



LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

STUDENT UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT SEMESTER AND YEAR-LONG STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

This Student Understanding and Agreement (the “Agreement”) is a legally binding contract between Lehigh University (referred to as “Lehigh” or “University”) and the undersigned student (referred to as “student”, “participant” or “you”) that sets forth the requirements and expectations for participation in a study abroad program offered by Lehigh University.

In exchange for being granted the opportunity to participate in a study abroad program at Lehigh, the student, intending to be legally bound, agrees to the following terms and conditions:

A. ELIGIBILITY AND COMPETENCIES

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** In order to be eligible to participate in a semester or year-long study abroad program at Lehigh, you must:
 - a. Be enrolled full-time at Lehigh in the semester immediately prior to studying abroad;
 - b. Have at least (36) Lehigh credits and second semester sophomore status;
 - c. Have a GPA of 2.7 or above, or an average GPA of 2.7 in the two regular semesters prior to applying; and
 - d. Not be on disciplinary probation the semester prior to participation, or during the term abroad.

The Study Abroad Office, in consultation with the Dean of Students Office, will review each student’s disciplinary records prior to determining whether to grant approval to study abroad. Students whose records indicate a history of inappropriate conduct should expect to have their cases reviewed in depth and considered fully in the final decision about whether such student may study abroad.

2. **REQUIRED COMPETENCIES:** In order to participate in credit-bearing activities conducted off-campus, you must demonstrate the following required competencies:
 - a. Ability to be flexible and adapt to new, unexpected circumstances as they occur. Navigate independently and/or appropriately in a new and /or unfamiliar environment. (Ex: live in a host dorm with non-Lehigh students; use urban/rural public transportation systems).
 - b. Ability to be responsible for all known personal medical and psychological needs prior to participation in this off-campus activity, as well as the ability to be functionally stable for at least six months prior to participation.
 - c. Ability to respect the host culture and its different language(s), values, customs, and belief systems.
 - d. Knowledge of, and willingness to uphold, reasonable and appropriate standards for living and learning environments.

If you are unable to demonstrate the competencies at any point prior to or during a Study Abroad program, Lehigh may reconsider your approval to participate in such program. You may contact the Study Abroad Program Director, the Director of the Study Abroad Office or the Associate Dean of Students if you have questions about the competencies.

B. COST AND PAYMENTS

1. **REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM FEES:** A \$50 **non-refundable** registration fee is due at the time of program application. A program fee of \$120 per semester will be charged to your Bursar account; the program fee, in part, covers the cost of the Lehigh University Student International Services and Insurance Program and is refundable if you withdraw from the program prior to departure.
2. **ACCEPTANCE:** By submitting an application to a study abroad program, you are agreeing to enroll in the program for which you applied if your application is accepted.
3. **TUITION:** You must register for a full-time equivalent course load, for which you pay Lehigh tuition, regardless of the hosting institution's tuition cost. Lehigh pays tuition to the program directly. Billing will occur as usual (i.e., the Lehigh Bursar's Office will send you a tuition bill). All tuition payment policies apply.
4. **FINANCIAL AID:** Financial Aid from Lehigh applies to semester and year-long programs abroad. If you receive financial aid above Lehigh tuition, refund checks are not released from the Bursar's Office until the 10th day of class at Lehigh.
5. **PROGRAM PROVIDER DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:** You are responsible for paying any deposits required by your program provider. You are responsible for ensuring that deposits are applied toward room and board or program fees, not tuition. You are also responsible for all non-tuition program fees and transportation costs. You will be billed directly by the program provider.
6. **STUDENT WITHDRAWAL:** In order to withdraw from a program, you must notify the Study Abroad Office and the hosting institution **in writing**. Since Lehigh may undertake substantial financial commitment on behalf of students prior to the beginning of study abroad programs, you will be charged for all non-recoverable funds Lehigh has committed on your behalf. Students are responsible for purchasing their own trip interruption/cancellation insurance.
7. **DISMISSAL BY LEHIGH:** If your conduct after application and prior to departure leads to disciplinary probation, you will be dismissed from the program and will forfeit your registration fee and the deposit paid to the program as well as any non-recoverable funds Lehigh has committed on your behalf up to the date of dismissal. If a student is dropped from the program for any reason prior to the departure date, the student may still be responsible for airline and housing cancellation fees.
8. **PROGRAM CANCELLATION:** Please refer to the Study Abroad Office's website (www.lehigh.edu/studyabroad) for the cancellation policy.

C. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

1. **INTERNATIONAL SERVICES AND INSURANCE:** Lehigh University has established the **Lehigh University Student International Services and Insurance Program (LUSISIP)** for undergraduate students abroad on Lehigh-sanctioned programs: www.lehigh.edu/~incis/documents/ServiceandInsuranceProgram.pdf This mandatory insurance program is primary in all cases, and works in concert with International SOS for the **official duration of the abroad portion of the program**. You will be responsible for obtaining your own insurance and/or services package within the United States as well as for any travel abroad before or after the official duration of the abroad portion of the program.
2. **WEB REGISTRATION FOR INTERNATIONAL SOS:** You must register your international travel **prior to departure** on the International SOS portal, which can be found on the Study Abroad website: www.lehigh.edu/studyabroad. You will receive directions for registering, which will include a

registration deadline.

3. **AIRLINE RESERVATIONS:** You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements. While some programs may offer group flights, Lehigh is not responsible for coordinating them.
4. **PASSPORT:** You must obtain your own passport which must be valid for at least six months beyond the last day of the program. American citizens may obtain forms at www.travel.state.gov. Please note that it may take up to eight weeks to process an application for a U.S. passport. Non-US passport holders should consult their home embassy.
5. **VISAS:** You must obtain proper visas and pay all costs associated with such visas. U.S. citizens may be required to obtain a visa if their plans include travel outside the designated study abroad country before or after the program. Importantly, non-US passport holders need to consider very carefully any visa requirements. Obtaining visas may be a lengthy and detailed process involving persistence. Check www.travel.state.gov for specific entry requirements for each country.

D. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **RELEASE OF LIABILITY; INDEMNIFICATION:** In consideration for the use of premises or facilities owned or operated by Lehigh University and/or in consideration for permitting me to participate in this program, on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, I hereby release and forever discharge Lehigh University, its trustees, employees and agents from and against any and all actions, causes of action, suits, damages, claims, and demands, on account of personal injury, including death, or any other cause whatsoever, which I may have by reason of or arising out of my participation in this program.

Further, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Lehigh University, its trustees, employees and agents from any and all causes of action, claims, demands, losses or costs of any nature whatsoever arising out of or in any way related to my participation in the program and my use of facilities, equipment, or services in association with the program. Lehigh University will not accept liability for any act I commit, willful or negligent, which results in damages or injury to persons or property, and I agree to undertake full reimbursement to the injured party should such damage or injury occur.

2. **RISK FACTORS:** I understand that my participation in this program involves risks not found in study at Lehigh University. These include risks inherent in traveling to, and returning from, one or more foreign countries; foreign political, legal, social, and economic conditions; different standards of design, safety, and maintenance of buildings, public places and conveyances; and local medical and weather conditions. I represent that I have made my own investigation and am willing to accept these risks.
3. **REPORTING OBLIGATIONS:** I agree to report to a program leader, host institution, and/or experience provider any serious physical, safety, personnel or other problems that I may encounter during the program. I understand that the University is not responsible and I agree to hold the University harmless for any claims, disputes, losses, damages, injuries, adverse events, or outcomes arising out of or caused by the host institution, experience provider, or internship, including but not limited to such claims, disputes, losses, damages, injuries, adverse events, and outcomes caused by their actions, inactions, or negligence, even if the University has been advised of the possibility of such.
4. **MEDICAL CONSULTATION:** I agree to consult with my personal physician about necessary immunizations and any other medical matters relating to my participation in an international program. I understand that I am strongly encouraged to disclose to the Study Abroad Office and/or program leaders any personal, physical, medical, and/or psychological or emotional concerns/issues I might have which would, without reasonable accommodation, prevent me from performing my responsibilities on my program. I understand that if I have a disability which requires reasonable accommodation by the

program provider, I will advise the program leader at a time sufficiently prior to the commencement of the program to allow the program leaders/providers to make reasonable accommodations.

5. **PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION & MEETINGS:** I understand that I am required to attend and complete all mandatory pre-departure orientations and meetings with the Office of International Programs/Study Abroad and Program Leaders.
6. **ATTENDANCE:** I agree to attend the program in accordance with its established location and schedule, including all orientations, meetings, classes, excursions, and exams on campus and abroad. I agree to complete all University requirements/assignments associated with my program.
7. **INDEPENDENT TRAVEL, ABSENCES, FREE TIME:** I understand that Lehigh is not responsible for my welfare or liable for my actions during periods of independent travel, absences from the program, or free time. Free time means any time(s) when students are not under the direction or supervision of the program or its agents.
8. **PROGRAM MODIFICATION:** If necessary, Lehigh reserves the right to change or modify any arrangement concerning the location and/or content of the program.
9. **PAYMENTS AND BILLING:** I will pay all tuition, fees and charges due according to the regularly scheduled billing by Lehigh and I am responsible for the timely payment of all other charges incurred by me or on my behalf in connection with my participation in the program.
10. **HEALTH AND SAFETY; INSURANCE:** Lehigh reserves the right to make such decisions and take such actions that it believes are necessary to maintain my health and safety, and I shall not hold Lehigh responsible for such decisions or actions. I fully understand the insurance programs described in Sections C.1 and C.2 above.
11. **AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES:** I hereby authorize Lehigh, its faculty, staff and agents, at their discretion and without obtaining any further consent, to arrange medical services and treatment as may be deemed necessary for me at my/my parents' and/or guardians' sole risk and expense. If deemed necessary or desirable by Lehigh, I may be returned to the United States by commercial airline or other means at my expense for medical treatment.
12. **RULES, STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT:** I will, at all times, act responsibly and comply with the policies, rules, standards, and instructions for student conduct and behavior of Lehigh and the host institution(s). Lehigh will enforce appropriate standards of conduct and may terminate my participation in the program for failure to maintain these standards or for any actions or conduct which Lehigh considers incompatible with the interest, harmony, comfort or welfare of participants. Unacceptable conduct includes, but is not limited to, unauthorized absence from the program, harassment, assault, vandalism, public disturbance, gambling, solicitation, and any illegal activity.

I understand and agree to be bound by the rules and policies of Lehigh University and, in particular, the Student Code of Conduct as well as those of my host institution(s).
13. **ALCOHOL AND OTHER SUBSTANCES:** Lehigh will not tolerate alcohol or drug abuse (by U.S. definition, or that of any other country visited) and/or excess. I understand that if I am impaired and cannot fully participate in expected classroom attendance, group activities, excursions, and/or my conduct is disruptive or incompatible with the program purpose and objectives, Lehigh and/or the host program may require my immediate termination from the program and I will return to the United States.

14. **REMOVAL FROM PROGRAM:** If my program participation is terminated, Lehigh shall have the right to require me to leave the program and return to the United States without refunding my tuition or fees and without academic credit (if I return prior to the program end date). If Lehigh directs me to return to the United States, I agree to cooperate and abide by such direction and cover all associated costs.
15. **UNFORSEEN COSTS:** I understand that I am responsible for any additional unforeseen costs (e.g., housing, board, travel fees) associated with my participation in the program in the event of an emergency that detains me outside of the program and/or planned program dates. I am responsible for the purchase of trip interruption/cancellation insurance.
16. **DAMAGE; THEFT:** I accept full responsibility for any damage/theft, losses, or charges associated with my housing or other accommodations or the common areas or grounds of the host institution and its equipment including, but not limited to, telephones, vending machines, washers and dryers.
17. **EMERGENCY CONTACTS:** I agree that the Lehigh Study Abroad Office staff may distribute information about my participation in a study abroad program to the parent or guardian whom I have designated as my emergency contact. I further agree that such staff may discuss my academic and disciplinary records for the purpose of ensuring my continued health, safety, and student status, as it pertains to my study abroad experience.
18. **AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE OF COPYRIGHTS:** I grant permission to Lehigh to use my photograph, likeness or comments in any medium for educational, promotional, or any other purpose in furtherance of the non-profit missions of the University.