

Student Safety Highest Priority When Studying Abroad

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The health and safety of students studying abroad is the highest priority for the many experienced, respected universities and providers offering study abroad services and programs.

The Forum on Education Abroad, recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission as the standards setting organization for education abroad, has worked diligently with colleges and universities and providers of study abroad services to develop rigorous standards for the health, safety, and security of students abroad.

Among other things, the Forum standards recommend that universities and providers of study abroad programs should possess and maintain:

- Established, practiced procedures for handling student emergencies.
- A written crisis management plan, as well as safety and security plans, that are regularly reviewed and evaluated.
- Onsite staff that receive regular training in these procedures and plans.
- Predetermined contacts with local health and emergency response agencies.
- Policies and procedures for contacting home institutions and families in emergency situations.

With nearly 400 institutional members, representing over 90 percent of the U.S. study abroad market, the Forum on Education Abroad welcomes student and parent inquiries into safety and security procedures and encourages interested parties to visit our web site at www.forumea.org for further information.

As the need for American students to better understand the global community increases, so has the demand for international education. The Forum believes that the life-changing experience of study abroad should be available to all students, and to meet this mission, the Forum will continue to place the highest priority on the health, safety, and security of students.