

### Travel Waiver Release, Covenant Not To Sue and Assumption of Risk

Northwestern University, through its Feinberg School of Medicine (FSM), has agreed to allow me to study and work abroad in my course of study. I have informed Northwestern University that I intend to engage in the study/work abroad experience described below:

Dates of Travel: \_\_\_\_\_

Destination(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Program affiliation: (check one)  Northwestern affiliated  Not-affiliated with Northwestern

Description of program: \_\_\_\_\_

Northwestern University's Office of Global Safety and Security (OGSS) provides comprehensive, pre-travel information on a variety of topics related to health, safety and security. It is the responsibility of the traveler to review information pertaining to their needs or interests (<http://www.northwestern.edu/global-safety-security/index.html>)

- 1. Pre-departure Requirements:** I understand that, if my participation in an FSM international experience is sponsored by Northwestern, I must comply with all University pre-departure requirements, which include, but are not limited to:
1. Enrollment in Northwestern's international medical assistance/insurance plan (currently GeoBlue)
  2. Registry with the U.S. Department of State Smart Travel Enrollment Program, Alerts (or substitute for citizens of other countries)
  3. Sign-up for Travel Alerts from Northwestern's security information/assistance provider (currently Drum Cussac)
  4. Trip- or destination-specific directives, if issued

I understand that the FSM will monitor my compliance and notify any trip leader or program sponsor(s) if I fail to meet these requirements in a timely manner prior to departure. Non-compliance may result in revocation of approval to participate in the experience. I also acknowledge that I have chosen the above-described program based on my own assessment and that my participation in the program is not required by Northwestern University.

- 2. Unaffiliated Programs:** If I am participating in an UNAFFILIATED program, I acknowledge and understand that Northwestern University has not undertaken an independent assessment of the above-described program, and the University does not, and cannot, guarantee the competency of any person associated with the program, the physical condition of any facility or equipment that may be used by me in the course of the program, or the suitability of the program. I acknowledge that I have chosen the above-described program based on my own assessment and that my participation in the program is not required by Northwestern University.
- 3. Unapproved Programs:** Rotations at international settings not previously approved by the Center for Global Health and Dean's Administration or extension of trips beyond the site(s) listed in this document are considered "vacation/non-school sanctioned travel."
- 4. International Students:** International students will abide by the rules and regulations associated with their visa type when traveling internationally, which is described by Northwestern University's International Office (<http://www.northwestern.edu/international/living-working/travel-restrictions/index.html>). Failure to follow these requirements could result in detention by CBP. Northwestern has no authority to intervene in actions taken by the CBP. Such detentions can be lengthy and could result in missed flights/connections; group travel involving

international students who are detained by federal authorities will proceed as scheduled. Any additional expenses incurred as a result of any delays related to detention will be the responsibility of the student.

**5. Trip Modification or Suspension:** I understand that Northwestern has the right to modify or suspend student travel should such decisions be warranted by a change in health or safety conditions. In the event of travel cancellation due to health or safety concerns, Northwestern cannot guarantee any refunds related to the travel, and I assume the full risk of such loss.

**6. Health and Safety Policies and Procedures:** I understand and acknowledge that there are inherent health and safety risks associated with international travel. I will take the necessary time to review the information and resources available from the FSM and the OGSS: <http://www.northwestern.edu/global-safety-security/index.html>.

a. I agree that I am personally responsible for obtaining all health information, medical procedures, immunizations, and medications appropriate to my destination and health history (<http://www.northwestern.edu/global-safety-security/health-safety/travel-health/index.html>). As a first step in this preparation, Northwestern recommends that students with chronic, pre-existing health conditions consult with a travel health professional well in advance of departure to plan for potential medical needs during travel (<http://www.northwestern.edu/global-safety-security/health-safety/travel-health/current-health-conditions.html>). All students should take time to determine whether immunization or prophylactic medications are recommended or required (<http://www.northwestern.edu/global-safety-security/health-safety/travel-health/immunizations-medications.html>).

b. I understand that I must carry a passport valid through the period of my travel abroad. Consular officials advise a passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the return date. I understand that if my plans require a visa, I am responsible for obtaining the visa prior to departure.

c. I will be responsible for my own health maintenance. In the event of serious illness, accident or emergency, I will inform an appropriate program official so that assistance may be secured and so that my designated emergency contact may be notified.

d. I understand that all Northwestern student travelers are required to obtain GeoBlue health insurance coverage for the period of time that they are abroad, regardless of any other coverage provided by other sources, such as a spouse/partner, parents, Northwestern, or the sponsoring program, unless a specific exception is granted by FSM and OGSS. (<http://www.northwestern.edu/global-safety-security/health-safety/travel-health/geoblue-global-health-insurance/geoblue-for-students.html>). If the institution does not obtain coverage for me on my behalf, I understand that I may be required to purchase it.

e. I agree to enroll my travel dates in the U.S. Department of State Smart Travelers Enrollment Program (STEP), which allows the United States government to act quickly in concert with other governments in the case of an emergency (<https://step.state.gov>). Even non-citizens can register for Travel Alerts. Follow the instructions at: <http://www.northwestern.edu/global-safety-security/health-safety/travel-security/non-u.s.-citizens-abroad.html>. If I am not a U.S. citizen and my country of origin provides a similar service, I understand that I can register for it as a substitute.

f. I agree to sign up for security updates provided by Drum Cussac, Northwestern's security information and evacuation provider, at <https://www.drum-cussac.net/self-registration> (which requires use of one's Northwestern email domain and will consult [detailed registration instructions](#), if needed). After initial registration, I understand that I am to enter the Drum Cussac website at [www.drum-cussac.net](http://www.drum-cussac.net).

**7. Code of Conduct:** I understand that Northwestern student travelers are representatives of Northwestern University. I recognize that during the travel I will be a guest in the host country and have the responsibility to understand and respect the norms of conduct in the host culture. I will abide by all policies and regulations established by the host country and my program abroad, obey local laws and ordinances, and represent Northwestern responsibly, abiding by cultural and dress codes appropriate to the host country. I understand that Northwestern student travelers who violate Northwestern rules and regulations may be subject to a variety of sanctions, outcomes and interventions, including but not limited to immediate dismissal from the travel program and further sanctions upon returning to Northwestern.

- 8. Voluntary Withdrawal or Involuntary Dismissal:** If I withdraw or am dismissed from Northwestern-sponsored travel, I understand that any program scholarships, fellowships, travel grants, or other funding awarded to support participation may be revoked or cancelled, and that I am responsible for any balance due resulting from this loss of funding. Likewise, I will be responsible for any travel costs associated with my early return.
- 9. Force Majeure:** I understand that Northwestern shall not be liable to the student/parent/spouse/partner for its failure to perform any of its obligations during any period in which such performance is precluded or delayed because it is rendered impracticable or impossible due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control, including without limitation earthquakes, governmental regulations, fire, flood, labor difficulties, civil disorder, U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings and acts of God. Such force majeure events may result in the loss of all deposits and fees.
- 10. Emergency Authorization:** In the event of an emergency in which I cannot be reached, I authorize U.S. embassies and/or consulates to release information concerning my welfare and whereabouts to Northwestern University.

**11. Release and Covenant Not to Sue**

a. I understand that there are unavoidable risks inherent in traveling abroad, and I, on behalf of myself and personal representatives, hereby release, waive, discharge and promise not to sue Northwestern University, its trustees, officers, employees, and agents (hereinafter referred to as "releasees") from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or relating to any loss, damage or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me, or to any property belonging to me arising in connection with my travel, or while in, on or upon the premises where the non-credit/non-study abroad program is being conducted, or in any place or places connected with the non-credit/non-study abroad program, except for such damage or injury as may be caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the employees or agents of Northwestern.

b. I am fully aware of risks and hazards connected with participating in the non-credit/non-study abroad travel, and I am fully aware that there may be risks and hazards unknown to me connected with participating in the non-credit/non-study abroad travel, and I hereby elect to voluntarily participate in the non-credit/non-study abroad travel and engage in activities knowing that conditions may be hazardous, or may become hazardous or dangerous to me and my property. I voluntarily assume full responsibility for any risks of loss, property damage or personal injury, including death, that may be sustained by me, or any loss or damage to property owned by me, as a result of my being a participant in the non-credit/non-study abroad travel.

c. I further hereby agree to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the releasees and each of them, from any loss, liability, damage or costs they may incur due to my participation in the non-credit/non-study abroad travel, unless caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the employees or agents of Northwestern.

d. It is my express intent that this Release shall bind the members of my family and spouse, if I am alive, and my heirs, assigns and personal representative, if I am deceased, and shall be deemed as a Release, Waiver, Discharge and Covenant Not to Sue the above named releasees.

**12. Acknowledgment**

In signing this release, I acknowledge and represent that:

- A. I have read the foregoing release, understand it, and sign it voluntarily as my own free act and deed;
- B. No oral representation, statements or inducements, apart from the foregoing written agreement, have been made;
- C. I am fully competent; and
- D. I execute this Release for full, adequate and complete consideration fully intending to be bound by same.

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name
Signature
Date

Update: EJO 1-12-17 (change of insr carrier)  
Update: JAF 10-27-17 (formatting/links)  
Update: JAF 11-7-17 (modified for FSM)