



STUDY AWAY BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS AND CONTRACT

Behavioral Expectations for Study Away Program Participants

We are pleased that you are going on a faculty-led study away program with Hiram College. It is important to understand that the College reserves the right to consider students' eligibility to participate in the program on a case-by-case basis. Further, should a student's standing at the College change at any time, the College reserves the right to reconsider the student's participation in the trip. The College may suspend or terminate a student's participation in the study away program in the event that the student fails to comply with any portion of the Study Away Program Waiver and Release Agreement and the policies set forth in the *Student Handbook*.

Your program's "organizers" (including your professors, study away hosts and guides, and the Study Away Office) expect you to exhibit sensitivity to the host culture, maintain a good attitude, respect the home-stay arrangement, and observe local rules and laws. Remember, the most effective learning occurs in an environment that is safe and characterized by integrity and mutual respect among members of the community. The Hiram College study away program fosters such an environment by expecting that program participants adhere to these documented standards of behavior. Adherence to principles of good conduct promotes safety, a respect for cultural diversity, and the fullest access to all there is to learn during your study away experience.

You are expected to demonstrate a willingness to adapt to rigors of the study tour, travel schedule, and living conditions. It is assumed that by seeking to study away, you realize many things will be different from what you are accustomed to and that you will be ready and willing to cope with the differences you will encounter, even when this is difficult or inconvenient. Even in places or countries with developed economies, you should not assume you will find the conveniences and comforts of life in Northeast Ohio or in your home. Examples of differences to which you may need to adapt are: long commuting distances; lack of privacy in accommodations; limited or no air conditioning; limited or restricted water usage; lack of a smoke-free environment; lack of easy access to the internet or phones; squat toilets; unfamiliar food that you do not like or you perceive as unhealthy; lack of English proficiency by host country members, if applicable; and lack of conventional worship sites. A very important part of the study away experience is your learning to cope with all of the differences you may encounter while studying away and to maintain a positive, open-minded attitude, even when faced by inconveniences.

We also expect that you will agree to and comply with the following statements:

1. As a guest in the study away location, I will strive to understand and respect norms of conduct and patterns of the host culture. When faced with information, perspectives, or opinions that I disagree with or feel are strange, I will keep an open mind and try to expand my understanding. I will listen to others' perspectives with an open mind and be diplomatic when communicating with others.
2. I understand that each study away location and/or foreign country has its own laws and standards of acceptable conduct, including dress, manners, morals, religion, politics, drug use, and behavior. I recognize that behavior violating those laws or standards could harm the University's relations with our study away locations and the institutions therein, as well as my own health and safety. I am expected to make responsible decisions regarding my behavior and maintain an appropriate standard of conduct at all times.
3. I am aware of the risks of travel and living in a study away location. I will pay close attention to safety information provided as part of the program's 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

studying away. I will promptly express any health or safety concerns to the organizers or other appropriate individuals during the program.

4. I will comply with the rules, standards and instructions, whether presented to me in writing or delivered orally by the organizers. I will follow the oral directives of the organizers at all times.

5. If I have a health condition or other circumstances which may require special attention prior to or during the trip, I am responsible for making this known to the organizers.

6. I will respect the property of others, including, but not limited to, the property of any person, hotel or accommodations, restaurants or sites visited during the study away program.

7. I realize that there are certain risks inherent to study away and/or international travel 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.

8. I will not engage in any illegal activity while studying away. While studying in a foreign country, if applicable, I understand that legal protections in the United States are not necessarily those of foreign countries. I understand that the US Embassy/Consulates are limited in the assistance they can offer me if I do get in trouble with the local law, as breaches of the local law of the host community of country are referred to and handled by the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

9. While studying away, I will refrain from political activity for my own safety. Should I choose to participate in such political activities as joining political parties or unions, demonstrations, soliciting political material or picketing, I do so at my own risk.

10. I will not engage in sexual behavior that is disruptive to the program or offensive to the host culture.

11. I will participate in all classes and scheduled activities unless ill.

12. I agree to be on time to the buses and activities listed on the schedule or as communicated to me verbally.

13. I am expected to make responsible decisions regarding my behavior and maintain an appropriate standard of conduct at all times. Further, I understand that the organizers will not supervise me at all times. I will act responsibly at all times, including during our free time.

14. I will avoid illegal drugs and excessive or irresponsible consumption of alcohol and will not imbibe alcohol if under the legal drinking age of the United States or the visiting foreign country.

15. I will behave in a manner that is respectful of the rights and well-being of others, and encourage my peers to behave in a similar manner.

16. I understand that my final grade in the class can be affected by my behavior during the study away portion of the class.

17. I understand I will be subject to the same rules and regulations off-campus as on-campus, as outlined in the Hiram College Student Handbook.

I understand that as a Hiram College student participating in this study away program, I will be viewed as a representative the College and my country, especially while studying in a foreign country. It is my intention to act as a good-will ambassador and conduct myself in an appropriate manner. I have read these expectations carefully and I agree to follow them.

If I violate these rules, I understand I will be subject to expulsion from the program and face possible disciplinary action upon returning to Hiram College. If I am sent home due to a violation of this contract, I understand that I will be sent home at my expense, in accordance with College policy.

In addition, I and/or my family will be held financially responsible for any additional expenses incurred due to my behavior or actions.

I, _____, as a student participating in the _____ faculty-led trip, hereby agree to the aforementioned rules and regulations.

Name of Student _____

Signature of Student _____ Date _____