

COVID-19 WAIVER AND COVID-19 BEHAVIORAL PLEDGE

COVID-19 WAIVER

Union College is looking forward to your participation in off-campus study for the 2021-2022 academic year. While Union College, the International Programs Office, Union College International Programs Faculty Leaders, third party Academic Program Providers, and host universities (collectively referred to as “Academic Program Provider”), as well as foreign governments and the host communities will do all that they can to maintain a reasonably safe and secure environment, the COVID-19 pandemic still present risks. This waiver asks students to understand and acknowledge the risks and responsibilities inherent in both international travel and studying off-campus during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Please Read Carefully Before Signing:

- I understand and acknowledge that my decision to participate in an off-campus Academic Program is voluntary and that by committing to attend an off-campus study Academic Program for the 2021-2022 academic year, I am voluntarily assuming any and all risks.
- I understand that I must show evidence that I have received the COVID-19 vaccination; however, I also understand that there is no current cure and vaccinations may not provide 100% protection against the virus or its known mutations. COVID-19 can present a serious health risk and Academic Program Provider cannot guarantee my health or immunity from infection.
- I acknowledge that, notwithstanding the best efforts of the Academic Program Provider to implement and require compliance with prevention and mitigation measures, I may be exposed to the coronavirus and may become ill with COVID-19, and that such exposure and illness may result in personal injury, illness, temporary or permanent disability, or even death.
- I understand and agree that it is my responsibility to consult a healthcare provider to discuss my medical history and the risk presented in participating in off-campus study.
- I understand and acknowledge that scientists and medical professionals, including the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have concluded that people of any age are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. I have reviewed the CDC website for the exhaustive list of medical conditions that may result in higher risk.
- I understand and acknowledge that the COVID-19 virus is and / or may be active in my location of study. Therefore, there is a risk of exposure from symptomatic and asymptomatic carriers by electing to study at the Academic Program location. Furthermore, I understand that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected certain racial and ethnic minority groups. I acknowledge that this may be relevant and have an impact on the local community in which I have chosen to study.
- I acknowledge that the host government, local community, and Academic Program Provider will implement various prevention and mitigation measures including, but not limited to, health screening and

testing, social distancing, use of face-coverings, personal hygiene requirements, travel restrictions, contact tracing, and possible periods of quarantine or self-isolation.

- I acknowledge that it is my responsibility, as an Academic Program participant and member of the community, to comply with any and all prevention and mitigation measures.
- Further, I acknowledge that my failure to comply with any required actions relating to such prevention and mitigation efforts will lead to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the Academic Program.
- I understand that government entities, as well as the Academic Program Provider, may implement requirements for the Academic Program and / or Academic Program location. These requirements can include, but are not limited to, the requirement to provide a negative COVID-19 test before being able to depart for the Academic Program and / or quarantining upon arrival in my location of study. I further understand that Union College stipulates that I be vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to participate on the Academic Program. I understand that Union College has made available COVID-19 vaccinations; if I do not elect to obtain a vaccination through Union College, I understand and accept that it will be my responsibility to secure and pay for any required testing or vaccinations prior to my departure to my Academic Program location. Further, I acknowledge and accept that there may be a required period of self-isolation or quarantine upon arrival at my Academic Program location. I agree to comply with these requirements and acknowledge that if quarantine accommodations are not provided by my Academic Program Provider, it will be my responsibility to secure and pay for said accommodations.
- I understand and acknowledge that there are inherent risks involved in travel to and from my off-campus Academic Program location. I also understand that while the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), airports, and airlines have instituted policies to mitigate the risk from COVID-19, there are still opportunities for exposure to the virus during travel to and from my Academic Program and that it is my responsibility to research and review the safety procedures and protocols instituted by TSA, the airports, and airlines prior to commencing travel.
- I understand and accept that it is my responsibility to comply with any ongoing COVID-19 testing required by my Academic Program Provider.
- I understand and acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily, but significantly, altered the academic and residential experience of my off-campus Academic Program and that the Academic Program Provider is implementing many changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to, class scheduling, instructional methodology, classroom density, social distancing measures, housing occupancy and behavioral guidelines, and co-curricular and extra-curricular programming. I agree to accept these changes as part of my participation.
- I acknowledge that the Academic Program Provider may utilize various locations for instruction and co-curricular and extracurricular activities, thereby becoming an open campus. This limits the Academic Program Provider's ability to control who accesses said locations. Therefore, I recognize that the Academic Program Provider cannot limit all potential sources of COVID-19 infection.

- I understand and acknowledge that the risk of exposure to or infection by COVID-19 during the Academic Program may arise from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and / or others, including, but not limited to, Academic Program Provider's staff, faculty, students, volunteers and contractors.
- I acknowledge that I have the opportunity to contact the International Programs Office at Union College to discuss any risks associated with participating on my off-campus Academic Program. Furthermore, I understand that I can consult the websites of the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Department of State (DOS), as well as that of the local U.S. Embassy and the embassy of my host country to obtain information on COVID-19 in my planned location of study. If studying within the United States, I understand that I should consult both the state government website, as well as the local city government website for information on COVID-19. I acknowledge that I alone have to determine the sufficiency of any precautions that I am required or decide to take to minimize the risks of exposure and infection.
- I have not relied on representations or warranties from any party related to the Academic Program Provider, including any officer, staff person, faculty member, agent, volunteer, or student, regarding the safety or risks of participating on my off-campus Academic Program. I have relied instead on my own judgment as to whether to undertake the risks.
- I acknowledge that during my term off-campus the COVID-19 pandemic will likely be ongoing. Further, I understand that there may be a resurgence of the virus in my location of study. Academic Program Provider may determine for health, safety and / or security reasons that the Academic Program must suspend on-site operations and require students to return to their official places of residence. I acknowledge that if the Academic Program is suspended it may be my responsibility to secure and pay for all arrangements for my departure, including but not limited to airline change fees and fares, as well as temporary accommodations. I further acknowledge that the Academic Program Provider will put plans in place, to the best of their ability, to continue my Academic Program remotely.
- I understand and acknowledge that the United States government or that of my home country may institute additional requirements for entry back into the country after international travel. These requirements may include proof of a negative COVID-19 test and / or mandatory quarantine in a facility designated by the government. I understand that payment for any testing will be my sole responsibility. Furthermore, I understand and acknowledge that a positive COVID-19 test may result in my being denied boarding on a flight back to my home country. I acknowledge that should this occur, I may no longer be eligible to reside in Academic Program housing and may be required to secure and pay for my own quarantine accommodations until I am cleared to travel home.

COVID-19 BEHAVIORAL PLEDGE

Given the current global pandemic, students studying off-campus for the 2021-2022 academic year are required to commit to a conduct pledge with behavior directives meant to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Each country and region worldwide has developed and instituted its own approach to combating COVID-19. As cities and countries navigate ever-shifting circumstances, studying off-campus will require increased flexibility and patience as conditions, directives, and recommendations concerning COVID-19 may change regularly and rapidly during your time off-campus. You will need to be respectful of both your Academic Program Provider and local mandates. There may be a need for your Academic Program Provider to adjust class schedules, activities,

university, program center and / or housing protocols, and program center hours and occupancy based on their own or local requirements. It is important that each student comply with Academic Program Provider and government guidelines, rules and / or laws.

Off-Campus Study Student Conduct Pledge

As a student studying off-campus through Union College, I understand that coronavirus is a highly contagious virus and it is possible to develop and contract COVID-19 even if I follow all of the safety precautions in this pledge and those recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), local health department, and others. I understand that although my host Academic Program Provider is following the coronavirus guidelines issued by their local government and health experts to reduce the spread of infection, I can never be completely shielded from all risk of illness caused by COVID-19 or other infections.

Given this reality, I commit to the following principles to protect others and myself and to preserve the Academic Program Provider's living and learning environment. I commit to:

- Understanding how my actions affect others and considering how my choices could either protect or pose risks for all members of my Academic Program or host community, not just for myself;
- Acting at all times to protect all members of my Academic Program and host community. I will use the resources and power available to me, based on my identities, to be an engaged, educated and responsible member of my chosen community;
- Engaging in respectful communication regarding this pandemic. I will voice my own needs and risk tolerance and will listen to and respect the needs and risk tolerance of others;
- Erring on the side of caution and safety in my choices, knowing that is what is required to preserve the community; and
- Acknowledging that, as a student studying on a Union-approved off-campus Academic Program, I have a collective responsibility for the health and well-being of other Academic Program participants, faculty and staff, and host community members.

In addition, I commit to the specific behaviors outlined below to protect others and myself and to preserve the Academic Program's living and learning environment.

I understand that failure to adhere to these commitments can result in significant student conduct outcomes, **including removal from the Academic Program**. I acknowledge that as more is learned about the virus, additional behavioral commitments on my part may be required. I agree to adhere to any future change / additions to these commitments.

- I agree to wear a mask covering my nose and mouth at all times as required by the Academic Program Provider and / or local community. I acknowledge that the mask must meet the specifications of the Academic Program Provider and the local government and that the Academic Program Provider will inform me of specific circumstance when I can remove the mask.

- If I have a specific medical condition that affects my ability to wear a mask, I will immediately inform the Academic Program Provider so that they can determine if an accommodation can be granted during my Academic Program.
- I agree to respect other people's space and safety by maintaining appropriate social distance (at least 6 feet/1.83 meters).
- I agree to sneeze and cough into my elbow or cover my mouth and nose with a tissue and properly dispose of all tissues. I also agree to wash my hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds; if soap and warm water are not available, I will use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- I agree to follow the cleaning protocols set forth in all learning and living spaces. I also agree to respect and cooperate with the cleaning protocols posted in relation to student roles and the staff that are tasked with these responsibilities.
- I agree to comply with any restrictions on personal travel implemented by the Academic Program Provider, including any mandates to not travel outside the host city or region. I will avoid travel destinations with local health conditions that may negatively impact my studies and others within my Academic Program. I also agree to follow all Academic Program Provider travel protocols and requirements, including providing my travel itinerary to the Academic Program Provider; submitting all required travel documentation in the timeframe requested; immediately providing an updated itinerary to the Academic Program Provider if there are changes to my travel plans; and understanding any and all travel restrictions in place, as well as the current conditions in the location to which I will be travelling.
- Upon the conclusion of any personal travel, I agree to meet all applicable quarantine requirements independently prior to returning to my assigned Academic Program housing, in-person classes and Academic Program / university space, including covering costs for the required quarantine.
- I agree to comply with all relevant policies regarding guests and visitors in residential and Academic Program / university spaces.
- I agree to comply with any Academic Program Provider / university restrictions on informal student gatherings in all learning and living spaces.

During my term off-campus, I agree to the following:

- I agree to comply with any COVID-19 testing requirements instituted by Academic Program Provider.
- I agree not to engage in any behavior that poses a risk to the health or safety of myself or others, including close contact with individuals who are sick.
- If I test positive for COVID-19, I will comply with all directives from the Academic Program Provider / university, including participating in mandatory quarantine in order to reduce the risk to other members of the community. I will not engage in contact with other community members while knowingly positive for COVID-19. If I do so, **I understand that I will face significant student conduct outcomes, up to and including, removal from the Academic Program.**

- I agree to honestly and regularly self-screen for COVID-like symptoms throughout the Academic Program.
- I agree to immediately contact the Academic Program Provider if I think I have been exposed to or had close contact with (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from two days before illness onset) a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, whether I am having symptoms or not.
- I agree to immediately contact the Academic Program Provider if I have any COVID-like symptoms and to follow their directives regarding next steps.
- I agree not to attend classes, internships and Academic Program activities in person and to refrain from group settings when I am sick or exhibiting COVID-like symptoms.
- I understand that I may be required to report any positive test results to the local health authorities and / or communicate the results to the relevant Academic Program Provider administrators in order to facilitate needed safety measures. I further understand that contact tracing may be instituted and I agree to comply with this process by providing all required information. I understand that such contact tracing may require that other Academic Program participants are informed of their exposure through me.
- My Academic Program Provider will take seriously any violation of these expectations (i.e. hosting large scale gatherings, exposing others if I test positive, etc.) and I may face significant student conduct outcomes if found responsible for violations, **including removal from the Academic Program.**
- I agree to monitor Union College, International Programs Office, and host university issued email accounts on a daily basis.
- I agree to provide, and update when necessary, on-site Academic Program Provider and the International Program Office with my local contact information and that of my emergency contact(s).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the foregoing. I acknowledge that violation of the terms, commitments and agreements outlined above could result in **my immediate dismissal from the Academic Program.** I understand that if I am dismissed from the Academic Program, I will be sent home, at my own expense. If I am dismissed from the Academic Program, I will not earn credit nor be refunded any expenses that have been paid. I know that a decision to terminate my participation in the Academic Program is final and appeals are not allowed.

[] I have read, understand, acknowledge and agree to the foregoing. I affirmatively acknowledge that by checking this box I am entering into a legally binding agreement.