

Valparaiso University Study Abroad Program Agreement

I, _____, as a participant on a Valparaiso University or University-approved study abroad program, do voluntarily and without reservation and on behalf of myself, my heirs, and my estate, waive all claims that might arise of whatever nature for death or any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay, irregularity or expense arising from strikes, war, weather, sickness, quarantine, hostilities, natural disasters, political or civil violence including terrorism, transportation, sightseeing, hotel, host family housing, or the use of any vehicle or services of a transporting company, firm, individual, or agency, for any cause whatsoever in connection therewith against Valparaiso University and its agents, the Host Institution, and all Valparaiso University faculty, staff members or employees, directors, trustees, and agents, their heirs and their estates.

In addition, should I be unable to decide for myself, I grant Valparaiso University and its agents full authority to take whatever action they feel is warranted regarding my care. In such circumstances (e.g. physical and/or mental illness or injury), I authorize a faculty representative of Valparaiso University or the Host Institution to secure necessary medical treatment, including the administration of anesthetic and surgery, at my own expense. If it is further deemed necessary by Valparaiso University and/or local medical authorities, I will be flown back to the United States for further medical treatment at my own expense.

I have determined (with or without medical assistance) that I am **physically** and **mentally** able to participate in this program. I realize that there are certain risks inherent to international travel and/or participation in the study abroad program, including mental or physical sickness and injury (including mortal injury), and I realize that Valparaiso University does not employ medical or mental health professionals abroad. I acknowledge that any and all health or accident insurance that I consider necessary is my responsibility to locate and purchase, and that such insurance is required for all study abroad participants. I realize that the International Student Identity Card (ISIC), if I choose to purchase it, provides modest accident and sickness insurance and emergency evacuation anywhere I travel outside the United States for as long as the card is valid, but that this insurance is considered supplemental and should not take the place of family insurance or other primary insurance coverage.

I realize that there are certain risks inherent to international travel and/or participation in the study abroad program including loss, damage, destruction, or theft of luggage or personal belongings. I acknowledge that any and all personal property insurance that I consider necessary is my responsibility to locate and purchase.

I understand that upon enrollment in a University-approved study abroad program (operated by a party other than Valparaiso University), the Host Institution will submit to the University the statement for tuition and fees for payment. The University will then submit the balance due to the Host Institution. The participant will be billed by the University for the program charges and general fee, less any financial aid that is applicable to the study abroad semester and any deposits made directly to the Host Institution by the participant.

I understand that Valparaiso University or the Host Institution reserves the right to make cancellations for insufficient participation in the program or other reasons. Valparaiso University or the Host Institution also reserves the right to make changes (including equipment substitution) or other alterations in the program's proposed schedule and I agree in advance to accept such changes or cancellations. I understand further that in the event that the program is cancelled, Valparaiso University shall have no responsibility beyond the refund of all deposits made and monies paid to Valparaiso University by participants. Minor alterations in the program will not result in refunds.

I am aware of the risks of travel and living in different cultures. I will give close attention to safety information provided as part of the program orientation. I acknowledge that I will need to adjust my behavior, dress, and activities to maximize my own and the group's safety while we are abroad.

I recognize that during my participation in a Valparaiso University or University-approved study abroad program, I am a guest in another country, and I agree to uphold individual and group standards appropriate to the cultural setting of the program. If my actions are judged to be injurious to the program and/or seriously offensive to the host culture(s), I acknowledge that the Program Director has the right, after consultation with the International Studies Office and the Host Institution, to terminate my enrollment in the program without refund of fees and to return me to the United States at my own expense.

Furthermore, I grant Valparaiso University permission to release to my parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) and/or other designated contact person(s) listed below, and to obtain from them, information relating to my participation in the study abroad program. If I do not wish for information to be released or obtained in this manner, I must notify the International Studies Office in writing.

Signature of Participant _____ Date _____

Additional Contact Person(s): *(please list here the name, phone number, and relationship to the student of any person(s), other than the student's parent or legal guardian, whom the International Studies Office may contact regarding the student's participation in the study abroad program, or in case of emergency.)*

Concerning Mental Health

In addition to our study abroad agreement, we wish to inform students that mental health treatment may not be as widely accessible abroad as it is in the United States. In our admissions process, we do not discriminate against individuals who have any type of emotional or other personal problems, but we urge all students to think carefully about submitting themselves to additional pressure, fatigue, and anxiety of life in a foreign environment. For your own welfare, we ask that if you have had any emotional or psychological problem, you consult with a mental health professional in this country to discuss the potential stress of study abroad.

Concerning Harassment

Valparaiso University's study abroad programs adhere to the University's policies regarding all forms of harassment. Within the study abroad context, Valparaiso University realizes that cultural, social, familial, and educational relationships differ from those in the United States and occasionally are misunderstood and misinterpreted by US students studying abroad. However, we believe that no student participating in a Valparaiso University program should have to experience unwelcome sexual or other types of harassment pressures. Should you at any time during your overseas program feel unwanted pressures, you should contact immediately the Valparaiso University Program Director, the Host Institution representative, or an International Studies Office staff member.

Concerning Transportation

We recognize that during their time abroad, many students wish to travel within the host country or in neighboring countries. However, as the traffic rules and rhythms of the road are quite different in other countries, the International Studies Office advises students against operating a motor vehicle while studying abroad. In addition, as inexpensive and convenient public transportation is readily available in most places, the International Studies Office advises students against hitchhiking during their study abroad programs.

Concerning Student Safety

Students and parents should inform themselves completely about the risks of any study abroad experience. We are confident that our knowledgeable overseas consultants and staff have selected locations and activities that minimize the risk of encountering threatening situations, AND, as far as possible, we monitor events through US and host government sources as well as news media and colleagues on site, AND we have orientation programs for students and on-site contacts to deal with emergencies and crisis situations, but we still cannot absolutely guarantee the safety of program participants.

Students are asked to recognize and acknowledge the risks of any experience outside their own culture and to take reasonable steps to adjust their behavior, dress, and activities to maximize their own and the group's safety.

I have carefully read and understand the statements above.

Signature of Participant _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Agreement of Parent or Guardian *(required if applicant is considered a dependent for federal income tax or financial aid purposes.)*

I/We are aware of and support the application of _____ to participate in the Valparaiso University or University-approved study abroad program, and have read, understood, and hereby agree to the conditions of participation listed on both sides of this form.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Health Insurance Company _____ Phone _____

Group No. _____ Member No. _____

Study-abroad Program:

____ China: Hangzhou ____ France: Paris ____ Greece: Athens ____ Namibia, Southern Africa
____ England: Anglia ____ France: Paris Internship ____ Japan: Kansai Gaidai ____ Spain: Granada
____ England: Cambridge ____ Germany: Reutlingen ____ Mexico: Puebla
____ France: Cergy Pontoise ____ Germany: Tübingen _____ Other

Term:
____ Fall Semester ____ Spring Semester ____ Summer Semester ____ Academic Year 20____

Please contact the VU Office of International Programs if you have any questions or concerns regarding study abroad. Staff members are available to assist you Monday-Friday 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm (CST). Phone 219/464-5333; fax 219/464-6868; e-mail studyabroad@valpo.edu

