Tracking Incidents of Significant Risk to Students: A Field-Wide Initiative

Collective Assumptions that Undergird Our Work

● We acknowledge that the data that will be included in this data collection project do not represent all the incidents that occur which receive advising and support related to health, safety and security.

● International Educators can and do offer a lot of support to students and programs, both to avoid incidents and to respond to the incidents that occur.

● Students have responsibility for their own health.

● Study abroad is a part of an entire life of a student including youth, college, and post-study abroad experiences.

● The incidents reported will include any incidents within the program dates, including personal or independent travel away from the program site.

● Incidents that pose risk of significant harm to students cannot always be avoided, but we can prepare for them and many less serious incidents to do our best to reduce negative impacts.

● In many cases of incidents involving students on education abroad programs, pre-existing conditions or drugs/alcohol are involved. It is important for students, families, and organizations to plan for and advise on these topics.

● We wish to show that there are events that impact the study abroad experience beyond any individual injury.

● Every organization has a slightly different approach to collecting and tracking incidents of risk to students because of different administrative and workflow needs. The data to be collected in this project represent the “most important” or “overlapping” data collected by organizations to facilitate wide participation across many organizations.

What incidents will be reported to The Forum?

Incidents Directly Impacting a Student:

NOTE on REPORTING: If multiple students are impacted by the same incident, generate a separate report for each individual student.

● **Arrest or charged in local legal system (including if assault perpetrator):** persons processed by arrest, citation or summons

● **Assault (non-sexual victim):** any event where there was a physical attack (with or without a weapon) delivered with the likely intention of injury

● **Assault (sexual victim):** any sexual act directed against another person, forcibly and or against that person’s will; or not forcibly or against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

● **Identify-Based/Hate Crime:** an offense committed against a person or property which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender’s bias, negative opinion, or attitude toward
a group of persons based on their race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, or national origin.

NOTE: The incident is countable based on the perception of the offender, even if the victim is not a member of the intended victim group.

- **Kidnapping:** the taking of a person against his/her will (or from the control of a parent or guardian) from one place to another under circumstances in which the person so taken does not have freedom of movement, will, or decision through violence, force, threat or intimidation.

- **Mental Health Distress:** any of the following incidents: crisis counseling, ER support, suicide risk and/or report of mental health distress that impacts student’s program participation for 3 days or more and/or results in death or hospitalization.

- **Missing Student:** any event in which a student was missing/overdue for the amount of time which meets the local threshold for reporting to/involvement of local law enforcement.

- **Physical Health, Illness:** An event that required professional medical attention or that resulted in an inability to participate in the program for 3 days or more and/or results in death or hospitalization.

  NOTE: Not to include routine colds, sore throats, isolated low grade fevers, minor traveler’s diarrhea, etc.

- **Physical Health, Injury:** An event that required professional medical attention beyond rudimentary first aid, or that resulted in student’s inability to participate in the program for 3 days or more and/or results in death or hospitalization.

  NOTE: not to include stubbed toes, minor splinters, minor muscle strains, etc.

- **Theft, Robbery, or Burglary:** taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of a person or persons.

  Program Disruptions: any large-scale event disrupting the program and/or causing student injury.

  NOTE: If the cause of program disruption also results in a student incident(s) as defined above, generate a separate report for each student incident in addition to the program disruption report.

  - **Accident,** e.g., vehicle, etc.
  
  - **Civil unrest,** e.g., strikes, protests, demonstrations, coups, war, armed conflicts, etc. that interrupt a program for 3 days or more and/or cause a student injury.
  
  - **Fire,** materially impacting student housing, classroom, program time for 5 days or more regardless of physical harm or student harm.
  
  - **Infrastructure/Tech,** e.g., oil spills, cyber attacks, power outage, banking crisis, crowd control issues, etc.) that interrupt a program for 3 days or more and/or cause a student injury.
  
  - **Natural disaster,** e.g., serious weather, earthquake, etc., that interrupt a program for 3 days or more and/or cause a student injury.
  
  - **Terrorism**

What other information will be reported about each incident?
PROPOSAL
For Public Comment, March 24 – April 30, 2023

- Month of incident
- Program length:
  - Less than 4 weeks
  - 4-8 weeks
  - 8-12 weeks
  - 12+ week
- Program Type:
  - Exchange: A program involving reciprocal movement of participants—whether faculty, students, staff, or community members—between institutions or countries.
  - Faculty-Led Program (or Faculty-Directed Program) – A study abroad program directed by a faculty member (or members) from the home campus who accompanies students abroad. Usually, though not always, brief in duration.
  - Field Study Program A study abroad program type whose pedagogy revolves around experiential study outside the classroom setting. Examples include field research programs, internship programs, service-learning programs, archaeological field schools, and field biology programs.
  - Health-Related Program any experiential learning program delivered in public health and/or health care delivery settings, including both clinical and community health care contexts.
  - Hybrid Program (or Mixed Program) – A program that combines two or more of the program types to a significant degree. For example, a study abroad center might emphasize courses just for study abroad participants but also permit students to enroll in host university courses and to do a credit-bearing internship.
  - Integrated University Study A study abroad program type in which the predominant study format is participation in regular courses alongside degree-seeking students from the host university. May be either via Direct Enrollment or enrollment facilitated by a study abroad provider organization.
  - Internship Abroad An experience in a professional setting that takes place outside of the country in which a student’s home university is located. This professional, practical experience is viewed as an extension of coursework and an opportunity for training or professional exploration related to a student’s future career path.
  - Multi-Site Program A program in which students spend a significant amount of time studying in each of two or more locations.
  - Study Abroad Center An education abroad model in which the predominant study format consists of classroom-based courses designed for non-host country students. Centers may be operated independently, be special units within a host country university, or be sponsored by a college or university in another country or by a study abroad provider organization. Many study abroad centers have permanent staff and facilities.

1 As defined in the Glossary published by The Forum on Education Abroad.
Teaching Abroad A volunteer (or largely volunteer) placement abroad as a teacher or teacher’s assistant. Varieties of teaching abroad programs include student teaching (in partial fulfillment of a teaching certificate); teaching English as a second or foreign language; and professional teaching in a K-12 or university environment. Some programs combine the volunteering with structured learning. Most volunteering is unpaid, though some programs provide a living stipend.

Travel Seminar (preferable to the roughly synonymous Study Tour or Study Travel Program) – A program in which students travel to many different cities or countries and receive instruction in each location, often regarding a designated, unifying topic. Examples include shipboard education programs or European cultural studies tours. This is a distinct program type and differs from field trips or excursions within other program types/subtypes.

Volunteering Abroad Largely self-directed, unpaid work- or service-based learning opportunity initiated by students motivated to respond to the needs of an organization or community, often without specific learning objectives or associated coursework.

Work Abroad Immersion in an international work environment with the educational value of the experience itself being the primary purpose. May or may not be for academic credit. Depending on the focus of the experience, it may be designated as interning, volunteering, service-learning, teaching, or just working abroad. Work abroad is sometimes used more narrowly to mean working for pay. By design, work abroad programs are temporary, lasting from a few weeks to two or three years. Educational work abroad is to be distinguished from career-related overseas assignments, permanent jobs abroad, and migration for gainful employment.

Custom or not

Definition from Glossary: Custom Program (or Customized Program) – A study abroad program administered by a program provider organization according to specifications of a college, university, consortium, or other group.

Student type: First year, Undergraduate, graduate/professional, high school/gap year

Country of incident

Happened in location of study (city) or not?

Yes/No

Result of incident:

Death

Optional: provide details about cause of death. Please do not include any personally identifying information about individuals. that we can look at for updates to the process in the future

Hospitalization (admitted for physical or mental health care)

Program withdrawal, dismissal, or early departure

Open-ended notes section: Please do not include any personally identifying information about individuals.
How will data be submitted to The Forum?

1. The Forum will provide spreadsheet template, definitions, and instructions for organizing your data.
   a. Instructions will be clear to remove any personally identifying data before submission.
2. Upload spreadsheet to an online portal on Forum website.
   a. Must consent upon submission each time.
   b. Must confirm that no personally identifying data is included in the data reporting.
   c. Report total students served by education abroad programming in the data uploaded so that we can report a total n in the report.
   d. Submission form will include an agreement that the data upload includes all reportable incidents that occurred on org’s programs during the time period listed.
3. Data uploads: Twice a year. Dates TBD.
4. Compliance self-reporting: Submitting organizations will be asked to answer a series of questions about the application of health, safety, security, and risk management best practices as outlined by the Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad (6th Edition).

How will the data be reported?

- The Forum is committed to updating the report at least annually.
- Report will be open-access on The Forum’s website.
- Reports will always recognize the individuals and organizations involved in this Task Force (as the originators) + any additional organizations that join the data submission efforts over time.
- Reports will never report data at the institutional or individual level. Only aggregated reports to protect privacy. No student, staff or faculty names will ever be reported.
- The Forum will work to ensure that data are not identifiable from context even when anonymized, e.g., if only one contributing provider runs a program in Nicaragua, the data for Nicaragua will be kept confidential and listed as “non-reportable” in the report.