

SIT Independent Student Travel

Last Updated: May 2024

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2024

DEFINITION

Students on SIT programs may travel independently except to locations identified as higher risk by the U.S. Department of State, SIT's security provider, the Office of Student Health, Safety, and Wellbeing, or specifically prohibited by the program. SIT defines "independent travel" as travel that: a) occurs during the program's defined enrollment period; b) is independently organized by a student; c) is unrelated to program activities; d) does not interfere with scheduled program activities; and e) involves an overnight stay.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- SIT students may choose to undertake independent travel outside the city or country of their program center during the weekend or travel breaks.
- Students may not travel to a U.S. Department of State travel advisory level 3 or 4 or CDC health notice level 3 or 4 without prior written approval from both their academic/program director or program chair, the office of SIT student health, safety, and wellbeing, and their home institution (home institution approval only applicable to undergraduate students).
- As stipulated in SIT Code of Conduct, student independent travel must not interfere with SIT academic courses or SIT planned excursions.
- The student must adhere to their home institution's requirements regarding any and all travel policies, including locations (only applicable to undergraduate students).
- Prior to their independent travel, the student is required to provide their itinerary and contact details to SIT a minimum of 1 week prior to travel. The student must also notify SIT immediately of any trip interruption or delays in their itinerary.
- Students are responsible for researching any visa implications of cross-border travel. Exiting a country does not guarantee return to that country. SIT will not be able to assist if a student is denied re-entry.
- Leaving the SIT program base for the purpose of independent travel means leaving the proximity of support and resources from SIT local staff. Students will have resources through SIT's international assistance provider and there will be no interruption in their international emergency medical coverage.
- Students choosing to undertake independent travel do so with the understanding that they are solely responsible for all aspects of that travel including logistics, preparations, personal, and financial risks.
- Students are required to sign and return SIT's Independent Travel Waiver either separately or as part of the Conditions of Participation.

PROCESS

Deadline: Students traveling to U.S. State Department level 1 or 2 locations must inform SIT of independent

travel by submitting this [online form](#) to the Academic/ Program Director or Program Chair no later than **one week** prior to the proposed date of travel.

- Students requesting to travel in a group should submit one form, rather than a separate form for each student.

Review: Requests for travel to U.S. State Department level 3 or 4 locations need to be submitted to the Academic/ Program Director or Program Chair and are reviewed by the Student Health, Safety & Wellbeing department. Approval or denial of the request will then be communicated in writing to the student. **Students should not book any part of their proposed travel prior to receiving approval for their request.**

School for International Training

SUPPLEMENTAL WAIVER, INDEMNIFICATION, AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT STUDENT INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

I, [Student Name], have read and understood the School for International Training Policy on Independent Travel (attached and linked) including all of the conditions and limitations set forth therein. Independent Travel is defined as voluntary student travel that: a) occurs during the program’s defined enrollment period; b) is independently organized by a student; c) is unrelated to program activities; d) does not interfere with scheduled program activities; and e) involves an overnight stay.

I understand that travel involves inherent risks and that undertaking my own independent travel means leaving the proximity of support and resources supplied by my Program. I also understand that during independent travel I will be solely responsible for all aspects of that travel including logistics, preparations, and all personal and financial risks, including risk of injury or death. Should I choose to travel independently, I do so wholly voluntarily, and I agree that I will comply with all of the conditions and restrictions set forth in the Policy and herein.

Waiver: In consideration of being permitted to engage in Independent Travel, I, for myself, my heirs, personal representatives or assigns, **do hereby release, waive, discharge, hold harmless and covenant not to sue** World Learning Inc. (also d/b/a School for International Training), its trustees, officers, employees, and agents from liability **from any and all claims** resulting from any personal injury, accidents or illnesses (including death), and property loss arising from, but not limited to, my independent travel.

Indemnification and Hold Harmless: I also agree to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD World Learning Inc. (also d/b/a School for International Training) HARMLESS from any and all demands, claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses of any kind, damages and liabilities, including all reasonable attorneys’ fees (the “Losses”), brought as a result of my Independent Travel, and to reimburse World Learning Inc. within 30 days of experiencing such Losses.

Supplemental Agreement: This Supplemental Waiver, Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement (“Supplement”) is intended to supplement the terms and conditions of the School for International Training Statement of Responsibility, Release and Indemnification Agreement and the Conditions of Participation (each, an “Agreement” and collectively the “Agreements”), and I hereby re-affirm, as of the date set forth below, all of the terms and conditions of the Agreements.

Acknowledgment of Understanding: I have read this Supplement, fully understand its terms, and **understand that in exchange for being able to travel independently, I am forever Releasing World Learning from all liability and giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue.** I acknowledge that I am signing the Supplement freely and voluntarily, and **intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability** to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent (if Student is a minor)

Date

Signature of Witness

Date