Form 2: International Site Assessment--Considerations

We want your global experience to be healthy and safe. Below is a list of items to consider prior to your travel. Please investigate and answer all questions (as much as you can) and bring with you to your initial meeting with Dr. Varjavand. You will ultimately need all answers completed for the final approval.

Elective

- Find out if the program can offer a position and what the application process entails;
- Are there any requirements/pre-requisites?
- What is the timeline for the application process, deadlines, etc?
- Who will provide orientation on your first day?

Your answer:

Transportation

- What is cost for airfare?
- What will you do if you need to leave the country in an emergency?
- Consider obtaining flight travel insurance
- How will you get to and from the site upon arrival at the airport? What if you arrive late at night?
- What will you do if your baggage is lost? Consider carrying a backpack with essentials.
- How will you get to the site from your home? To shopping areas?
- Is local transportation safe?
  - What is the quality of roads, vehicles, ...
- How much will transportation cost?

Your answers:

Immigration

- Do you need a visa? Do you need a particular visa as a visiting student for an elective?
- At your site, where is the nearest US embassy or consulate?
General Site Information

- 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 socialization with the opposite sex?
- What are local attitudes toward alcohol?
- Are any U.S. prescription drugs illegal? Make sure you can take your medications with you.
- Are there any safety considerations or notes for travelers in regards to gender, sexual orientation, religion, race or ethnicity?
- Any concerns regarding wild animals? Infections? Landmines? Violence?

Safety

- Can you walk: alone? at night? In groups?
- Will carrying a phone, camera, wallet, etc., put you at risk?
- Are there any areas to avoid?

Food and Water

- Is there a safe food and water source?
- Will you have easy access to supermarkets, local stores, restaurants, and/or a kitchen?

Housing

- Is there housing affiliated with the site/program? Single, shared, or co-ed?
- If not, how will you 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 you need to pay a security deposit or some other type of deposit?
- Are there unsafe areas to avoid?
- Are there furnished apartments?
• Are you allowed to have visitors in your rooms? What are the local customs about having the opposite sex in the rooms—even as friends?
• 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?

Your answers:

Money
• How can you get access to cash, ATMs, or banks? Do most places take credit cards?
• What is the local currency? Is it possible to use dollars?
• How much money will you take with you?
• If it is a program, what is covered in the program fee? What additional costs should you expect?
• What is the refund policy for withdrawal from the program?

Your answers:

Communication
• Is there reliable access to phones and internet at the site?
• How can you contact us in an emergency?
• Can you get affordable cell phones in the area?
• Will you need to bring your own computer, or will they have access to computers at the site?
  o Will having a laptop or tablet PC compromise your safety?
• Will you need a computer to complete your work?

Your answers: