

## **Rhode Island College Study Abroad COVID-19 Acknowledgement Form**

The public health risk from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic is real. It is known to spread very quickly via person-to-person transmission and may spread without any obvious symptoms. As Rhode Island College continues to respond to this pandemic, we are taking precautions based upon applicable federal, state and local regulations and guidelines to minimize the spread of the virus. However, this is a collective and unified effort, with everyone sharing in the obligation to do their part to be, and stay, safe.

Participation in Rhode Island College study abroad involves a real and potential risk of personal injury including contracting COVID-19, as well as the loss of academic credits and financial repercussions resulting from the disruption of a program.

As a participant in a study abroad program, I have been advised and I acknowledge that:

- Rhode Island College will not be financially liable for unrecoverable program fees, return travel costs, or other personal expenditures lost as a result of my program's cancellation, interruption or alteration.
- Rhode Island College will not be able to provide academic accommodations if my program is cancelled interrupted or otherwise altered. I understand and acknowledge that cancellation, interruption or alteration of a study abroad program after the add/drop date may result in the loss of an entire semester's worth of credit, and that any academic accommodations provided by the study-abroad program, if offered, may not be accepted by Rhode Island College.
- I understand and acknowledge that my study-abroad program or host university may modify or interrupt in-person teaching and move to remote or online instruction with little or no notice to respond to surges in COVID-19 infection rates or in response to local government instructions or otherwise.
- Rhode Island College will not be able to provide residential accommodations or quarantine arrangements in the event of the cancellation or interruption of my program. I understand and acknowledge that I am solely responsible for procuring my own residential accommodations should I be ordered to quarantine or self-isolate while attending my study-abroad program unless such arrangements are provided by my host program or university.
- Insurance coverage provided by Rhode Island College does not cover evacuation or other accommodations due to disruption to travel plans resulting from a pandemic unless I have specifically procured and confirmed such coverage. Coverage does include medical expenses resulting from the treatment of COVID-19 but does not extend to losses for travel and accommodation expenses unless I have specifically procured such coverage. I understand and acknowledge that I am solely responsible for these expenses. I am aware that coverages may be available for COVID-19 related expenses that may not otherwise be covered, (*e.g. additional room and board, flight adjustments*) and I acknowledge that procuring any such coverage or similar coverage is my responsibility if I choose.

- A study abroad program, host institution, or local government entity may require me to quarantine upon arrival to their destination, and that this quarantine accommodation will be at my own expense if not provided by my host institution. I understand that I must account for any quarantine requirements in planning my travel and that it is my responsibility to do so. I understand that such quarantine requirements may be imposed in a timeframe that may interfere with my planned study abroad.
- I understand and acknowledge that upon return from my time abroad I may be required to quarantine, and the details and costs of such arrangements are solely my responsibility. I understand that any such quarantine requirements may interfere with my post-study-abroad plans and may be imposed in a timeframe that may interfere with my planned post-study-abroad activities.
- I understand and acknowledge that a study abroad program, host institution, or local government entity may impose requirements upon me, including but not limited to, to submit to testing regimes, provide reports on body- temperature readings, share travel and contact information upon request, and submit to self-isolation and/or quarantine at any point during my program.
- I understand and acknowledge that arrangements for continuity of care and/or treatment of any existing medical or mental health conditions are my responsibility and should be made prior to the start of my program and should account for possible travel restrictions, lockdowns and/or complications from COVID-19 that may be related to applicable comorbidities.
- I understand and acknowledge that US Consular Services and American Citizen Services may be unavailable, restricted, or cancelled without notice, in my program's destination.
- I understand and acknowledge that cancellations and disruptions to travel arrangements, as well as local and national lockdowns may limit or adversely impact my ability to arrive to – or depart from – my program, as well as possibly inhibit my movement within my program's country. I understand that I must account for such circumstances in planning my travel and that it is my responsibility to do so. I understand that such circumstances may occur in a timeframe that may interfere with my planned study abroad. I understand that I am responsible for any additional expenses resulting from such circumstances.
- I am aware that travel advice is available from multiple sources, including <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> and <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/> and that travel may be restricted or prohibited by governmental entities such that my study abroad plans or plans to return from study abroad may be impacted. I understand that such circumstances may occur in a timeframe that may interfere with my planned study abroad or planned return from study abroad. I understand that I am responsible for any additional expenses resulting from such circumstances.

- I understand and acknowledge that it is in my best interest to plan one or more contingencies for early departure, pack accordingly, and monitor local news and reliable and reputable information sources to ensure that I am fully informed and aware of the situation in my program's location.

By digitally signing, I confirm that I have read the above COVID-19 Acknowledgement Form, fully understand the terms, and agree to be legally bound by them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name