



## OFF-CAMPUS STUDY & EXCHANGES

### Off-Campus Study Waiver

#### Off-Campus Study Waiver – Skidmore College

Skidmore College is looking forward to your participation in a travel seminar. While Skidmore College, program vendors, foreign governments, and the host communities will do all that they can to maintain a reasonably safe and secure environment, the COVID-19 pandemic will likely still present risks. This document asks students to understand and acknowledge the risks and responsibilities inherent in both domestic or international travel and studying off-campus as a travel seminar participant.

#### **Please Read Carefully Before Signing:**

- I understand and acknowledge that my decision to participate in a travel seminar is voluntary and that by committing to attend a travel seminar, I am voluntarily assuming any and all risks.
- I understand that while there are vaccines available for COVID-19, there is no current cure and vaccinations may not provide 100% protection against the virus or its known mutations. COVID-19 can present a serious health risk and neither Skidmore College can guarantee my health or immunity from infection.
- I acknowledge that, notwithstanding the best efforts of Skidmore College to implement and require compliance with prevention and mitigation measures, I may be exposed to the coronavirus and may become ill with COVID-19, and that such exposure and illness may result in personal injury, illness, temporary or permanent disability, or even death.
- I understand and agree that it is my responsibility to consult a healthcare provider to discuss my medical history and the risk presented in participating in off-campus study as a travel seminar participant.
- I understand and acknowledge that scientists and medical professionals, including the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have concluded that people of any age are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. I have reviewed the CDC website for the exhaustive list of medical conditions that may result in higher risk.
- I understand and acknowledge that the COVID-19 virus is and/or may be active in my location of study. Therefore, there is a risk of exposure from symptomatic and asymptomatic carriers by electing to study on a travel seminar. Furthermore, I understand that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected certain racial and ethnic minority groups. I acknowledge that this may be relevant and have an impact on the local community in which I have chosen to study.
- I acknowledge that the host government, local community and program will implement various prevention and mitigation measures including, but not limited to, health screening and testing, social distancing, use of face-coverings, personal hygiene requirements, travel restrictions, contact tracing, and possible periods of quarantine or self-isolation.
  - I acknowledge that it is my responsibility, as a travel seminar participant and member of the community, to comply with any and all prevention and mitigation measures.
  - Further, I acknowledge that my failure to comply with any required actions relating to such prevention and mitigation efforts will lead to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the travel seminar.

- I understand that government entities, as well as the program itself, may implement requirements for my program and/or program location. These requirements can include but are not limited to the requirement to provide a negative COVID-19 test before being able to depart for the travel seminar and/or quarantining upon arrival in my location of study. I further understand that Skidmore College requires that I be vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 in order to participate on the travel seminar. I understand and accept that there may be side effects and risks associated with the current COVID-19 vaccines. Further, I understand and accept it will be my responsibility to secure and pay for any required testing or vaccinations prior to my departure to the travel seminar location(s) and upon arrival. Further, I acknowledge and accept that there may be a required period of self-isolation or quarantine upon arrival to the travel seminar location(s). I agree to comply with these requirements and acknowledge that if quarantine accommodations are not provided by Skidmore College, it will be my responsibility to secure and pay for said accommodations and all costs associated with my self-isolation or quarantine.
- I am aware that Skidmore College allows for medical and religious exemptions from the COVID-19 vaccine requirement. It is my responsibility to pursue and secure a possible exemption through the appropriate office at Skidmore College and inform OCSE should an exemption be approved. Although all that is possible will be done to accommodate my participation as an unvaccinated individual, I acknowledge that there may be instances where the travel seminar activities and/or logistics will not allow for participation. I understand that requirements and restrictions can be placed by a vendor, local government or individual associated with the travel seminar and that Skidmore College has no alternative but to adhere to said requirements and restrictions. This may result in my exclusion from certain program activities. While the faculty director will take this in consideration when assessing my program participation, there will be no financial adjustment or refund for any portion of the travel seminar that I am unable to participate in due to an approved exemption.
- I understand and acknowledge that there are inherent risks involved in travel to and from the travel seminar location(s). I also understand that while the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) or similar government agencies in my home country, airports, and airlines have instituted policies to mitigate the risk from COVID-19, there are still opportunities for exposure to the virus during travel to and from my program and that it is my responsibility to research and review the safety procedures and protocols instituted by TSA or similar government agencies in my home country, the airports, and airlines prior to commencing travel.
- I acknowledge and accept that there may be a required period of self-isolation or quarantine upon arrival to the travel seminar location(s). I agree to comply with these requirements.
- I understand and accept that it is my responsibility to comply with any ongoing COVID-19 testing required by my program.
- I understand and acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic may temporarily, but significantly, alter the academic and residential experience of the travel seminar and that the program is implementing many changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to, class scheduling, instructional methodology, classroom density, social distancing measures, housing occupancy and behavioral guidelines, co-curricular and extra-curricular programming. I agree to participate accepting these changes as part of my participation.

- I acknowledge that the travel seminar will utilize various locations for instruction and co-curricular and extracurricular activities, thereby becoming an open campus. This limits the program's ability to control who accesses said locations. Therefore, I recognize that the program cannot limit all potential sources of COVID-19 infection.
- I understand and acknowledge that the risk of exposure to or infection by COVID-19 during the travel seminar may arise from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and/or others, including, but not limited to, program staff, faculty, students, volunteers and contractors.
- I acknowledge that I have the opportunity to contact Off-Campus Study & Exchanges at Skidmore College to discuss any risks associated with participating on the travel seminar. Furthermore, I understand that I can consult the websites of the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Department of State, as well as that of the local U.S. Embassy and the embassy of the travel seminar host country to obtain information on COVID-19 in my planned location of study. I alone have to determine the sufficiency of any precautions that I am required to take, or that I decide to take, to minimize the risks of exposure and infection.
- I have not relied on representations or warranties from any party related to Skidmore College, including any officer, staff person, faculty member, agent, volunteer, or student, regarding the safety of, or the risks of, participating on the travel seminar. I have relied instead on my own judgment as to whether to undertake the risks.
- I acknowledge that during the dates of the travel seminar the COVID-19 pandemic will likely be ongoing. Further, I understand that there may be a resurgence of the virus in the travel seminar location(s). Skidmore College may determine for health, safety and/or security reasons that the travel seminar must suspend on-site operations and require students to return to their official place of residence. I acknowledge that Skidmore College will put plans in place, to the best of their ability, to continue my course remotely. I further acknowledge that if the travel seminar is suspended that it may be my responsibility to secure and pay for all arrangements for my departure, including but not limited to airline change fees and fares, as well as temporary accommodations.
- I understand and acknowledge that the United States government or that of my home country may institute additional requirements for entry back into the country after international travel. These requirements may include proof of a negative COVID-19 test and/or mandatory quarantine in a facility designated by the government. I understand that payment for any testing will be my sole responsibility. Furthermore, I understand and acknowledge that a positive COVID-19 test may result in my being denied boarding on a flight back to my home country. I acknowledge that should this occur, I may no longer be eligible to reside in program housing and may be required to secure and pay for my own quarantine accommodations until I am cleared to travel home.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

**I acknowledge that I have received via email and/or U.S. mail the above referenced waiver regarding participation of my son/daughter/ward in off-campus study travel seminar.**

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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, acknowledge and agree to the foregoing waiver.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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