

Safety Statement

SIT Study Abroad

a program of World Learning



888 272-7881 | Fax 802 258-3296 | studyabroad@sit.edu | www.sit.edu/studyabroad

Sending over 1500 students each year to more than 40 countries throughout the world, SIT takes participant safety with the utmost seriousness. Because of the extreme diversity of conditions found in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Oceania, our safety policies are, of necessity, highly specific and directly related to the local situation at any given period of time. In general, however, SIT Study Abroad relies on the following sources of information, assessing whether a particular program may be offered and operated as planned:

- We monitor US Government advisories, considering both those issued by in-country embassies and consulates and by the State Department in Washington, DC.
- We rely on the considerable in-situ knowledge and analysis of our Academic Directors, other in-country staff, and cooperating institution colleagues with whom we generally have long and trusting relationships.
- SIT and its parent organization World Learning, through their unique broad-based range of academic and NGO activities and contacts around the world, offer yet another source of information about current events and safety issues in dozens of countries. We are also in contact with other study abroad programs through personal, professional, and on-line networks.
- Our senior Brattleboro-based staff have collectively lived and worked for decades in the regions where our programs operate. These staff members are available on call around the clock.

While the above points focus on risk assessment, informing our decisions about whether, where, and/or how to operate a particular program, the SIT Study Abroad program model has at least two characteristics which have proven important over the years in minimizing safety risks, street crimes, accidents, exposure to political violence, and so on, once students are in country:

- First, the initial orientation period is a critical component of each SIT Study Abroad program, during which Academic Directors and others are in a position to educate students about potential safety risks and minimize these risks. Our staff provides further orientation briefings and reminders at key junctures throughout the program, most notably at times of movement to a different program locale.
- Second, we rely on the homestay component of each of our programs for significant additional community perspectives on local issues. Homestay family members furnish a personal source of reminders to our students about necessary streetwise precautions.

Total safety cannot, of course, be guaranteed abroad just as it cannot be in the United States. SIT is committed to taking the reasonably necessary steps to maximize student safety at each and every program site.