safety, health, legal, environmental, political, cultural, and religious conditions in the host country(ies).

C. Conduct their own research on the country(ies) they plan to visit with particular emphasis on health and safety concerns, as well as the social, cultural, and political situations.
SAFETI Online Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 1, Fall 2005 Edition

I. Volume 3, Number 1, 2005 Edition
II. Volume 2, Number 2, Fall - Winter 2001/2002 SPECIAL EDITION
III. Volume 2, Number 1, Winter 2000 - Summer 2001
IV. Volume 1, Number 2, Spring 2000 - Summer 2000
V. Volume 1, Number 1, Fall 1999 - Winter 2000

SAFETI Clearinghouse

Introduction

Introduction to SAFETI Online Newsletter, Volume 3, Number 1 by Gary Rhodes

Special Challenges in Responding to Avian Flu

Preparing for the Possibility of an Avian Flu Pandemic: Issues to Consider for Study Abroad Programs by Gary Rhodes

Articles

Study Abroad and Mental Health: Identifying, Assisting, and Referring Students in Distress by Wendy Settle

Universities without Borders: Lessons Learned from Response to the December 2004 Tsunami Crisis by Laura Angelone

Crime and Incident Reporting: Best Practices by Inés DeRomáñez and Tiffany C. Stevens

Last Call for U.S. Students Studying Abroad? Continuing Concerns About Alcohol Use and Abuse During Study Abroad by Joel Epstein

Risk Management, Safety issues and How WPI Meets the Inter-organizational Task Forces Good Practices for Health and Safety by Natalie A. Mello

Personal Safety Workshops: Good Opportunity for Study Abroad Students by Katherine C. FitzSimons

Web Resources for Study Abroad

SAFETI Online Newsletter

Back to Newsletter Sexual Harassment And Prevention In College Students Studying Abroad

Volume 1, Number 2, Spring 2000 - Summer 2000

Sexual Harassment And Prevention In College Students Studying Abroad

By Nancy Newport, RN, LPC
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Introduction

It has been my experience over the years as a Consultant to the US Peace Corps that the issue of sexual harassment for women can become a major stress factor that can greatly affect the entire overseas experience.

The information included in these pages comes directly from the work I have done with hundreds of inspiring and courageous Peace Corps Volunteer females as well as my own personal experience as a 22 year old Peace Corps Volunteer in Brazil many years ago. I have listened to and experienced the struggles, fears, frustrations, dilemmas, as well as joys of being a female in a developing culture. I have learned a great deal from the experience and from the incredible women with whom I have had the privilege of counseling. My life and my clinical work have been immeasurably enriched by the experiences we have shared together.

Cultural Sensitivity

We all want to be culturally sensitive, to get along, to be respectful, to fit in, to not offend. In training, cultural sensitivity is emphasized and highly valued. It can be the doorway through which a college student studying abroad gains entry to and acceptance with the community abroad.

It is very important that the cultural sensitivity training provided never requires that you submit to behaviors that invade your personal boundaries and that feel unsafe or even uncomfortable to you. If it feels inappropriate or makes you uneasy, get yourself out of the situation. Never sacrifice yourself or your sense of safety for the sake of cultural sensitivity.
Study Abroad Challenges

- Students in U.S. post-secondary education systems are often ill prepared when it comes to their foreign language abilities and cross-cultural knowledge.
- Oftentimes, students lack the background knowledge, up-to-date information, and resources they need to better ensure their health and safety while studying abroad.
- As more students travel abroad for shorter times, pre-travel abroad learning and re-entry are particularly important to enhance the experience and support student safety.
What Changes Abroad?

Alcohol Awareness for Study Abroad Video
Creating a Balance in Study Abroad

Rhodes’ STAFF MODEL: Whose Perceptions?

*In Loco Parentis* or *Special Relationship*?

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Introduction
When preparing to study abroad in the country of your choice, it is important to gain a balanced perspective. Safety is a global, national, regional, and local phenomenon. As Americans have come to realize, the United States is no more immune to acts of crime or violence than other parts of the world. The resources we provide will assist you in understanding the particular safety challenges in the country of your choice. This resource gives a framework of information, checklists, questions, and resources that help review the type of study abroad program you will choose. Have chosen, the available support services, ways for you to be prepared for the realities abroad in the country of your choice.

Students may find it extremely helpful to do some research before going abroad; understanding a country’s culture, laws, customs, politics, etc., can be tremendously important. The more you know ahead of time about the country of your choice, the better prepared and more confident you will feel when you arrive.

Internet research is one of the easiest ways to find more information about the country of your choice. The Center for Global Education compiled a condensed list of information and helpful Internet resources on the country of your choice for students considering study abroad. In creating this site, the Center’s goals are to help educate and inform students so that they can enjoy a safe and healthy time in the country of your choice. Students are encouraged to read through the information on the country of your choice, and visit other recommended sites provided in each section.

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### Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Translation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airport</td>
<td>aeropuerto</td>
<td>Ambulance</td>
<td>ambulancia</td>
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<td>ATM</td>
<td>cajero automatico</td>
<td>Bathroom</td>
<td>baños</td>
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<td>Bank</td>
<td>banco</td>
<td>Computer</td>
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<td>Bus</td>
<td>autobus</td>
<td>Doctor</td>
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<td>Consulate</td>
<td>consulado</td>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>emergencia</td>
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<td>Emergency Room</td>
<td>sala de urgencia</td>
<td>Exchange Rate</td>
<td>tipo de cambio</td>
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<td>Fire</td>
<td>incendio</td>
<td>Fire Station</td>
<td>parque de bomb</td>
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<td>Food</td>
<td>comida</td>
<td>Help</td>
<td>ayuda</td>
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<td>Hospital</td>
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<td>Hostel</td>
<td>hotel</td>
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<td>Hotel</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
<td>seguro</td>
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<td>Internet</td>
<td>internet</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>ley/derecho</td>
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<td>abogado</td>
<td>Luggage</td>
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<td>Market</td>
<td>mercado/supermercado</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>medicinal/medicinal</td>
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<td>Metro</td>
<td>metro</td>
<td>Metro Station</td>
<td>estacion de mot</td>
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### Phrases

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| Arries | I am an United States citizen.  
Soy ciudadano de los Estados Unidos.  

Please call the United States Embassy/Consulate immediately.  
Por favor, llame a la embajada/el consulado de los Estados Unidos inmediatamente.  

**Food & Drink**  
Where is the market?  
¿Dónde está el mercado?  

Where can I get something to eat?  
¿Dónde puedo encontrar algo para comer?  

I am allergic to...  
Tengo alergias a...  

**General Info**  
My name is...  
Me llamo...  

Please speak slowly.  
Por favor, hable más despacio.  

I don't understand.  
No entiendo.  

What time, date, day is it?  
¿Qué hora es/Qué día es hoy/Cual es la fecha de hoy?
Do you have Emergency Action Plans?

Do You test your emergency response plans with staff, faculty and students before they leave the U.S. and after they arrive abroad like fire drills on a campus?
Personal Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

Knowing the answers to the questions found below can be a good first step in helping to keep yourself safer in an emergency by creating a personal EAP. If you need help drawing a map, finding escape routes or writing emergency preparedness directions/steps, consider asking yourself the following series of questions. You should really try to include answers to all of these questions in your personal EAP:

**Know Where to Go**
Where should you go first in an emergency, and what method of transportation will you use to get there?

- Be aware of all your emergency transportation options. Know the numbers for the following:

  - **Airport:**
  - **Train Station:**
  - **Bus Station:**
  - **Rental-Car:**
  - **Metro Station:**
  - **Boat/Ferry/Port Authority:**

**Know Your Emergency Contact Information**
In addition to your personal emergency contacts, we also recommend you look up/ask for the numbers for the following individuals and agencies nearest to your study abroad and/or travel location(s):

- **City or country’s 911 equivalent:**
- **Local Government/Visa Consulate/Embassy:**
- **Police:**
- **Fire:**
- **Hospital:**
- **Transit Service:**
- **Lawyer:**
- **Red Cross:**
- **Hotline:**

Who will you call first, second, third, etc. in an emergency?

1. ___________________________
2. ___________________________
3. ___________________________

Do your emergency contacts have each other’s phone numbers so they can communicate and relay information about you to each other?

What are some alternate ways of communicating with your emergency contacts?

The following are some communication options you may have available:

- **Telephone**
- **Cell Phone/Text Message**

Emergency Card

Print out the Emergency Card. Fill it in. Leave a copy with your U.S. emergency contacts, with your abroad emergency contacts, and keep a copy with you at all times.

**Student Emergency Information Card**

- **Student Name:**
- **Date of Birth:**
- **Citizenship:**
- **Study Abroad Program Name:**
- **Abroad Program Emergency Contact:**
- **Abroad Housing Emergency Contact:**
- **Home (U.S.) Campus Emergency Contact:**
- **Family (U.S.) Emergency Contact:**
- **Insurance Company:**
- **Policy #:**
- **24 Hour Ph.:**
- **Embosdy/Consulate:**
- **Equivalent 911 Abroad:**
- **Nearest Hospital Abroad:**
- **Passport #:**
- **Blood Type:**
- **Special Medical Conditions:**
- **Wishes in Event of Serious Injury/Death:**

Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Steps

Print out the EAP Steps. Attach the appropriate documents and bring necessary items with you. In case of an emergency, follow the EAP Steps.

- **Documents that should be attached to your EAP:**
  1. Copy of Passport and Visa (where applicable)
  2. Copy of Emergency Assistance Hotline Information
  3. Copy of Insurance Card/Information
  4. Copy of Area Maps/Map Routes
  5. Copy of Emergency Card
  6. Copy of Communication Sheets
  7. Copy of Traveler’s Check Receipts
  8. Information Release and Approval for Medical Emergency Care Form (contacts & care approval)
  9. Special Medical Needs Treatment Information
  10. Power of Attorney
  11. Copy of Home & International Drivers Licenses

- **Items that you should have with you at all times:**
  1. Communication Device(s)
     - Cell phone, PDA, Phone, Calling Card (a program Satellite phone may help in remote locations)
  2. Funds
     - Local $, US$, Travelers Checks, ATM/Credit Card
  3. Sample Emergency/First Aid Kit
     - Flashlight, water (or purification tablets), whistle, pocket knife (not on plane), adhesive bandages, elastic bandage (ace-type), antibiotic ointment, gauze pads, first aid tape, scissors, sun block, lip ointment, burn cream, passport, aspirin/pain reliever, am/fm radio, map, batteries, insect repellent, rain poncho, prescription/medication, thermal blanket, toilet paper, glasses, contacts/saline solution

Steps to help you stay calm and use your EAP more effectively in an emergency:

- **STEP ONE:** Remain calm. Take a deep breath. You will need a clear head in order to focus on your next move.
- **STEP TWO:** Assess the situation/Get Advice from Program Staff. Identify in what kind of emergency you are and what step you need to do to resolve the situation.
HEALTH

Wellness starts before you go abroad. Be aware of and address any health concerns that may arise. This includes getting a check-up, receiving vaccinations, taking care of prescriptions and researching local health problems.

Check the Center for Disease Control (CDC)’s website for notices on health conditions in the countries you intend to visit.

- Traveler’s Health Destinations: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list

Visit the CDC’s website and find the name of the countries you intend to visit on the list. You will find detailed information on the current health condition, recent health issues in the area, security alerts, and vaccine recommendations.

Find a Clinic near you.

Poor refrigeration, undercooked meat, and roadside/outdoor vendors can also pose problems related to food contamination. If you get diarrhea or food poisoning, remember to drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated. As with all illnesses, consider seeing a doctor if your condition worsens. Give your body time to adjust to new types of foods.

For more information on health:
- Students Abroad - Basic Health and Safety: http://www.studentsabroad.com/health.asp
- Students Abroad - Medical Care...: http://www.studentsabroad.com/insurance.asp

By clicking this box, I certify that I have thoroughly read the Center for Disease Control’s information on the countries I plan to visit and will take the precautions and vaccinations necessary to ensure my safety and health.
GlobalScholar.us: Online Courses

These Online Courses will help you make the most out of your Study Abroad Experience.

Become a Global Scholar
1. Prepare to Go Abroad
2. Study Abroad
3. Continue International Learning at Home
4. Mentor Others

Testimonial:
"Studying abroad has been one of the best experiences of my life. Knowing about the country I studied in and what to expect from study abroad helped me to ease into my new environment." - Janeth, Student
GlobalScholar.us: 3 Courses
Pre-departure Curriculum Modules

Module 1: General Overview and Introduction
Module 2: Logistical Issues I
Module 3: Cross-Cultural Issues
Module 4: Country-Specific Culture
Module 5: Language Issues
Module 6: Country-Specific Language Learning
Module 7: Global Citizenry and Understanding the World
Module 8: Becoming a Global Citizen - Learning About Your Host Country

Module 9: Logistical Issues II: Health and Safety Abroad

Module 10: Planning for the Return Home
GlobalScholar.us:
Reading, Multimedia, Info Logs, Tests
www.AllAbroad.us - Special Support for Students from Diverse Backgrounds
Moving Forward:

- Critical Issues
  - Institutional and Individual Crisis Management Plans/Practice
  - Centralized Support, Consistent Policies & Procedures
  - Comprehensive Insurance & Emergency Assistance
  - Staff Member with Responsibility for Safety Issues
  - Connect & Collaborate with Colleagues
  - Campuswide Crisis Management Team: US & Abroad
  - Conduct Risk/Safety Assessments with Regular Updates
  - Maintain Incident Data & Disseminate (Clery Act)
  - Identify Risks, Either No Program or Manage Risks
  - Inform Faculty, Staff, Students & Parents of Known Risks/Incidents
  - Require Faculty/Staff Training
  - Require Student Training
Resources:

Center for Global Education (www.GlobalEd.us)
SAFETI Clearinghouse (www.GlobalEd.us/SAFETI)
Study Abroad Handbooks (www.StudentsAbroad.com)
Online Courses Study Abroad (www.GlobalScholar.us)
Online Courses Students to US (www.uStudy.us)
Any Student Anywhere (www.iStudent101.com)
Diversity Outreach (www.AllAbroad.us)