Ohio University

Study Abroad Risk Assessment Committee
Process for reviewing study abroad programs in relation to risk

1/18/14

1. The Study Abroad Risk Assessment Committee (SARAC) will monitor the security situation of countries where OHIO sponsors study abroad programs. Appropriate information sources include:
   - International SOS
   - US Department of State
   - Overseas Security Advisory Council
   - Centers for Disease Control

2. A risk assessment will be triggered by the one or more of the following:
   - Existing State Department Travel Warning or Travel Alert
   - Changes in State Department language that indicate increased risk to travelers
   - International SOS (ISOS) travel risk rating (medium risk or higher)
   - Sociopolitical changes in the host country that indicate increased risk to travelers
   - Physical changes in the country (e.g. seismic activity, flooding) that indicate increased risk to travelers
   - Epidemic/pandemic
   - Centers for Disease Control Warning Level 3
   - Decisions made by other sending entities (e.g. study abroad providers, Peace Corps)
   - Recommendation by the Study Abroad Committee or University International Council

3. For ongoing triggers (e.g. medium risk rating), review will take place on an annual basis. If a risk assessment is triggered, the process is as follows:
   - The Office of Education Abroad collects detailed information regarding current risks associated with travel to the host location. Included will be documentation from the following:
     o Current US Department of State warnings, alerts and emergency messages
     o International SOS and/or other security companies
     o Overseas Security Advisory Council
     o On-site contacts
     o Centers for Disease Control
   - The following are examples of additional resources that could be utilized by committee as appropriate in conducting analyses:
     o Physician
     o Regional experts from among OHIO faculty
- NAFSA: Association of International Educators
- Local embassy
- Faculty or staff experts and/or host-country nationals on campus as available and appropriate
- Colleagues at institutions with active programs in the region
- Sources from governments of other countries

- Written analysis is prepared evaluating potential risks and benefits of running the program. Analysis will be provided by and should include:
  - Office of Education Abroad
    - Detailed data regarding current risks associated with travel to the host location gathered
    - Program and rank of students involved (e.g. undergraduates, graduates, medical)
    - Potential risk mitigation, including any suggestions for program modifications to minimize risk, in consultation with faculty director, International SOS, OSAC, and other resources from those listed above
  - Faculty Director
    - Logistical information, e.g. excursion sites, method of transportation, housing, addressing how it pertains to the potential risk
    - Consideration of the academic purpose of the program, including if the educational goals of the program can be achieved elsewhere
    - Feedback from on-site contacts
    - Program history and on-the-ground infrastructure
    - Value to collaborative partners and communities

4. The committee votes on whether to recommend that the program-affiliated travel move forward or not. The committee will also vote on recommended modifications to program.

5. The recommendation, along with suggested modifications, is provided to the Vice Provost for Global Affairs, who will review and forward to the Office of the Executive Vice President & Provost for approval.