



Center for the Study of World Religions
Harvard Divinity School
42 Francis Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK AND GENERAL RELEASE FORM

THIS IS A RELEASE OF LEGAL RIGHTS – READ AND UNDERSTAND BEFORE SIGNING

“Harvard” is understood to refer to President and Fellows of Harvard College, Harvard University (including its constituent schools and departments) and its officers, employees, agents, and instructors.

I am a student at Harvard Divinity School (“School”) and have applied for and received funding from School for an internship in a foreign country or countries (the “Project”).

I have chosen to undertake the Project voluntarily. I was not required to travel to a foreign country or countries as a condition of receiving my degree from School. This form confirms my understanding of and agreement to the following:

1. Risks of International Travel. I understand that participation in the Project and international travel involves risks not found in study at Harvard. These include, without limitation, risks involved in traveling to and within, and returning from, international locations; foreign political, legal, medical, social and economic conditions; different standards of design, safety and maintenance of buildings, public places and conveyances; and local weather conditions. The country or countries to which I will travel may have health and safety standards that differ from those in the United States, and I recognize that I may be subjected to potential risks, illnesses, injuries and even death. I have made my own investigation of these risks, understand these risks and assume them knowingly and willingly.

I also acknowledge that in working, living and traveling in cities abroad, I may experience problems associated with urban living, including increased crime, pollution, high population density or standards of living and health standards that are different from those to which I am accustomed in the United States. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to take every precaution to safeguard my health and to protect my personal belongings from damage or theft. I acknowledge that Harvard recommends that I never travel alone, particularly at night. Being alone, especially at night, may present additional danger to my safety and well-being.

Although Harvard is providing funding and administrative assistance for the Project, Harvard’s evaluation of the placement has been solely on its academic merits. Among other things, Harvard is not in the position to evaluate, and therefore has not evaluated, whether the Project will take place in a safe and secure environment. These are judgments that I recognize I must independently make.

I have read and understood the information on the State Department website at: <http://www.state.gov/travelandbusiness> about the country or countries to which I am traveling, including the U.S. Department of State Consular Information Sheet and the State Department Travel Warnings (if applicable). I have also reviewed the CDC health advisory information relating to travel abroad found at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>. I understand that Harvard University Health Services provides traveler information and information regarding inoculations at <http://huhs.harvard.edu/hls/HLSServices.htm>.

For countries with U.S. State Department Warnings: [I am aware that there is a current U.S. State Department warning about one or more of the countries to which I am traveling, and I have read and understood this warning. I acknowledge that I have knowingly and voluntarily decided to go forward with my travel plans in connection with the Project despite this warning. I also have read and understood the U.S. Department of State Consular Information Sheet about the country or countries to which I am traveling (available on the State Department website at <http://travel.state.gov>).]

2. Health Insurance; Medical Care. I will carry valid and current medical insurance and have a valid insurance identity card to bring. I have reviewed my coverage and have determined that this insurance is adequate to cover injuries or illnesses that I may sustain while traveling abroad. I will be solely responsible for payment in full of all costs of medical care I may receive overseas. I am also aware that when I participate in this Project, I will be automatically enrolled in, but must register for, the International SOS Travel Assistance Program, which offers medical information and evacuation, emergency assistance including translation services, legal referrals, and general travel advice and is a supplement to, not a substitute for, health insurance. I have reviewed the information about International SOS, which can be found at: http://vpf-web.harvard.edu/rmas/4_insurance/IntnlSOS.html.

3. Standards of Conduct. I recognize that I assume an important personal obligation to conduct myself in a manner compatible with local laws and regulations, and with Harvard's policies for student conduct. I promise to act responsibly and will become informed of, and will abide by, all such laws, regulations and standards. I will comply with Harvard's policies, standards and instructions for student behavior as detailed in School's Student Handbook. I agree that Harvard has the right to enforce the standards of conduct described above.

4. Travel Arrangements. I understand that Harvard does not represent or act as an agent for, and cannot control the acts or omissions of, any host family, host employer, transportation carrier, hotel, tour organizer or other provider of food, goods or services involved in the Project. I understand that Harvard is not responsible for matters that are beyond its control, and that it cannot warrant the safety or convenience of the circumstances under which I will be living or working.

5. General Release. Knowing the risks described above, I agree, on behalf of my family, heirs and personal representative(s), to assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding my participation in the Project. To the maximum extent permitted by law, I release, hold harmless and agree to indemnify Harvard and its officers, directors, faculty, staff, representatives, employees and agents, from and against any present or future claim, loss or liability for injury to person or property which I may suffer, or for which I may be liable to any other person, related to my participation in the Project (including periods in transit to or from my destination), resulting from any cause, including but not limited to ordinary or gross negligence.

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]

I certify that I am age 18 or older. I have carefully read and freely signed this Acknowledgement of Risk and General Release Form. I understand and agree that no oral or written representations can or will alter the contents of this document. I agree that this agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (excluding its conflict of laws principles), which shall be the forum for any lawsuits filed under or incident to this agreement or the Project.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Student Name (print) _____

1st Emergency Contact Information

2nd Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ E-mail: _____

If Student is under age 18, the parent and/or legal guardian must sign below:

I, the undersigned parent and/or legal guardian of the Student listed above (the “Student”), do hereby consent to his or her participation in the Project. I, as the parent of the Student and on behalf of the Student, release, hold harmless and agree to indemnify Harvard, and its officers, directors, faculty, staff, representatives, employees and agents, from and against any present or future claim, loss or liability for injury to person or property which I or the Student may suffer, or for which the Student may be liable to any other person, related to the Student’s participation in the Project (including periods in transit to or from the Student’s destination), resulting from any cause, including but not limited to ordinary or gross negligence.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name (print): _____