

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS/FAMILIES OF PARTICIPANTS IN OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

**In study abroad as in other settings, parents/guardians/families can play an important role in the health and safety of participants by helping them make decisions and by influencing their behavior overseas.**

1. Obtain and carefully evaluate health and safety information related to the program, as provided by the sponsor and other sources.
2. Encourage participants accepted into off-campus programs to fully disclose on the Confidential Health Form any medical or psychological conditions that could cause them problems and jeopardize the welfare of their programs while abroad.
3. Be involved in the decision of the participant to enroll in a particular program.
4. Engage the participant in a thorough discussion of safety and behavior issues, insurance needs, and emergency procedures related to living abroad.
5. Be responsive to requests from the program sponsor for information regarding the participant.
6. Keep in touch with the participant.
7. Be aware that some information may most appropriately be provided by the participant rather than the program.
8. Be aware that program sponsors generally:
  - a) *Cannot* guarantee or assure the safety of participants or eliminate all risks from the study abroad environments.
  - b) *Cannot* monitor or control all of the daily personal decisions, choices, and activities of individual participants.
  - c) *Cannot* prevent participants from engaging in illegal, dangerous or unwise activities.
  - d) *Cannot* assure that U.S. standards of due process apply in overseas legal proceedings or provide or pay for legal representation for participants.
  - e) *Cannot* assume responsibility for actions or events that are not part of the program, or that are beyond the control of the sponsor and its subcontractors, or for situations that may arise due to the failure of a participant to disclose pertinent information.
  - f) *Cannot* assure that home-country cultural values and norms will apply in the host country.