



## OFF-CAMPUS STUDY & EXCHANGES

### Student Conduct Pledge

Dear Fall Off-Campus Study Student,

We are so pleased that you are planning to participate in off-campus study for fall 2021. As you are aware, the semester will be different from any semester you have experienced before; COVID-19 realities have changed what we can expect at home and abroad.

Given the current global pandemic, students studying off-campus for fall 2021 are required to commit to a conduct pledge with behavior directives meant to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The goals of this conduct pledge are similar to the campus *Skidmore College COVID-19 Student Pledge* for spring 2021 – to acknowledge and understand how your individual actions can affect your health and safety, as well as that of your fellow students, program staff and faculty, and the local community in which you have chosen to study.

Each country and region worldwide has developed and instituted its own approach to combating COVID-19. As cities and countries navigate ever-shifting circumstances, studying off-campus will require increased flexibility and patience as conditions, directives, and recommendations concerning COVID-19 may change regularly and rapidly during your time off-campus. You will need to be respectful of both your program and local mandates. There may be a need for your program to adjust class schedules, activities, university, program center and/or housing protocols, and program center hours and occupancy based on their own or local requirements. It is important that each student comply with program/university/government guidelines, rules and/or laws.

#### **Off-Campus Study Student Conduct Pledge**

As a student studying off-campus through Skidmore College, I understand that coronavirus is a highly contagious virus and it is possible to develop and contract COVID-19 even if I follow all of the safety precautions in this pledge and those recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), local health department, and others. I understand that although my host program/university is following the coronavirus guidelines issued by their local government and health experts to reduce the spread of infection, I can never be completely shielded from all risk of illness caused by COVID-19 or other infections.

Given this reality, I commit to the following principles to protect others and myself and to preserve the program's living and learning environment. I commit to:

- Understanding how my actions affect others and considering how my choices could either protect or pose risks for all members of my program or host community, not just for myself;
- Acting at all times to protect all members of my program and host community. I will use the resources and power available to me, based on my identities, to be an engaged, educated and responsible member of my chosen community;
- Engaging in respectful communication regarding this pandemic. I will voice my own needs and risk tolerance and will listen to and respect the needs and risk tolerance of others;

- Erring on the side of caution and safety in my choices, knowing that is what is required to preserve the community; and
- Acknowledging that, as a student studying on a Skidmore-approved off-campus study program, I have a collective responsibility for the health and well-being of other program participants, faculty and staff, and community members.

In addition, I commit to the specific behaviors outlined below to protect others and myself and to preserve the program's living and learning environment. I understand that failure to adhere to these commitments can result in significant student conduct outcomes, including removal from the program. I acknowledge that as more is learned about the virus, additional behavioral commitments on my part may be required. I agree to adhere to any future changes/additions to these commitments.

- I agree to wear a mask covering my nose and mouth at all times as required by my program and/or local community. I acknowledge that the mask must meet the specifications of the program and the local government and that my program will inform me of specific circumstance when I can remove the mask.
- If I have a specific medical condition that affects my ability to wear a mask, I will immediately inform OCSE and/or my program provider so that they can determine if an accommodation can be granted during my program of study.
- I agree to respect other people's space and safety by maintaining appropriate social distance (at least 6 feet/1.83 meters).
- I agree to sneeze and cough into my elbow or cover my mouth and nose with a tissue and properly dispose of all tissues. I also agree to wash my hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds; if soap and warm water are not available, I will use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- I agree to follow the cleaning protocols set forth in all learning and living spaces. I also agree to respect and cooperate with the cleaning protocols posted in relation to student roles and the staff that are tasked with these responsibilities.
- I agree to comply with any restrictions on personal travel implemented by my program, including any mandates to not travel outside the host city or region. I will avoid travel destinations with local health conditions that may negatively impact my studies and others within my program. I also agree to follow all program travel protocols and requirements, including providing my travel itinerary to the program staff; submitting all required travel documentation in the timeframe requested; immediately providing an updated itinerary to program staff if there are changes to my travel plans; and understanding any and all travel restrictions in place, as well as the current conditions in the location to which I will be travelling.
- Upon the conclusion of any personal travel, I agree to meet all applicable quarantine requirements independently prior to returning to my assigned program housing, in-person classes and program/university space, including covering costs for the required quarantine.
- I agree to comply with all relevant policies regarding guests and visitors in residential and program/university spaces.
- I agree to comply with any program/university restrictions on informal student gatherings in all learning and living spaces.

During my semester off-campus, I agree to the following:

- I agree to comply with any COVID-19 testing requirements instituted by the program/university.
- I agree not to engage in any behavior that poses a risk to the health or safety of myself or others, including close contact with individuals who are sick.
- If I test positive for COVID-19, I will comply with all directives from the program/university, including participating in mandatory quarantine in order to reduce the risk to other members of the community. I will not engage in contact with other community members while knowingly positive for COVID-19. If I do so, I understand that I will face significant student conduct outcomes, up to and including, removal from the program.
- I agree to honest and regularly self-screen for COVID-like symptoms throughout the program.
- I agree to immediately contact program staff if I think I have been exposed to or had close contact with (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from two days before illness onset) a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, whether I am having symptoms or not.
- I agree to immediately contact the program staff if I have any COVID-like symptoms and to follow their directives regarding next steps.
- I agree not to attend classes, internships and program activities in person and to refrain from group settings when I am sick or exhibiting COVID-like symptoms.
- I understand that I may be required to report any positive test results to the local health authorities and/or communicate them to relevant program administrators in order to facilitate needed safety measures. I further understand that contact tracing may be instituted and I agree to comply with this process by providing all required information. I understand that such contact tracing may require that other program participants are informed of their exposure through me.
- My off-campus study program will take seriously any violation of these expectations (i.e. hosting large scale gatherings, exposing others if I test positive, etc.) and I may face significant student conduct outcomes if found responsible for violations, including removal from the program.
- I agree to monitor my Skidmore and program/university issued email accounts on a daily basis.
- I agree to provide, and update when necessary, on-site program staff with my local contact information and that of my emergency contact(s).

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the foregoing. I acknowledge that violation of the terms, commitments and agreements outlined above could result in my immediate dismissal from the program. I understand that if I am dismissed from the program, I will be sent home, at my own expense. If I am dismissed from the program, I will not earn credit nor be refunded any expenses that have been paid. I know that a decision to terminate my participation in the program is final and appeals are not allowed.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I acknowledge that I have received via email and/or U.S. mail the above referenced pledge regarding participation of my son/daughter/ward in off-campus study for the fall 2021 semester.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Student Studying Off-Campus

By signing below, I certify that I am the parent/legal guardian of the above named student. I have read, understand and acknowledge the provisions of the pledge which my son/daughter/ward has signed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name