Study Abroad Agreement

The Catholic University of America ("University") participates in a variety of voluntary study and/or travel abroad programs ("Program"). As you decide whether to participate in a Program, the University would like to make you aware that international travel involves risks that are not found while studying on the University’s campus. For this reason, it is important for participants and their parents to understand the risk and to make an informed decision when considering participation in a Program that involves travel abroad. The University requires participants (as well as a parent/guardian if the student is under age 18) to sign this Agreement before embarking on any Program.

It is imperative that this document be read carefully as this Agreement contains a release of legal rights and claims. Your electronic signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions covered in this Agreement.

I, ___________________________ [name], intend to participate in the University's Program during the ___________________ [term, year] Term. In consideration for the University allowing my participation in this voluntary Program, I agree to the following:

ASSUMPTION OF RISK:
I understand that I am not required by the University to participate in this Program and that there are certain risks inherent in international travel and the Program. I also understand that I am responsible for my health, safety, and welfare abroad and that the University or any employee, faculty, agent, or contractor of the University cannot guarantee my health, safety, and/or welfare.

I am aware that risks include, but are not limited to, travel to and within foreign countries; foreign political, legal, social, economic, and security conditions; different standards of design, safety, and maintenance of buildings, public places, and conveyances; local weather and natural disasters; terrorist activity; exposure to contaminated food; and the standard of or access to medical care. I also am aware that there may be other risks not known or not reasonably foreseeable. I understand that these risks can lead to property loss or damage and/or suffering minor, serious, and catastrophic physical and emotional injuries, including death.

I understand and accept all of these risks and I voluntarily assume such risks. [Please initial: ___]

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION:
I knowingly agree to release, waive, defend, indemnify, and forever discharge the University, its agents, employees, officers, and trustees from any and all claims or liability for injury or damages (including loss or damage to property) arising from or attributable to my participation in the Program, including any
activities I may engage in during my free time, unless it is due to willful misconduct or gross negligence on the part of the University. (Please initial: _____)

**INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY OR TRAVEL:**
I understand that the University is not responsible for any injury or loss that occurs when I am traveling independently or otherwise separated or absent from any University-sponsored activities. I also understand that the University will not approve, sponsor, or be involved in any way with independent activity or travel. Further, I accept all risks for such travel and activities and understand that such undertakings will be solely at my expense. (Please initial: _____)

**INSURANCE:**
During the Program, I agree to maintain adequate domestic medical insurance to meet any and all medical costs, including hospital payments. I take full responsibility for knowledge and understanding of any limitations in my University-provided international insurance policy, medical and otherwise, that pertain to travel abroad. If I am an international student traveling to my home country, I agree to inform the CUA Office of Education Abroad prior to my departure. I understand that my University-provided international insurance policy may not apply while I am in my home country. If I am an international student traveling to my home country, I agree to inform the CUA Office of Education Abroad prior to my departure. I understand that my University-provided international insurance policy may not apply while I am in my home country and that I am responsible for procuring insurance that will cover me if the CUA insurance is not applicable. (Please initial: ______).

**MEDICAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT:**
I warrant to the University that I have consulted to any extent necessary with a medical doctor with regard to my personal medical needs and represent that there are not health related-reasons or problems which preclude my participation in this Program. I have been given a chance to submit a health information form that can be used in case of illness or other medical emergency while abroad. I have received all of the vaccinations and taken all medical precautions recommended by the US Department of State and Centers for Disease Control for travel to the country I will be visiting. I understand that in the event I am injured or become ill, I may not be able to expect the same access to or level of medical treatment in a foreign country as I might in the United States. I also understand that the University does not assume any legal or financial responsibility for medical care or the payment of medical costs and that I am solely responsible for the cost of any medical care rendered to me during the Program.

I authorize the University or its agents to secure whatever emergency treatment is deemed necessary, including admission to a hospital, the administration of anesthetics, the transfusion of blood, and/or surgery. The University assumes no responsibility for any damage which might arise out of or in connection with such authorized emergency treatment. (Please initial: _____)

**DEPOSIT PROGRAM AND FEE:**
In order to reserve my space on the program, I authorize the processing of my deposit check. I understand that the deposit becomes nonrefundable at the time of processing, and that the program balance is subject to the CUAbroad Cancellation and Withdrawal Policy.

I further understand that the program fee represents a good-faith estimate and may be subject to change. I understand that the airfare provider, according to contract terms, may impose additional mandatory fuel surcharges prior to departure, and that unfavorable currency conversion rates may result in the imposition of an additional mandatory fee by the land package provider. (Please initial: ____)

**CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION:**
1. I will accept responsibility for my own decisions and actions.

2. I certify that I am covered by a valid domestic insurance plan for the duration of the Program.

3. I understand that I am responsible for obtaining a passport, ISIC card, and any other travel documents necessary for participating in the Program.

4. I agree to assume responsibility for all the mandatory elements necessary for my personal preparation for the Program, including but not limited to the completion of all supplementary forms and materials; full participation in the pre-departure orientations conducted by the Program faculty and staff; and any on-site orientations.

5. I agree to take all reasonable steps to educate myself about the conditions and risks specific to the location of and the specific activities to be undertaken during the Program, including, but not limited to reviewing:
   - The U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings, and alerts, if any (found here: http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html);
   - The U.S. Centers for Disease Control Health Information for Travelers, if any (found here: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel);
   - Reputable published travel guides.

6. I have given serious consideration to my health and other personal circumstances when accepting a place in the Program.

7. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to keep my parents/guardians/emergency contact informed on an ongoing basis about my participation in the Program, as well as to provide them with emergency contact information. Furthermore, I give the University permission to inform my designated parent/guardian/emergency contact in the event of an emergency or my dismissal from the Program.

8. I understand that I will be required to pay all costs associated with my travel to and from the point of airport departure in the United States.

9. I agree to provide payment for mandatory “on-the-ground” expenses during the Program. I understand that amounts for such expenses quoted in dollars represent only good-faith estimates of actual charges to be incurred in local currency and that currency exchange rates may affect my actual costs. I further understand that any personal expenses accrued outside of mandatory expenses or Program activities are fully my responsibility.

10. Because I represent the University, I understand that a high standard of conduct and level of personal responsibility is expected on overseas study and/or travel programs. I understand that I am obligated to comply with local laws and customs while overseas, though not necessarily enjoying the same privileges as the host country nationals. I recognize that my conduct can have an effect on the educational and institutional benefits intended by the Program for other participants, hosts, and myself.

11. I agree to comply with the Conditions of Participation and to follow the University’s Code of Student Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook. I understand that infractions of the Conditions of Participation or Code of Student Conduct will result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to immediate dismissal from the Program and/or sanctions by the University Student Conduct and Ethical Development Office.

12. I understand that conduct considered unacceptable to the University includes, but is not limited to, illegal or excessive use of alcohol; loud or abusive behavior toward others; sexual harassment; criminal conduct of any kind; failure to comply with University Policies or with these Conditions of Participation; and unwillingness to cooperate with hosts and Program management. Such conduct, as well as any other conduct which may be damaging to the Program, other participants, working relations with governments, and the University’s educational partners, may lead to my dismissal from the Program. I understand that acceptable behavior standards apply at all times while I am overseas.
13. I understand that determinations about unacceptable behavior and conduct as well as any
discipline or sanctions will be made in the discretion of the University and its agents, its host
institutions and/or any travel and lodging facilities.
14. I understand that the University upholds a zero-tolerance drug policy on its overseas studies
programs and that the purchase, sale, possession and/or use of drugs other than medicine legally
prescribed to me will lead to my immediate dismissal from the Program. Dismissal under the
zero-tolerance policy carries no right of appeal.
15. I understand that disciplinary dismissal from the Program while it is in progress will result in
immediate removal from the Program and its housing. I understand that there will be no refund
and I am responsible for all expenses incurred returning to the United States. Should I choose to
remain abroad, I understand and agree that it will be entirely at my own risk and expense.
16. I understand that CUA insurance will end the date the program ends or the date on which I
withdraw from a program (whether or not it is voluntary), whichever is sooner. If the insurance
ends due to an early termination, I understand that I am strongly encouraged to purchase my own
insurance.
17. I understand that CUA insurance will end the date the program ends or the date on which I
withdraw from a program (whether or not it is voluntary), whichever is sooner. If the insurance
ends due to an early termination, I understand that I am strongly encouraged to purchase my own
insurance.
18. I agree to comply fully with the rules of the University and its agents, its host institutions and/or
any travel and lodging facilities.
(Please initial: _____)

OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES OVERSEAS:
I understand that I am not permitted to rent, borrow, or operate a private motor vehicle of any kind
during my participation in this Program. "Private motor vehicles" include, but are not limited to, rental
cars, motorcycles, motorbikes, motor scooters, and mopeds. Such conduct may lead to my dismissal
from the Program under the terms expressed. I understand that this standard extends to those times
when I may be separated from other members of the Program. (Please initial: _____)

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONSENT AND RELEASE:
The University periodically uses photos and notes about the summer abroad program activities in
publicity for the program. I authorize the University to (a) record my likeness and voice on video, audio,
photographic, digital, electronic and other mediums; and, (b) use, reproduce, exhibit or distribute these
recordings as the University deems appropriate, including for promotional or advertising efforts.
(Please initial: _____)

GENERAL PROVISIONS:
I understand that I bear full legal and financial responsibility for participation in the Program, including
responsibility for all indebtedness or other legal obligations incurred while a Program participant. I
understand that individual program features may be subject to change without prior notice.

I also understand that in making arrangements for my participation, the University will make advance
payments on my behalf for land travel, a lodging package, and other expenses associated with the
program. I hereby acknowledge financial and academic responsibility for participation in the program
indicated above, and agree to the terms of the CUAbroad Cancellation and Withdrawal Policy.

I further understand that my agreement to the provisions contained in this Agreement is wholly
voluntary. I am at least eighteen years of age or, if not, that I have secured below the signature of my
parent or guardian as well as my own. (Please initial: _____)
This Agreement contains the release of legal rights and claims. Please read and consider carefully before signing.

Student Signature:_______________________________ Date: __________

If the participant is under 18 years of age, this form must be submitted as a hardcopy with a signature from the student’s parent or guardian.