



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Global Engagement

NON-CREDIT EXPERIENCE ABROAD SITE ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

There are a wide variety of international opportunities available to students, and it can be overwhelming to try to understand which options might be best suited for your interests, needs, and capabilities. One way to assess a potential opportunity is by answering the questions outlined below. In choosing to participate in a Non-Credit Experience Abroad, you must be mindful of your legal and ethical responsibility to only engage in activities for which you have the appropriate training and supervision.

Mentorship/Supervision

- Who will mentor/supervise students?
- How accessible are these mentors/supervisors? How often will students meet them?
- Are the mentors/supervisors available for students during non-work hours in an emergency? If not, who is available?
- Is the mentor/supervisor authorized and/or able to train and mentor/supervise students?
- In what ways will the students participate in the program/project?
- Is the project/program/partnership sustainable for several years?
- Are there contributions that students can make to the overall agenda/mission of the site?

Site Information

- Do students need a visa to live/work in the country?
- Are there any US Department of State travel advisories, alerts, or messages?
- What recent news or events have taken place? Is there any political instability or ongoing unrest?
- What language skills are needed?
- What are the local attitudes related to dress (for both men and women)?
- What are the local customs and attitudes about women and men interacting and socializing?
- What are the local attitudes related to sexual orientation? Is it safe to be "out"?
- Are there any local areas or activities that may be high risk?
- What are local attitudes toward alcohol?
- Are any U.S. prescription drugs illegal?
- Are there any safety considerations or notes for travelers in regards to gender, sexual orientation, religion, race or ethnicity?
- Any concerns regarding wild animals? Landmines? Malaria or other 'tropical' diseases?

Transportation

- How much does airfare cost?
- How will students get to and from the arrival airport?
- How will students get to the site from their home? To shopping areas?
- Is local transportation safe?
- How much will local transportation cost?
- If the program students are working with provides transportation, what type of transportation is it?
- Will students be traveling at night? What risks are involved with night travel?

Housing

- Is there housing affiliated with the site/program available to students? Is it an individual room, shared room, co-ed, etc.?
- If not, how will students find housing? Are there realtors, or websites, or other ways to find appropriate housing?
- What is included in the cost of housing? Electricity, heating, cooling, internet, etc.?
- Do students need to pay a security deposit or some other type of deposit?
- Are there unsafe areas the students should avoid?
- Are there furnished apartments available?

- Are students allowed to have visitors in their rooms? What are the local customs about having men visit women in their rooms—even as friends?
- Can students bring their partner, spouse, or children?
- What is the standard cost of housing in the area?
- Is there a security guard on-site 24/7?
- Is there secure building access via key/card?
- Is there a secure place to keep your valuable belongings and documents?
- Will students have easy access to supermarkets, local stores, restaurants, and/or a kitchen?
- What are the bathroom and bathing facilities like? Is it possible to dispose of personal hygiene items such as feminine products?

Health, Safety, and Security

- Who can Drexel University contact in country in case of an emergency?
- In case of an emergency, what will the students do? Who will the students contact?
- Are there health safety risks associated with the project (infectious disease exposure, etc.)? How will the students safeguard themselves from these risks?
- In case of a medical emergency, how would the students access health care? Who would the students contact?
- Can the students walk alone at night? Is it safe at night to walk in groups?
- Will carrying a phone, camera, wallet, etc., put the students at risk?
- Is there a safe food and water source?
- Is there reliable access to phones and internet in country? At the site?
- Can students get affordable cell phones in the area?
- Will students need to bring their own computers, or will they have access to computers at the site?
- Will having a laptop or tablet PC compromise the students' safety?

Pre-Departure

- What kind of paperwork is required for participation?
- Is there a handbook and/or pre-departure meeting to prepare students for the experience?
- What is the timeline for securing any vaccinations or medications?
- Is it possible to talk with past participants of this program?

Money

- What are the fees associated with the program (deposits, program fees, airfare, etc.)? What is the timeline for payment?
- If it is a program, what is covered in the program fee? What additional costs should participants expect?
- What is the refund policy for withdrawal from the program?
- How can students get access to cash, ATMs, or banks? Do most places take credit cards?
- What is the local currency? Is it possible to use dollars?

Global Health Program Considerations

- Is the student's preceptor an M.D. or certified to be a preceptor?
- Will student have access to the appropriate medical equipment to ensure their safety (gloves, masks, kits, etc.)?
- Will the student be put into a situation where they will be asked to perform a task beyond their training?
- What pre-departure preparation will the student have to make sure they understand the ethical guidelines and best practices for participating in a global health activity?
- Since DUCOM students are **not** covered under the University's medical malpractice policy during a vacation term or an EDGE year, what steps will the student need to take to ensure the health and safety of the patients they interact with abroad?