

## **I. ISEP GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY ABROAD**

ISEP guidelines for student health and safety are based on the principles of trust and responsibility. Established since 1979, ISEP has built a network of member institutions in nearly 35 countries, including the United States, which agree to the same Terms of Participation relating to student exchanges. These institutions and the ISEP central office share responsibility for monitoring local and national conditions affecting student safety and providing relevant information to ISEP participants. Participants themselves are responsible for becoming familiar with all materials provided and for following safety guidelines given by ISEP and by host institutions.

ISEP cannot guarantee student safety or eliminate all risks associated with a stay abroad. However, ISEP will not send students to countries where, based on information available to ISEP, conditions pose a risk that ISEP deems unreasonable. ISEP makes every effort to provide students the information that they need to make responsible decisions about their participation in and conduct during an exchange.

In developing the following guidelines, ISEP wishes to acknowledge the work of the Inter-organizational Task Force on Health and Safety in Study Abroad (January 1999). ISEP has drawn on the guidelines produced by the Task Force in developing these principles for ISEP exchanges.

Specific responsibilities for the ISEP Central Office, member institutions, participants and family members are outlined below:

### **I. ISEP Central Office**

1. Provides written information on safety, health, legal, environmental, political, and cultural conditions in the country where the participant's host institution is located ("Host Country"), as well as general guidelines for safety abroad.
2. Requires participants to enroll in ISEP's health insurance, which includes medical evacuation and repatriation. In cases where enrollment in a national, state or provincial health plan is required, ISEP advises students to obtain appropriate additional coverage (evacuation, repatriation, travel outside Host Country).
3. Maintains good communication among all relevant parties in cases of serious health problems, injury, or other significant health and safety circumstances.
4. Provides an emergency contact number for use in the event of a serious condition affecting an ISEP participant's health or safety.
5. Provides training and information on health and safety issues to coordinators through the ISEP Conference, the Coordinators' Manual and other sources as appropriate.

### **II. The Home Institution**

1. Considers relevant physical and mental health factors and other conditions, such as disciplinary history, when selecting students for participation in ISEP exchanges.
2. Provides pre-departure orientation to participants, emphasizing student responsibility for reviewing information provided by ISEP and alerting them to differences between home campus services and conditions abroad.

### **III. The Host Institution**

1. Informs participants about general safety issues with special emphasis on local conditions and customs through orientation on arrival and written materials as appropriate.
2. Monitors the safety of student housing and informs students about conditions that may entail a different level of personal responsibility than conditions at home.
3. Provides information to students on available medical and professional services and emergency contacts.

4. Communicates promptly with ISEP Central in case of major emergencies involving student health and safety.
5. Advises students and informs ISEP Central in the event of civil unrest, including campus strikes, or natural disasters.
6. Assists students who have been victims of a crime and need to contact police or other authorities
7. Passes on to students travel warning messages sent by ISEP or home institution.

#### **IV. ISEP Participants**

1. Assess the risk to safety of being in the Host Country.
2. Read and carefully consider all materials issued by ISEP and the host institution relating to safety, health, legal, environmental, political, and cultural conditions in host countries.
3. Consider their health and other personal circumstances when applying for or accepting an ISEP exchange placement.
4. Make available to ISEP accurate and complete physical and mental health information and any other personal data necessary in planning for a safe and healthy study abroad experience\*).
5. Assume responsibility for their personal preparation for the program and for participating fully in orientations.
6. Enroll in health insurance as stipulated under section I, item 2 above and abide by any conditions imposed by the carriers.
7. Inform parents / guardians / families, and any others who may need to know, about their participation in an ISEP exchange, provide them with emergency contact information, and keep them informed on an ongoing basis.
8. Understand and comply with the terms of participation, codes of conduct, and emergency procedures of ISEP and the host institution, and obey host-country laws.
9. Be aware of local conditions and customs that may present health or safety risks when making daily choices and decisions. Promptly express any health or safety concerns to the host institution ISEP coordinator or other appropriate individuals.
10. Behave in a manner that is respectful of the rights and well-being of others, and encourage others to behave in a similar manner.
11. Accept responsibility for their own decisions and actions.
12. Become familiar with procedures for obtaining emergency health and law enforcement services in the Host Country.
13. Seek assistance from the ISEP coordinator if problems occur that seriously affect their well-being.
14. Inform host institution of travel plans during exchange period.

#### **V. Parents / guardians / families**

1. Assess the risk to the participant's safety of being in the Host Country
2. Be involved in the decision of the participant to apply for and accept an ISEP exchange.
3. Review the health and safety information and guidelines provided by ISEP and engage the participant in a thorough discussion of safety and behavior issues, insurance needs, and emergency procedures related to living abroad.

\* Before their departure, all ISEP participants are required to complete the *ISEP Medical Form—Student Self-Assessment*, which they receive upon confirmation. The information provided in the assessment will be used primarily to guide the host coordinator and the ISEP central office in making appropriate arrangements for the participant.

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