



FORUM NEWS

June 30, 2009

Call for Pilot Participants Education Abroad Incident Database

The Forum on Education Abroad is pleased to announce an opportunity for Forum member institutions to participate in a groundbreaking project to advance the Forum's work in the area of Health, Safety, and Security for education abroad.

The project will involve the piloting of an education abroad database that will track various types of incidents that occur on study abroad programs. The project is a result of the Forum's Fireside Dialogue, "Beyond the Basics of Risk Management," that was convened in Portland, Oregon in February, 2009. Attendees identified a need for the field to collect accurate information on the number and range of incidents that occur on education abroad programs to help inform health, safety and security policies and practices. In response, the Forum has formed a task force led by Bill Frederick of the School for Field Studies. A full list of the task force members appears below.

By documenting and learning what incidents occur in study abroad, the field will be better prepared to refine protocols for health, safety, security, and risk management, and continue to develop and disseminate effective best practices. Moreover, the field will be better able to understand factors that contribute to incidents, and thereby be prepared to mitigate and plan for risk, as well as utilize resources more strategically.

Results of the pilot project will be discussed and analyzed at the Forum's Standards of Good Practice Institute, **Beyond the Basics of Health, Safety and Security** to be held on March 24, 2010 in Charlotte, North Carolina in conjunction with the Forum Annual Conference. It is expected that the results of the pilot will be utilized to create an annual education abroad report that will provide comprehensive, aggregated data on the number and range of incidents. The Forum seeks to provide accurate information on what safety-related events actually take place rather than depend on anecdotal information and what are often misperceptions about safety and education abroad. The database will catalog the types and number of incidents and provide information about the patterns of incidents based on variables such as location and program type through a consistent, standardized reporting mechanism.

The Pilot Project

The Forum seeks the broadest possible participation from all institutional, organizational and program types in order to represent the diversity of the field in the pilot project. Participants will help to determine the type of data to be collected and offer significant input that may lead to the development of a permanent database. To protect the anonymity of the participants and encourage participation, the Forum will not announce the organizations that participate in the project.

The Forum will manage the data collection, analysis and dissemination of information that results from the pilot project and has taken steps to insure the complete confidentiality of the information collected. Data will be collected in such a way that specific incidents will not be associated with a particular institution, organization or program, thus guaranteeing the anonymity of the pilot participants. Data will be collected beginning with programs that begin after August 15, 2009 and continue until February 1, 2010. Further

details about the data collection process will be provided to participants upon acceptance to the pilot project.

Application for Participation

Participation in the pilot project is restricted to Forum Member Institutions, and the Forum encourages applications from as many Forum members as possible. Applications to participate in the Pilot Project are available at <http://www.forumea.org/research-data.cfm> .

Application Deadline: To apply for participation, please complete and email the application to info@forumea.org by **August 7, 2009**

Education Abroad Incident Database Task Force

Bill Frederick, School for Field Studies, Chair
Brian Brubaker, Dickinson College
Regine Lambrech, Columbia University
Natalie Mello, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Chris Powers, IIE
Gary Rhodes, SAFETI
Adam Rubin, CIEE
Arlene Snyder, Arcadia University
John Tansey, Dartmouth College

Proposal Deadline for Charlotte Conference

July 15, 2009 is the deadline for session and workshop proposals for the Sixth Annual Forum Conference to be held at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina, March 24-26, 2010. The Forum conference theme, "Vision and Value in Education Abroad" takes up the central importance of creating and maintaining a compelling vision for education abroad while communicating its value. A full description of the conference theme and the call for proposals can be accessed at <http://www.forumea.org/Charlotte2010.htm> .

Proposal Deadline for Standards of Good Practice Institute

July 31, 2009 is the deadline for session proposals for the Standards of Good Practice Institute, "Beyond the Basics of Health, Safety and Security," to be held at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina, March 24, 2010 in conjunction with the Forum Annual Conference. A full description of the Standards Institute and the call for proposals are available at <http://www.forumea.org/Instit10.htm> .

Welcome to these new Forum members:

Angelo State University

Colgate University

Loyola Marymount University, California

Purchase College, SUNY

Whittier College



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