

**UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

To: Parents of students participating in Notre Dame Study Abroad Programs

From: Kathleen Opel, Director, OIS

Re: Independent Travel, Safety, and International Study

In the process of planning for next year, we ask you to consider the traveling that your son or daughter expects to do prior to, during and subsequent to his or her academic semester or year abroad. In light of recent world events we encourage all students pursuing independent travel to monitor travel advisories and relevant safety information issued by the U.S. Department of State (<http://travel.state.gov/>).

In programs where Notre Dame maintains on-site staff, students are asked to inform the local Director of intended destinations if travel plans will take them out of the vicinity of the host city for more than a day. This is done on a voluntary basis as a matter of courtesy in keeping with the spirit of Notre Dame's international study. This measure implies no assumption of responsibility on the University's part for the student's safety. Except for group trips planned by University personnel or their agents, students *make their own decisions* with regard to destinations, route, accommodations, and modes of transportation used in independent travel. They are therefore responsible for their own safety during these excursions.

The University does not permit students enrolled in international study programs to own, rent or operate cars while abroad – with the exception of trips with visiting parents. We strongly discourage hitchhiking, and note that long-distance bicycle riding and motorcycling are activities that have proven to be hazardous to U.S. students abroad due to differences in driving habits and rules of the road.

Please remember that independent travel should take place during vacation periods only. Absence from classes or other extracurricular program events will not be excused for travel regardless of its potential 'educational' benefit.

Only *one* round-trip ticket to the study abroad site is provided whether the student studies abroad for the semester or the entire academic year. Accommodations and travel during the break period are the student's responsibility.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would discuss issues relating to travel and travel safety with your son or daughter. Please list below any restrictions you might suggest on travel, and return this form as soon as possible to the Office of International Studies, 152 or 153 Hurley Bldg., Notre Dame, IN 46556

Signature of parent _____

Signature of student _____

Printed name of student _____

Program _____

Date _____

08/08

Return form to OIS Office: 152 or 153 Hurley Building, Notre Dame, IN 46556