# Appalachian International Crisis Management Protocols (Appalachian-ICMP)



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### I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Appalachian State University (Appalachian) encourages its students to participate in education abroad experiences in large numbers. The University also supports faculty and staff to participate in international activities and promotes the development of opportunities for international teaching, study, and research. Therefore, Appalachian endeavors to balance the value of participation in international activities against potential risks and crises that may develop. The health and safety of Appalachian personnel and participants abroad are of primary concern to the University and its overseas partners. Senior administrators, education abroad administrators, education abroad program leaders, and host institution representatives abroad share the responsibility for monitoring local and national conditions affecting participants themselves are responsible for becoming familiar with all materials provided and for following health and safety guidelines provided by Appalachian and host institutions.

One of the most important components of any crisis planning process is an emphasis on crisis avoidance and prevention. Many crises affecting U.S. participants overseas arise from lack of preparation, misconduct, or carelessness. Other problems occur when participants are victimized by social, political, or natural circumstances beyond their control. Avoidance and prevention of crises are best accomplished through a pro-active approach by establishing effective crisis management protocols. The Appalachian International Crisis Management Protocols (Appalachian-ICMP) outlines health and safety protocols for all education abroad programs sponsored or sanctioned by the University.

While each crisis is unique, there are guidelines that, if followed and adapted to the situation, can assist the Appalachian community in reducing or eliminating any negative results of the crisis. Therefore, the purpose of the Appalachian-ICMP is to outline areas of responsibility and provide guidelines and checklists on procedures to follow in the event of an emergency involving Appalachian participants and personnel while traveling abroad for purposes of study, service learning activities, internships, research, or any other University business.

The Appalachian-ICMP describes the organization, staff, and coordination necessary to reduce risks to Appalachian personnel and participants in education abroad programs. The Appalachian-ICMP recognizes the University's responsibilities and recommends actions to be taken in response to a crisis, ways to mitigate damage, and how to resume program activities as soon as possible. The Appalachian-ICMP also establishes the concepts and policies for the integration of resources of various units at Appalachian to address the crisis.

# II. PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING APPALACHIAN-ICMP

Appalachian follows the *Health and Safety Guidelines for Study Abroad* recommended by NAFSA: Association of International Educators, and practices the following:

- Monitors U.S. Department of State Travel Warning and Advisories regarding the health and safety conditions at Appalachian-sponsored or sanctioned education abroad program sites and in other programs in which Appalachian participants are enrolled.
- Monitors incidences around the world that may impact the health and safety of Appalachian participants abroad through daily Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) Reports and HTH Worldwide Daily Risk Briefings.

- In general, does not send participants to locations abroad with political unrest, the threat of terrorism, and/or war or where a U.S. Department of State travel warning or a Centers for Disease Control Level 3 travel warning is in effect. (In rare instances based upon compelling circumstances, an exception may be granted. See the section of the Appalachian-ICMP entitled "Planning Travel Abroad: Travel Advisories and Travel Warnings.")
- Provides health and safety information to enable participants to make informed decisions concerning education abroad opportunities.
- Provides orientation to faculty, program leaders, and participants, including information on how to deal with health and safety issues, potential risks, and appropriate Appalachian-ICMP.
- Requires all education abroad participants to obtain an international health insurance policy that
  covers political, security, and natural disaster emergency evacuation and repatriation. All
  education abroad participants and Appalachian personnel traveling on University business are
  required to carry sufficient medical insurance for illness or accidental injury occurring while
  overseas.
- Conducts appropriate inquiries regarding available medical services at the education abroad sites and provides information to help participants obtain the services they may need.
- Communicates applicable codes of conduct and the consequences of non-compliance to participants and takes appropriate action when participants violate codes of conduct.
- Consistent with all applicable laws, maintains good communication with all stakeholders who
  need to be informed in cases of serious health problems, injury, or other significant health and
  safety incidents.
- Requires all education abroad participants to attend a pre-departure orientation to educate students about health and safety issues while abroad.
- Requires all education abroad participants to participate in on-site orientation sessions in the host
  countries prior to beginning their experience abroad these sessions provide valuable information
  on local health services and safety issues, relevant legal issues, and guidelines for dealing with
  emergencies and natural disasters such as tropical storms, floods, and earthquakes.
- Provides emergency action protocol enabling program leaders abroad to contact the Appalachian University Police on a 24-hour basis.
- Coordinates the on-campus action of the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team in case of a crisis abroad involving education abroad participants.

# III. DEFINING AN INTERNATIONAL CRISIS OR EMERGENCY

A crisis is a serious situation or occurrence that happens unexpectedly, demands immediate action, and can often be minimized with good planning. In the Appalachian-ICMP, a distinction is made between <u>real crises</u> and <u>perceived crises</u>.

#### A. Real Crises

A real crisis or emergency poses current threats to Appalachian participants, faculty, and staff at locations abroad. Examples of real crises and emergencies while abroad include the following:

- Death of a participant or faculty/staff member.
- Terroristic threats and/or actions.
- Serious injury or illness that requires hospitalization or makes it impossible for the participant or faculty/staff member to continue the program.
- Health epidemics (e.g., Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome [SARS], Ebola, etc.).
- Emotional or psychological condition requiring removal from the situation or professional attention.
- Being accused of a crime.
- Being a victim of a serious crime (e.g., physical assault or rape).
- A situation—either in the U.S. or at a program site abroad—that causes serious concern, i.e., a political uprising (violent civil disorder or military action), a natural disaster, an act of war, or other event causing or threatening harm to program participants or faculty/staff member.
- Sudden evacuation of a participant or faculty/staff member in response to an emergency situation in the U.S.
- U.S. State Department's travel warning issued specific to a country, region, or worldwide.

The Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development or his/her designee will determine whether there is an actual threat for Appalachian participants and faculty/staff. The decision on the course of action to be taken is reached after consultation with host institutions and colleagues overseas, academic program leaders, administrative officers at Appalachian, and any other person or agency with appropriate information and judgment useful to the decision making process.

The U.S. Department of State regularly provides useful and appropriate guidance, especially its posted travel advisories and other sources of global intelligence. Additionally, the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) and HTH Worldwide provide useful daily reports on global security issues and concerns. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), its national counterparts in other countries, and the World Health Organization (WHO) provide useful and appropriate information for health-related crises.

#### B. Perceived Crises

Perceived crises or emergencies result from events that do not pose immediate threat to the health or safety of program participants or faculty/staff, but which may be viewed as such by family and friends in the U.S. or the media. The Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development or his/her designee will rely heavily on the judgment of the program leader and/or host institution representative in making the final decision on the course of action to be pursued in cases of perceived emergencies.

Both real and perceived crises share three common aspects in that they:

- Can result in disruption or early termination of the education abroad program;
- Usually cause significant emotional stress to the individuals involved, resulting in predictable cognitive, physical, and behavioral reactions; and
- Can be managed.

#### C. Importance of the Participants' Selection and Orientation in Crisis Management

The process of managing a potential crisis begins with the approval of an education abroad program proposed by a participant and Appalachian faculty/staff, and the selection of program participants. Program leaders and host institution representatives must be informed of their roles and responsibilities. Education abroad staff at Appalachian or program leaders are responsible for providing thorough pre-departure and on-site orientations. The orientations should include information on safety, health, legal, environmental, political, cultural, and religious conditions in the host country, potential health and safety risks, and appropriate emergency response measures.

The following are steps program leaders should take to be proactive in this regard:

- consider the health and safety issues of each proposed program activity in the initial risk assessment stage of a new program proposal;
- consider health and safety issues when evaluating the appropriateness of an individual's participation in the program;
- communicate applicable codes of conduct and the consequences of non-compliance to all participants;
- during the participants' screening process, consider factors, such as disciplinary history, that may impact the safety and health of the individual or group;
- provide information for participants regarding when and where Appalachian's responsibility ends and the aspects of participants' abroad experiences that are beyond Appalachian's control, (i.e., Appalachian cannot guarantee or assure the safety of participants or eliminate all risks from the education abroad environment); and
- inform all participants of sexual assault and harassment policies, including counseling and medical services, procedure for reporting, the handling of disciplinary actions, and options for changing living arrangements after an alleged sexual offense has occurred.

Crisis management is the process of preparing for, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from a crisis situation. Preparation, communication, and certain administrative procedures are essential in managing a crisis. Crisis responses occur both abroad and on the Appalachian campus.

### IV. APPALACHIAN-ICMP

The Appalachian-ICMP provides a framework for contingency planning and defines the communication network to be used in a crisis situation. This is intended to be a living document that will be reviewed and updated regularly. The Appalachian-ICMP will be distributed to all education abroad program leaders, host institution representatives, Appalachian International Crisis Response Team members, the Office of International Education and Development staff, the Vice Chancellors, the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, and the Chancellor. It is also published on the Office of International Education and Development website and in the Appalachian State University Online Policy Manual (Section 302.6).

#### A. Appalachian International Crisis Response Team

Appalachian State University's Chancellor has charged the Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development with the responsibility of coordinating the management of crises affecting participants in all education abroad programs sponsored or sanctioned by the University. The Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development is assisted in this role by the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team. The Team addresses critical issues involving

Appalachian participants, faculty, and staff abroad. In the event of a crisis or emergency, the Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development will mobilize the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team to assess and respond to the crisis or emergency.

The Appalachian International Crisis Response Team comprises permanent and temporary members depending on their positions. Permanent Team members or their designees include:

- Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development (Chair);
- Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Development and Dean of Students (Co-Chair);
- Provost's Academic Affairs designee;
- Director of University Communications or his/her designee;
- University Chief of Police;
- Director of Environmental Health, Safety, and Emergency Management;
- University General Counsel or his/her designee;
- Director of University M.S. Shook Student Health Service;
- Director of Counseling and Psychological Services;
- Director of Education Abroad; and
- Executive Director of International Education and Development.

#### **Temporary Team members or their designees include**:

- Study abroad program leader;
- College dean(s) representing program participants; and
- Department chair(s) representing program participants.

If the Chair and/or Co-Chair of the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team believe that activation of the entire Team is necessary in response to a crisis or perceived crisis, he/she will notify the University Police at (828) 262-8000 and request that the Team be activated through the *AppState-ALERT* notification system. The initial message will include a time and location of the initial meeting. Notifications that do not require the entire Team to be activated will be handled on an individual basis by the Chair or his/her designee(s).

The responsibilities of the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team include the following:

- addressing immediate action necessary to maintain the safety and health of program participants, faculty, and staff;
- addressing health, safety, academic concerns, financial aid, public relations, and legal liability issues;
- identifying additional appropriate steps to take abroad (e.g., addressing student reactions, creating a written action plan, and sending Appalachian faculty/staff to program site);
- developing and helping with an evacuation plan should one become necessary;
- preparing a list of persons to be alerted;
- developing a communication document to be utilized by all personnel involved;
- developing a daily communication plan; and
- after the crisis, assessing the effectiveness of the crisis preparedness procedures and revising as appropriate.

#### B. Communication

At the heart of any crisis management protocol is the procedure by which key individuals and offices are notified of the likelihood of occurrence or presence of a crisis situation. Effective communication is critical to the Appalachian-ICMP. The Appalachian-ICMP outlines the communication system and procedures to be followed in a crisis situation.

#### 1. Emergency Calls to Appalachian

The person calling from abroad to Appalachian to report a crisis or an emergency (program leader, program participant, or host institution representative) should only have to **dial one number, which is the 24 hour contact number for Appalachian University Police (828-262-8000)**. The caller should provide the University Police with appropriate details of the crisis situation following the guidelines provided in the International Incident Report Form. Upon receiving the information, the University Police officer will immediately contact the Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development or Executive Director of International Education and Development, who will take further action.

#### 2. Information to the Media and Public

During a crisis situation, Appalachian will assume responsibility for dealing with the media. Great care should be taken be sure family members or Appalachian University leaders have been informed prior to any information release to the media. All media relations will be coordinated and conducted by University Communications, in consultation with the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team, Chancellor, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, and Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development. University Communications will respond to media requests, and will set up a system to respond to public inquiries. **Only University Communications staff or their designees are authorized to speak to the media on behalf of Appalachian during a crisis situation.** This will insure that the information provided to the media and general public is accurate and consistent.

If an Appalachian participant is involved in an emergency situation, a program leader and/or host institution representative should never provide the name of the participant to the media.

#### 3. Participant's Communication with Friends and Families

A participant's instinct when a crisis or an emergency occurs is to call, text message, use social media, or e-mail family or friends. However, a panicky cryptic telephone call, text message, e-mail message or social media posting could elicit unnecessary anxiety and impair reasoned judgment. Emergency communications MUST be discussed with participants prior to their departure and again at the inception of any crisis/emergency situation. Program participants abroad should be careful about their discussions with local or international media about the crisis.

#### 4. Notification of Next of Kin in Case of Death Abroad

In the event of a death abroad of an Appalachian participant, the Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students (**not the program leader or host institution representative**) will be the person designated to appropriately and promptly notify the next of kin. It is the responsibility of the program leader or representatives of the host institution to immediately notify the Office of International Education and Development staff first and then the U.S. Embassy or Consulate of the participant's death. In the

event of death of a U.S. citizen abroad, appropriate U.S. Embassy officials will take charge. In most cases, the next of kin are contacted directly by representatives of the U.S. Embassy abroad. This, however, may take place after Appalachian has already notified the next of kin.

#### C. Evacuation

In some cases (e.g., a serious civil disturbance, terrorist attack, or a naturally-occurring disaster), it may be necessary to evacuate participants from the program site or host country. As a crisis situation unfolds, the program leader or host institution representative, together with the Office of International Education and Development staff and the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team, will assess the nature and extent of the emergency and evaluate the danger to participants, including:

- The incident's proximity to the program site; its impact on the availability of housing, food, water, and medical supplies; the protection of law and order; the intensity of military presence in the program area; and, if political, the target of the unrest.
- Consultations with U.S. Embassy or Consulate personnel concerning the feasibility of continuing
  program activities and the ability of participants and faculty/staff to relocate the program to a
  different site.
- Consultations with OSAC and its local experts in the country concerning local crisis or security concerns on the ground.
- Consultations with HTH Worldwide for the necessity of evacuation and possible emergency evacuation routes and action plans.

#### 1. Criteria/Factors for Suspending or Cancelling a Program

Appalachian will consider the following factors or other extenuating circumstances that could be construed as posing a threat or safety risk to the trip in making a decision to suspend or cancel an education abroad program:

- partner institution or program leader's recommendation of suspension or cancellation;
- travel warning and/or specific directive by the U.S. Department of State and/or U.S. Embassy;
- travel warning and/or specific directive by the World Health Organization and/or the U.S. Center for Disease Control;
- outbreak of hostilities between the U.S. and the host country;
- terrorist activities and/or a declaration of martial law in the program host city or country;
- civil unrest or violence that affects participant safety and security;
- declaration of war by a third country against the host country of the program;
- protracted or indefinite closure of the host university;
- inability of the program leader to organize and carry out the academic program at the host location or alternative location; or
- prolonged disruption of public utilities and/or services at the host institution, site, or country.

#### 2. Evacuation Procedures

Should evacuation be deemed necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of program participants, the following procedures will be followed:

- The Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development or his/her designee will contact the U.S. Department of State's Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management (+1-202-501-4444) and with OSAC (+1-571-345-2223) to discuss the need for evacuation and any measures that the U.S. is taking to evacuate its citizens from the host country.
- The Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development or his/her designee, in consultation with program leader or host institution representative, will contact HTH Worldwide to discuss the need for evacuation and any measures that the U.S. is taking to evacuate its citizens from the host country.
- The Appalachian International Crisis Response Team or staff will develop an evacuation plan, including transportation modes and travel routes, determination of the cost of the evacuation, and the possibility of reducing the level of danger by dispersing participants in small groups to reconvene later in another location.
- The program leader or host institution representative will share information with the U.S. Embassy or Consulate about Appalachian's evacuation plan.
- The program leader or host institution representative will assess and mitigate participants' concerns by doing the following:
  - Recommend appropriate participant behavior (e.g., keep a low profile, blend in with the local population, etc.).
  - Review the course of action with program participants. If a participant refuses to comply with the evacuation procedure, he/she will be required to sign a release form and in rare circumstances may be forced to evacuate.
  - Remove public signs that indicate U.S. affiliation. Cancel public activities or large group functions that could draw attention to the program participants.
  - After the participants have been evacuated to safety, the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team will make academic and financial arrangements appropriate to the program at the time of its termination.

# V. PLANNING TRAVEL ABROAD

All Appalachian education abroad programs should adhere to and implement the procedures outlined below in planning for travels abroad.

#### A. Travel Advisories and Travel Warnings

Education abroad staff, program leaders, and university personnel traveling abroad should regularly review the U.S. Department of State's and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) travel advisories and travel warnings both when planning education abroad programs and prior to traveling abroad. See <a href="travel.state.gov">travel.state.gov</a> (which includes safety and security information specific to countries) and <a href="http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/">http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/</a>. As a general rule, the University will not support travel to countries or regions on the U.S. Department of State's travel warning list or for which the CDC has issued a Warning Level 3.

In rare instances based upon compelling circumstances, an exception may be granted allowing travel to a country or region for which a U.S. State Department travel warning or CDC Level 3 travel

warning is in effect. A participant wishing to seek such an exception must follow the procedures outlined in the Appalachian State University Policy Manual 510.5 Travel Warning Policy.

#### **B.** Travel and Transportation

Participants on independent study, internship, service learning, research, direct enrollment, or exchange programs abroad should provide complete travel and contact information for their files maintained in the Office of International Education and Development at Appalachian.

For faculty-led programs, information on travel methods and routes should be as specific as possible (by bus, train, air, sea, private, and/or commercial). Program leaders should present and prioritize alternative methods of travel and routes in the event that the usual route is no longer safe or feasible. Maps should be available demarcating participant and faculty/staff sites, meeting points, and pick-up points, and maps should include estimated travel time under normal circumstances. In airports, airplanes, trains, and train stations, participants should engage in appropriate conduct. All education abroad participants should:

- Maintain a low profile, blend in with the population, not wear clothing with identifying information, and avoid ostentatious display of wealth.
- Not accept anything from a stranger ("accept nothing from anyone" is a good rule of thumb).
- Never mention that they are traveling alone or give out personal information.
- Not agree to watch someone else's bags regardless of how innocent the request may sound.
- Not allow strangers to handle their bags.
- Understand the city's geography and avoid high-crime areas or areas affected by protests/riots.
- Always carry some form of communication equipment such as cellphone pre-programmed with numbers that would be useful in an emergency situation.
- Avoid disputes, demonstrations, political rallies and commotions on the street.
- Ignore verbal 'baits' from passers-by—do not get into an argument—and avoid eye contact with strangers.
- Keep their luggage with them at all times—once they have checked in, make sure no one gets near their carry-on luggage.
- Report any unattended baggage immediately to authorities.
- Comply immediately with security instructions from airport, airline, train, or train station personnel.
- Be patient, cooperative, and answer questions truthfully when asked by appropriate security personnel representing airports, airlines, trains, or train stations. Searches of luggage ensure the safety of all (including the Appalachian participants) aboard an airplane, train, or in a public place.
- Memorize important phrases in the local language.
- Enter any busy public place and call for help if they suspect that they are being followed.

#### C. Health Care Issues

- The program leader and/or participants should consult the Appalachian Travel Service Nurses well before the date of travel abroad to receive health-related information or vaccinations recommended for the country where the participants are going. More information can be found at: healthservices.appstate.edu/travel.
- The University of North Carolina (UNC) system health insurance is provided to all participants in Appalachian education abroad programs, all students traveling on University approved programs,

and all personnel traveling on University business for the duration of the programs. Exceptions are made for students who participate in Appalachian affiliate third-party private program providers whose required insurance is comparable to the North Carolina Program. Health insurance coverage is provided through HTH Worldwide Insurance Services located in Fairfax, Virginia (<a href="www.HTHstudents.com">www.HTHstudents.com</a>). The UNC system policy provides excellent low-cost comprehensive primary coverage with no deductible. Participants should be aware that any injury or illness resulting from alcohol or illegal use of drugs is excluded from coverage. University personnel traveling abroad can be enrolled in the HTH International Business Travel Insurance by completing the online form at: <a href="mailto:international.appstate.edu/travel">international.appstate.edu/travel</a>.

- Emergency assistance is included in the UNC system health insurance. In the case of medical evacuations, HTH Worldwide Insurance coordinates all arrangements. If participants need help finding an English-speaking doctor or need other assistance in obtaining appropriate health care, they should contact either of the numbers listed below and call collect if necessary.
  - +1 (610) 254-8771 or +1 (610) 254-8772 (collect call from outside the U.S.)
  - 1 (888) 243-2358 (toll-free call inside the U.S.)
- All participants in education abroad programs and other students traveling on University approved programs are responsible for making sure that they have received required immunizations prior to departure. Contact Appalachian Travel Service Nurses at (828) 262-6578 or check the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website at <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/travel.">www.c.cdc.gov/travel.</a>

#### D. Emergencies:

- Program leaders should develop an emergency notification plan with contact information and details on how to access emergency funds as well as an emergency evacuation plan.
- All participants should supply the name and telephone numbers of emergency contact persons. Copies of the master list should be left at the Office of International Education and Development for reference and at the Dean of Students Office.
- For programs that involve host families, program leaders should outline procedures for host families in case a participant is injured in their home.
- The Office of International Education and Development will work with program leaders to make sure that information on conduct issues that may impact the safety and health of the individual student or the group is available.
- Program leaders must make sure that all participants have signed the *Faculty-Led Education Abroad Program Participant Agreement*, available from the Office of International Education and Development.

#### E. Faculty/Staff Pre-Departure Orientation

Prior to the travel, the education abroad staff should conduct a pre-departure orientation for faculty/staff. At the minimum, the orientation should address the following issues:

- The need to develop a detailed itinerary that specifies course activities and activities that are outside the scope of course work.
- Cultural, safety, and other issues.
- Roles of faculty and staff while abroad.
- Duties of program leader and foreign national staff, if any.
- Travel procedures and processes.

- Reporting incidents, including serious injuries, crimes, medical problems, and others.
- The need to provide periodic updates to appropriate staff persons in the Office of International Education and Development.

#### F. Participant Pre-Departure Orientation

Education abroad staff or program leaders should conduct participant pre-departure orientations. At minimum, the orientation should address the health and safety issues below:

#### 1. Emergencies

- Education abroad staff or program leaders shall be responsible for obtaining information about and advising participants on how to seek help in emergency situations, including medical care, housing, food, and law enforcement assistance.
- Remind participants of the aid available from the U.S. Embassy or Consulate and how to contact them. One of the responsibilities of the U.S. Embassy diplomatic corps is tending to the needs of U.S. nationals. Program leaders MUST advise all participants to enroll in the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)**, a free service that to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their travel abroad with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. The enrollment allows U.S. citizens to record information about their upcoming travels abroad that the U.S. Department of State can use to assist them in case of an emergency. Registration can be done online at: <a href="step.state.gov/step/">step.state.gov/step/</a>
- Students on semester/year or private provider programs assume the responsibility of registering themselves. Instruction on how to do so is provided during pre-departure.

#### 2. **Personal Safety**

- Encourage a "buddy system" and advise participants that they should not travel alone, especially at night.
- Avoid crowds, protest groups, volatile situations, and known dangerous places.
- Lock doors and windows of rooms, especially at night or when not in the room.
- Do not share any personal information with strangers.
- Remind participants to be inconspicuous by keeping a low profile and to not draw attention to nationality or wealth.
- Advise participants of any planned activities in the program that may require physical exertion.

#### 3. **Behavior**

- Discuss Appalachian's Code of Student Conduct and other behavioral expectations.
- Provide information on counseling and support programs available in host country.
- Discourage abuse of alcohol or illegal use of drugs and discuss consequences of such behavior. Participants should be informed that Appalachian does not provide attorneys.
- Educate participants as to cultural differences including local laws pertaining to illegal drug and alcohol use.
- Emphasize proper use of medications (both prescribed and over-the-counter).

#### 4. Vehicle Use While Abroad

According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 1.2 million people worldwide are killed every year due to road accidents, and as many as 50 million are injured or disabled. The majority of these deaths, approximately 85 percent, occur in low- to middle-income countries. According to the U.S. Department of State, more than 300 U.S. citizens are estimated to die each year due to road accidents abroad, and thousands more are injured. The majority of road crash victims (injuries and fatalities) in developing countries are not motor vehicle occupants but pedestrians, motorcyclists, bicyclists, and non-motor vehicle occupants.

Participants on Appalachian sponsored or sanctioned education abroad programs are strongly discouraged from renting or driving vehicles while in foreign countries. Participants should recognize that driving or renting motor vehicles and motor bikes exposes them to risks. Should participants elect to rent or drive a vehicle for their personal use they are advised to make sure that they have adequate insurance coverage for the host country and a host country driver's license or an international driving permit (<a href="https://www.aaa.com/vacation/idpf.html">www.aaa.com/vacation/idpf.html</a>).

Participants on education abroad programs who decide to drive are urged to carefully review the Road Safety section of the U.S. Department of State's Country Specific Information (travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country.html), which is available for every country in the world. The Road Safety section is intended to provide U.S. citizens with an overview of road conditions in a particular country. Participants may also want to review the U.S. Department of State's Bilateral Relations Fact Sheets (<a href="www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/">www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/</a>) for any country in which they intend to drive or travel by road as a passenger. Also, participants are urged to check the website of the U.S. embassy or consulate in the countries they will be visiting to learn about local requirements for driver's licenses, road permits, and auto insurance. It is important to understand the rules and laws of the road in other countries, as they can differ significantly from those in the United States. Participants should know that they will be responsible for obtaining adequate insurance to cover risks of liabilities, as well as costs of litigation and other expenses that may be incurred as a result of accidents or infraction of local laws in the host country.

In situations where the program leader decides to contract the services of a local transportation company, he/she must check and make sure that the company has sufficient liability insurance.

#### 5. Early Termination of Travel

- Regardless of whether a travel warning is in effect, the University reserves the right not to approve support for international travel, or to rescind previously approved support, any time when, in the University's sole discretion, the University determines that travel should not be supported for reasons of health or safety.
- Program leaders should remind participants of the travel cancellation and refund policies found on the website (see Programs, Payment Schedule, or Cancellation Policy Form link):

  <a href="https://international.appstate.edu/sites/international.appstate.edu/files/cancellation\_and\_refund\_p\_olicy-feap\_0.pdf">https://international.appstate.edu/sites/international.appstate.edu/files/cancellation\_and\_refund\_p\_olicy-feap\_0.pdf</a>
- Program leaders should remind participants of the process and criteria for an individual participant's termination from the program.
- Program leaders should be clear that travel costs that are not included in program costs are the participant's responsibility.

#### G. Communications

- Program leaders should encourage participants to communicate and check in with their parents from time to time.
- Program leaders should maintain weekly or biweekly communication (depending on the length of the program) with appropriate staff persons in the Office of International Education and Development.
- Program leaders and participants should check the U.S. Department of State and Centers for Disease Control websites for periodic updates on travel advisories during their trip.

#### H. Participation Agreement

- All participants must sign a Participant Agreement which clearly outlines expected participant
  conduct, the consequences for non-compliance, and the responsibility assumed for personal
  activities, including the driving of a motor vehicle abroad.
- Participants who elect to organize their own independent travels before and/or after the official Appalachian program dates, and students who elect voluntarily to leave a program while it is in progress, do so at their own risk and will be required to complete appropriate paperwork assuming those risks and indemnifying the University for any liability that might result.
- Program leaders should require students to read the Student Handbook at:
   <a href="https://international.appstate.edu/sites/international.appstate.edu/files/508\_studenthandbook.pdf">https://international.appstate.edu/sites/international.appstate.edu/files/508\_studenthandbook.pdf</a>

#### I. Location and Inspection of Host Country

- Conduct inquiry of the health and safety risks of the local environment of the program, including program sponsored accommodations, events, transportation, excursions and other activities on an ongoing basis and share information with participants.
- Education abroad participants should not reside adjacent to U.S. government offices or facilities abroad (e.g., embassies) since official buildings are potential targets for terrorist activities.

## VI. EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

#### A. Medical Emergencies

For medical emergencies, contact HTH Worldwide Global Assistance Services:

- +1 (610) 254-8771 or +1 (610) 254-8772 (collect call from outside the U.S.)
- 1 (888) 243-2358 (toll-free from within the U.S.)

#### **B.** Health Insurance

For health insurance related issues, contact HTH Worldwide at: +1 (610) 254-8769 (collect call from outside the U.S.)

#### C. Appalachian University Police\*

Emergency Line: +1 (828) 262-8000 (collect calls from outside the U.S. accepted 24/7)

#### **D. Office of International Education and Development** (during working hours)

Office: +1 (828) 262-2046

Jesse Lutabingwa, Associate Vice Chancellor

E-mail: <u>lutabingwajl@appstate.edu</u>

Maria Anastasiou, Executive Director E-mail: <a href="mailto:anastasioum@appstate.edu">anastasioum@appstate.edu</a>

Christopher Lytle, Director of Education Abroad

E-mail: <u>lytlect@appstate.edu</u>

Mark Hagen, Assistant Director, Education Abroad

E-mail: <u>hagenm@appstate.edu</u>

Evan Lohmann, Assistant Director, Education Abroad

E-mail: <u>lohmannea@appstate.edu</u>

#### E. Office of Student Development and Dean of Students (during working hours)

Office: +1 (828) 262-2060

James J. Brown, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Development and Dean of Students

E-mail: <u>brownjjl@appstate.edu</u>

#### F. Counseling and Psychological Services Center (during working hours)

Office: +1 (828) 262-3180

#### **G. M.S. Shook Student Health Service** (during working hours):

Office: +1 (828) 262-3100

Dr. Robert Ellison, Director of Health Services

E-mail: ellisonrs@appstate.edu

#### H. Office of Equity, Diversity, and Compliance (during working hours):

Office: +1 (828) 262-2144

Title IX Coordinator edc@appstate.edu

# **APPENDICES**

# **APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

# GENERAL CHECKLIST FOR RESPONDING TO CRISES OR EMERGENCIES ABROAD

In this section, the Appalachian-ICMP provides a checklist that program leaders, representatives of host institutions abroad, or students on education abroad programs can follow when responding to crises or emergencies while abroad, as appropriate in the circumstances:

Assess the extent of the emergency or crisis and obtain as many details as possible (e.g.,
determine who, what, when, where, how, and why), assist the participant(s) in finding appropriate care, ensure that all participants involved are safe, and begin writing a log of the crisis or
emergency situation.
As soon as possible, contact appropriate local authorities in the host country (police or medical
personnel) and/or Appalachian campus police. Contact the Office of International Education and Development at Appalachian and speak with the appropriate staff person to brief him/her on nature of the emergency or crisis and the condition of the participant(s).
Explain to the other program participants that the injured person(s) are being cared for and
caution them about speculative communication. Advise them to wait until reliable information is available before contacting others about the incident.
Depending on the nature of the crisis or emergency, the staff person in the Office of International
Education and Development contacts the participants designated "Emergency Contact."
If appropriate, the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team develops a communication
document to be utilized by all personnel involved, and Appalachian's Chief Communications Officer issues a press release to inform the media and the Appalachian community and keep
interested parties updated on the situation.
In case the program leader or host institution representative is contacted by a
<b>representative of the media:</b> If an Appalachian participant is involved, <b>do not</b> give the name of the participant or speak on behalf of Appalachian without following the checklist below:
Contact the staff person in the Office of International Education and Development before
you respond. The Office of International Education and Development staff working with
University Communications, will respond to media inquiries. The OIED Communications Liaison will apprise you of media responses as needed.
Also, please see the section of the Appalachian-ICMP entitled "Communication:
Information to the Media and Public" on page 11.

# APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC CRISES OR EMERGENCIES ABROAD

In this section, the Appalachian-ICMP provides an outline of how Appalachian would respond to specific crises or emergencies abroad. The emergencies are organized into six categories: (1) health emergencies, (2) legal emergencies, (3) missing program participant, (4) political and natural disaster emergencies, (5) death of a program participant or faculty, and (6) death of program participant's family member.

#### A. Health Emergencies

#### 1. Serious Injury or Illness

Typical problems would include, but are not limited to, auto accidents, recreation injury, serious illness, drug overdose, and loss of consciousness. Upon receiving the first report of a serious injury or illness, the program leader or host institution representative should request detailed information on the following questions:

- What happened?
- Who is involved?
- Where is the participant now?
- Does the participant need immediate medical attention? Are rescue operations needed?
- Has anyone called for help? If not, get help! If so, who has been called?
- If help has arrived, what is being done?
- What medical treatment has the participant received?
- Were there witnesses (in case of accident, assault, other crimes)?
- If there were witnesses, please obtain contact information.

In the event of a serious injury or illness, the program leader or host institution representative should utilize the checklist below, as appropriate in the circumstances:

 Assist the participant in finding appropriate medical care in a hospital/clinic that has been
identified as competent. Assess the extent and severity of the injury/illness, usually by talking with the physician treating the participant. Keep a log that will include notes regarding the circumstances leading up to the injury/illness, the outcome of any discussions with the attending physician, notes from conversations with others who were present when the injury/illness took place, and the course of the medical treatment as it progresses.
Contact the Office of International Education and Development at Appalachian and speak with the appropriate staff person to brief him/her on the participant's condition. Participant's privacy is respected at all times.
Explain to the other participants that the injured person is being cared for and caution them about speculative communication. Advise them to wait until reliable information is available before contacting others about the incident.
Depending on the severity of the injury/illness, the staff person in the Office of International
Education and Development contacts the participant's designated "Emergency Contact."

develops and brief the Office of International Education and Development staff. In some cases, the participant may need to be evacuated in order to receive appropriate medical treatment. All students have insurance to cover medical evacuation.
The Office of International Education and Development staff may inform other campus officials, including the Dean of Students, the student's academic dean, and other appropriate Appalachian officials as soon as possible. If it appears necessary, the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team will be activated.
If appropriate, the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team develops a communication document to be utilized by all personnel involved, and the Appalachian's Chief Communications Officer issues a press release to inform the media and the Appalachian community and keeps all interested parties updated on the situation.
Provide appropriate information and reassurances to other Appalachian study abroad program participants.
In the unfortunate case of the death of a participant, the protocol for "Death of a Participant or Faculty" is activated (see page 35).

#### 2. Students in Distress

It is important to recognize red flags or warning signs that participants may exhibit that could be an indicator that a student is in distress. Behaviors that could suggest distress include, but are not limited to, the following:

- severe or persistent disruptive behavior;
- creating disturbances or is a danger to self or others;
- has made a suicide attempt or threat or has spoken with someone about a plan to do so;
- severely disruptive due to alcohol or drug use;
- unusual conduct (e.g., oddly disruptive or antagonistic acts, self-injury, or talking to self);
- a precipitous decline in functioning (e.g., academic, social, or hygienic);
- excessive energy, agitation, or extremely elevated moods;
- extreme anxiety in the form of worry or panic;
- odd thought patterns (e.g., delusions, paranoia, disorientation, rambling or nonsensical speech) extreme weight loss or gain;
- missing class or scheduled program activities;
- withdraws from friends and favorite activities; and
- host family reports unusual behavior.

In the event of such conduct or condition, the program leader or host institution representative should utilize the checklist below as appropriate in the circumstances:

Assess the severity of the situation, and if it is an emergency, contact the Director of Education Abroad in OIED immediately.
Gather information on the behavior exhibited and the history of the problem. Begin a written log of this information and continue keeping a log as the crisis develops.

	the student please contact the Director of Education Abroad in OIED to discuss appropriate next steps.
	_ Assess whether or not the participant will voluntarily seek help.
A.	If the participant will voluntarily seek help, the program leader or host institution representative should follow the checklist below.
	Work with the Director of Education Abroad in OIED to arrange to have the participant seen by a medical or mental health professional immediately.
	In coordination with a medical or mental health professional, help the participant follow through with that the plan set by the medical or mental health professional. If the plan results in hospitalization, work with the Director of Education Abroad in OIED to carry out the plan.
	Contact the appropriate staff person in the Office of International Education and Development at Appalachian and brief them regarding the details of the situation (see "Emergency Contact Numbers" on page 18). The staff person will consult with the Director of the Counseling Center or their designee and a Case Manager in the Dean of Students Office. The Director of the Counseling Center and Case Manager or their designee will be available to consult regarding appropriate support and resources for the participant. Where possible, the Director of the Counseling Center or his/her designee will be put in contact with the host country person working with the participant in distress. In some cases, the participant may need to be evacuated in order to receive appropriate care (see Evacuation Procedures on page 12).
	Arrange to notify the participant's designated "Emergency Contact" and other involved parties on a need-to-know basis. Program leaders or host institution representatives should note that when the participant's behavior presents a safety concern it is most often appropriate to contact the participant's emergency contact. Consultation is available with a Case Manager in the Dean of Students Office.
	In the absence of consent, consult with staff in the Office of International Education and Development, as well as the Office of the Dean of Students, in planning follow-up support.
	When necessary, provide assistance and support to other participants who may have been impacted by the situation.
	If the participant's behavior remains a serious impediment to the educational objectives of the program or a threat to safety, contact the appropriate staff in the Office of International Education and Development at Appalachian. The staff will work with the Associate Vice Chancellor & Dean of Students, Director of the Counseling Center or his/her designee, and other appropriate Appalachian personnel to determine what other measures are necessary.

_	gram leader or host institution representative should follow the checklist below, as appropriate the circumstances:
	Identify a means of providing immediate help (e.g., local police or other local emergency personnel in the host-country).
	Contact the appropriate staff in the Office of International Education and Development and brief him or her regarding the details of the situation (see "Emergency Contact Numbers" on page 18). The staff person will consult with the Director of the Counseling Center. The Director of the Counseling Center or his/her designee will be available to consult regarding appropriate action for the participant's condition. Where possible, the Director of the Counseling Center or his/her designee will be put in contact with the host country person treating the participant's condition.
	Consult with the Director of the Counseling Center and the Office of the Dean of Students to determine if appropriate, and if such procedures exist in the host country, to work with a medical or mental health professional to petition to have the participant involuntarily committed to the hospital to obtain care. Program leaders or representatives of the host institution should not hesitate to use the police in the host country, if necessary. In some circumstances, however, arrangements will be made to have the student sent back to the United States for hospitalization.
prog	e participant will not voluntarily seek help but does not appear to present safety concerns, the gram leader or host institution representative should follow the checklist below, as appropriate the circumstances:
	Determine who can be called upon to develop a safety plan for the student e.g., therapist, family, or professional from the host institution) and work with those people to open avenues of support and connection.
	Continue to encourage the participant to seek counseling.
	As soon as the participant and/or the situation has de-escalated, contact the appropriate staff in the Office of International Education and Development and brief him/her regarding the details of the situation (see "Emergency Contact Numbers" on page 18). The staff person will consult with the Director of the Counseling Center or their designee. The Director of the Counseling Center or his/her designee will be available to consult regarding appropriate next steps with the participant. Where possible, the Director of the Counseling Center or his/her designee will be put in contact with the host country person providing care for the participant.
	Establish behavioral limits and appropriate boundaries.
	If the participant is breaking the law (e.g., vandalism, destruction of property) and continues to refuse to seek help, the Office of International Education and Development staff person will consult with the Director of the Counseling Center or their designee as

If the participant will not voluntarily seek help and appears to present safety concerns, the

B.

	will be put in contact with the host country person treating the participant's condition.
	If disruptive behavior continues, notify and brief the appropriate staff in the Office of International Education and Development. He/she will determine, after consultation with the Counseling Center, the Dean of Students, and other involved personnel, the need for other emergency measures as may be appropriate, including suspension from the study abroad program.
3.	Infectious Disease or Outbreak of an Epidemic among Program Participants
malaria, meas pathways, incl or airborne in	most common infectious diseases include pneumonia, tuberculosis, diarrheal diseases, sles, and cholera. Transmission of an infectious disease may occur through several luding through contact with infected individuals, by water, food, skin contact, body fluids, phalation. Most recent outbreaks include Ebola, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome influenza, and the H1N1 virus of the swine origin.
	event of infectious disease or outbreak of an epidemic among program participants, the er or host institution representative should follow the checklist below, as appropriate in the :
	mine the urgency of the situation in consultation with the Office of International Education evelopment and both local host country and Appalachian physicians.
	taff in the Office of International Education and Development contacts each participant's nated "Emergency Contact" to inform them of the situation and the Appalachian response to
existe	in information from the U.S. Embassy or Consulate regarding the potential health threat, nice of local medical facilities, local resources, and medical advice as to how to deal with soms until medical help is obtained.
Secure	e medical services immediately for program participants who may have been infected.
Vice	Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development or the Associate Chancellor & Dean of Students activates the Appalachian International Crisis Response which considers developing an evacuation plan, if deemed appropriate and necessary.
docun	propriate, the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team develops a communication ment to be utilized by all personnel involved, and the Appalachian's Chief Communications er issues a press release to inform the media and the Appalachian community and keeps all sted parties updated on the situation.
Devel staff i	de updates on a frequent basis to the staff in the Office of International Education and opment. Frequent contact between the program leader or host institution representative and n the Office of International Education and Development continues until the situation has resolved.
Provid	de updates to "Emergency Contact" as appropriate.

#### B. Legal Emergencies

#### 1. Crime against a Participant (Excluding Sexual Assault)

Crime against a participant, other than sexual assault, may involve a robbery, an assault, or a fight. In the event of a crime against a participant, the program leader or host institution representative should follow the checklist below, as appropriate in the circumstances: Ensure that the participant involved is safe. Attend to the immediate physical and emotional needs of the participant(s) and call emergency medical personnel, if necessary. Contact local host country police and Appalachian University Police. Speak with the person who reported the crime. Identify as many of the key persons involved and facts as possible. Determine identity and present location of the victim(s) and perpetrator(s). Keep a written log of all obtained facts. If appropriate and consistent with the victim's desire for privacy, take and preserve picture images to document the situation (e.g., location, injuries, etc.). Treat your log and any other evidence as confidential and seek guidance from the Office of International Education and Development regarding what to do with such materials. Contact the appropriate staff in the Office of International Education and Development and brief him or her regarding the details of situation (see "Emergency Contact Numbers" on pages 18). Based on the information provided, the Office of International Education and Development staff determines which people at the host country or Appalachian need to be involved in order to ensure necessary support to the victim(s). For serious injury, see protocol for accident or serious injury not leading to immediate death of a participant (page 22). When a victim exhibits fear/fright or shock, activate protocol for students in distress (page 23). The staff in the Office of International Education and Development contacts the participant's designated "Emergency Contact" to inform them of the situation. Brief the staff in the Office of International Education and Development on at least a daily basis until the crisis has subsided. Inform the Office of International Education and Development of any media inquiries. In case the program leader or host institution representative is contacted by a representative of the media: If an Appalachian participant is the victim, do not give the name of the participant or speak on behalf of Appalachian without following the checklist below: Contact the staff person in the Office of International Education and Development before

you respond. The Office of International Education and Development staff, working with

		University Communications, will develop responses to media inquiries. The OIED Communications Liaison will apprise you of media responses as needed.
		Also, please see the section of the Appalachian-ICMP entitled "Communication: Information to the Media and Public" on page 11.
	2.	Interpersonal Violence
non-co exploit	e and sonsensual ation. In	rsonal violence includes, but is not limited to sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic talking. Appalachian's Code of Student Conduct defines sexual misconduct to include sexual intercourse, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual harassment and/or sexual the event of interpersonal violence, the program leader or host institution representative he checklist below, as appropriate in the circumstances:
	Get the	victim to a safe place.
	Responding victim, the convictim Counse	e earliest reasonable opportunity, discuss with the victim your role as a Title IX sible Employee (see explanation below). If confidentiality is a primary concern for the provide specific information about confidential resources available at the host site or in munity. Remember, services provided by Appalachian State can still be utilized by the even if they are abroad. Confidential services provided by Appalachian include the eling Center, the Ombuds Office, Student Legal Clinic, Student Health Services, and (Boone area domestic/sexual violence resource agency).
	Respon Office Appala Respon	X Responsible Employee Role: If you are designated by Appalachian as a Title IX asible Employee, you must report incidents of sexual harassment and sexual violence to the of Equity, Diversity and Compliance (Title IX Coordinator) within one business day. chian has designated all faculty members, supervisors, and certain other staff as Title IX asible Employees. See Appalachian State University Policy 401.2 Harassment and mination (students) and 602.2 Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation (employees)
	Do not resource	with the person reporting the incident and determine the identity and location of the victim. ask what the victim did or did not do. Assure the victim that you want to provide ses and support. You will want to first address any safety concerns and should reference the rsonal Violence Resource Guide or visit ipv.appstate.edu.
	Ask the	victim if they are comfortable with sharing with you what happened.
	Ask the	e victim whether he/she wishes to involve local authorities (i.e., local host country police).
	country preserv are enc	the victim that the laws and procedures for dealing with interpersonal violence in the host may vary from those in the U.S. For example, in the United States it is important to be the evidence of a sexual assault, as this may be used as evidence in a court of law. You couraged to discuss strategies for preserving evidence such as physical injuries, electronic unication, and other documents.
	_	er or not there is obvious physical injury, obtain the victim's consent and take the victim to tal/clinic which has been identified as competent for urgent care.

 If there are signs of obvious emotional disturbance, consult a psychologist/psychiatrist and provide immediate support to the victim. You can also utilize OASIS, or Appalachian State's
after hours ProtoCall system to connect the student with a counselor.
 Contact the appropriate staff in the Office of International Education and Development and brief
him or her regarding the details of the situation (see "Emergency Contact Numbers" on page 18). The staff person will consult the Title IX Coordinator to obtain advice for dealing with the crisis.
If the Title IX Coordinator is absent, advice should be sought from one of the Office of the Dean
of Students. With the victim's consent, the staff will also inform the victim's designated
"Emergency Contact" and aid the victim in activating his/her support network.
Provide regular briefings to the Office of International Education and Development staff person.
Document what the victim has shared in regards to the incident and any steps taken. Continue to
update your notes as steps are taken or as new information is provided.
 In case the program leader or host institution representative is contacted by a representative of the media: If an Appalachian participant is the victim or the alleged, do not
give the name of the participant(s) or speak on behalf of Appalachian without following the
checklist below:
In the case of phone calls, individuals should be told their request has been noted and will be forwarded to the most appropriate university administrators, based on their area of concern. If
they would like to leave their names and contact information, that will be shared as well. They
should not be promised they will get a return call or response, but politely let them know you will
make sure their conversation with you will be shared appropriately. Keep in mind anything you say could be recorded and/or quoted in the media. Record the caller's information, a brief
summary of the conversation, and send the info to the appropriate staff person in OIED. OIED
will work with University Communications, who will respond to media inquiries.
In the case of emails, these should be forwarded to the appropriate staff person in OIED. OIED
will work with University Communications, who will respond. Please note, it is likely responses
will only be sent to individuals who have been verified as having a direct connection to the
university, and who are asking a specific question.
We do not recommend responding to social media posts. If you have questions or concerns about
any posts on the social media sites you manage, please contact University Communications at
ucomm@appstate.edu or 828-262-6156.
Contact the appropriate staff person in the Office of International Education and
Development. The Office of International Education and Development staff will work
with the Appalachian's Chief Communications Officer to develop responses to media inquiries. The OIED Communications Liaison will apprise you of media responses as
needed.

Please see the section of the Appalachian-ICMP entitled "Communication: Information to the Media and Public" on page 11.
victim declines assistance, the program leader or host institution representative will follow ps below, as appropriate in the circumstances:
_ Escort/transport the victim home or to a designated location of their choosing.
Inform the victim that should they request assistance at a later time, the trip leader and other resources are available to them whenever they may need.
Provide the victim with numbers of a hospital/clinic, psychologist/psychiatrist, and any other rape crisis resources that may exist, as well as a law enforcement authority.
Contact the appropriate staff in the Office of International Education and Development and brief him or her regarding the details of the situation (see "Emergency Contact Numbers" on page 18). The staff person will consult with the Title IX Coordinator to obtain advice for dealing with the crisis. With the participant's consent, the staff will also inform the victim's designated "Emergency Contact" and aid the victim in activating his/her support network.
Begin a written log with clear notation of the circumstances surrounding the offer of assistance and the victim's refusal to accept such assistance. Update the log as the crisis unfolds.
 Provide regular briefings to the staff in the Office of International Education and Development.
In case the program leader or host institution representative is contacted by a representative of the media: If an Appalachian participant is the victim or alleged, <u>do not</u> give the name of the participant(s) or speak on behalf of Appalachian without following the checklist below:
Contact the staff person in the Office of International Education and Development before you respond. The Office of International Education and Development staff, working with University Communications Officer, will develop responses to media. The OIED Communications Liaison will apprise you of media responses as needed.
Also, please see the section of the Appalachian-ICMP entitled "Communication: Information to the Media and Public" on page 11.

#### 3. Harassment

Harassment is defined as unwelcome or unsolicited speech or conduct based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, political affiliation, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression that creates a hostile learning, living, or work environment, or that occurs in circumstances involving *quid pro quo*. Harassment is a form of discrimination in violation of U.S. federal and state law, as well as Appalachian State University policy. Retaliation against any person opposing or complaining of harassment is also prohibited misconduct.

Harassment can be manifested in severe and pervasive conduct including, but not limited to the following:

- use of derogatory terms that stereotype people on the basis of any protected status;
- sexual comments or questions of a sexual nature which interferes with an individual's work or educational experience;
- racist or homophobic jokes, or the use of demeaning slang words for people, or for groups of people, based on their race, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation that interferes with a participant's learning environment; or
- imposing religious beliefs on another individual.

For Program Participants: A participant experiencing harassment should follow the checklist below, as appropriate in the circumstances: If the perpetrator's behavior does not stop or the participant is uncomfortable confronting the perpetrator, he or she should report this behavior to the program leader and to the host university office responsible for international students. The participant also should report the behavior to the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Compliance (see "Emergency Contact Numbers" on page 18). The participant should file a complaint in a timely manner, generally within 30 days of the offending conduct. The participant should document the incident(s) thoroughly and keep detailed notes on any interactions or encounters with the alleged perpetrator and subsequent events. **For Program Leaders**: Once a participant has reported a harassment case, the program leader should follow the checklist below, as appropriate in the circumstances: If any participant expresses a concern or complaint about harassment, take it seriously. Contact the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Compliance for guidance on appropriate action and how to proceed. You should not attempt to mediate or resolve the situation yourself. Talk with the reporting participant to understand what steps they would like to take, if any, in reporting the incident or utilizing available resources. Assess the reporting participant's level of safety. If measures need to be taken to ensure the safety of this participant, you should consult with the Title IX Coordinator and the host institution. Take appropriate measures to ensure that the participant making the complaint and those supplying collaborative information are protected from retaliation. If the alleged perpetrator is an Appalachian employee or student, the formal complaint process can be found at: edc.appstate.edu or studentconduct.appstate.edu respectively. Based on the outcome of the investigation, the Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development, in consultation with the program leader, Appalachian University Office of General Counsel, and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Compliance, will determine what additional action to take, if any is necessary.

For students on semester/year or private provider programs: the host institution representative should follow as much of the above checklist as possible, then refer the student to the Office of International Education and Development staff at Appalachian for further follow-up.

### 4. Crime Committed by a Program Participant

A program participant could be arrested for any crime (e.g., theft, assault, or drug possession). In the event of a crime committed by a program participant, the program leader or host institution representative should follow the checklist below, as appropriate in the circumstances:
Assess the situation quickly by obtaining as many details as possible (i.e., determine who, what, when, where, how, and why) and begin writing a log of the crisis situation. Add to this log as the crisis develops.
Contact the U.S. Embassy Consular Officer immediately and ask for the names of lawyers who can give the participant the legal help he/she requires and provide this information to the participant. Consular officials cannot get involved in legal/judicial process, cannot get the participants out of jail, and cannot demand any treatment better than the other prisoners.
Contact the appropriate staff in the Office of International Education and Development and brief him or her on the situation (see "Emergency Contact Numbers" on page 18) as soon as possible. The staff in the Office of International Education and Development will contact the participant's designated "Emergency Contact" and provide that person with contact information for the U.S. Embassy Consular Officer.
The Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development or the Dean of Students activates the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team, which will serve as a resource and provide appropriate recommendations for continuing action to resolve the situation.
If permitted, visit the participant where he/she is being held and explain the legal procedures of the host country (as best as the program leader or host institution representative understands them) and remain in close contact with the U.S. Embassy Officer assigned to the participant.
Provide regular updates (on a daily basis) to the staff in the Office of International Education and Development. The staff in the Office of International Education and Development will be in contact with the participant's designated "Emergency Contact" and the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team. Daily contact between the program leader or host institution representative and the staff in the Office of International Education and Development will continue until the crisis has been resolved.
In case the program leader or host institution representative is contacted by a representative of the media, <u>do not</u> give the name of the participant or speak on behalf of Appalachian without following the checklist below:
Contact the staff person in the Office of International Education and Development before you respond. The Office of International Education and Development staff, working with University Communications, will develop responses to media inquiries. The OIED Communications Liaison will apprise you of media responses as needed.
Also, please see the section of the Appalachian-ICMP entitled "Communication: Information to the Media and Public" on page 11.

### C. Missing Program Participant

A participant may be reported missing by roommate(s), other program participants, host family,

	The Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development or Dean of Students activates the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team. The Appalachian International Crisis Response Team coordinates appropriate actions and plans appropriate follow-up actions.
	If applicable, the program leader or host institution representative will work with the Student Affairs and International Affairs offices at the host university to coordinate appropriate actions and follow-up.
	The program leader or host institution representative and the staff in the Office of International Education and Development will provide appropriate information and reassurances to other Appalachian study abroad program participants.
	Once the participant has been located, the program leader or host institution representative should inform appropriate persons on-site and the staff in the Office of International Education and Development of this fact. The staff in the Office of International Education and Development will notify other appropriate persons in the United States. Notify all appropriate persons on-site. If necessary, activate other protocol, such as "Serious Injury or Illness" on page 22, "Crimes against a Participant" on page 27, or "Death of a Program Participant" on page 35.
	In case the program leader or host institution representative is contacted by a representative of the media, <u>do not</u> give the name of the participant or speak on behalf of Appalachian without following these steps:
	Contact the staff person in the Office of International Education and Development before responding. The Office of International Education and Development staff, working with University Communications, will develop responses to media inquiries. The OIED Communications Liaison will apprise you of media responses as needed.
	Also, please see the section of the Appalachian-ICMP entitled "Communication: Information to the Media and Public" on page 11.
D.	Political and Natural Disaster Emergencies
may be natural	Typical political unrest may include overthrow of the host country government by the military, e again U.S. citizens, terrorist acts, severe rioting, or civil unrest. Natural disaster emergencies created by events such as earthquakes, typhoons, floods, or tsunamis. In the event of political and disaster emergencies, the program leader or host institution representative should follow the st below, as appropriate in the circumstances:
	Contact all participants to make sure that they are accounted for and are safe. If a participant has been injured, have his/her physical injuries attended to (see "Serious Injury or Illness" on page 22). Caution participants about speculative communication and advise them to wait until clear information is available before contacting home.
	Contact the U.S. Embassy or other official government agency and ask for advice and assistance. If the U.S. Embassy is closed, determine the location from which the Embassy is operating (e.g., other embassy within the country, U.S. Embassy in a neighboring country). Gather information or advice regarding: the target of unrest and possible danger to U.S. citizens; minimizing danger

to participants; the probable impact of the event on availability of food, water, and medical supplies; the intensity of the emergency or political unrest; the presence of emergency or military

personnel; the feasibility of continuing the program; and any other information that may aid in the follow-up actions or decisions. Gather as much information as possible. Begin a written log. Continue to update this log as the emergency progresses.

Contact the appropriate staff immediately in the Office of International Education and Development and brief him or her of the situation (see "Emergency Contact Numbers" on page 18). He/she will do the following, as appropriate in the circumstances:

- Contact the U.S. Department of State's Citizen Emergency Center at +1 (202) 501-4444 for suggestions and assistance.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in the host country.
- Contact U.S. study abroad offices at other institutions that have programs in the region to develop a common plan of action. He/she will continue to be in contact with these offices as the situation develops.

The Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development or the Dean of Students activates the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team to consider the following actions:

- Immediate measures needed to ensure the health and safety of participants and faculty/staff.
- Notification of the "Emergency Contacts" for all participants and providing them with regular updates.
- Additional issues regarding health, safety, academics, financial aid, public relations, and legal liability.
- Appropriate actions to be taken overseas, including dealing with participants' initial concerns and recommendations regarding appropriate participant behavior.
- Development of an evacuation plan, if deemed appropriate. The plan would take into
  consideration the relative safety of various modes of transportation and travel routes, the
  costs of evacuation and means for meeting these costs, the possibility of splitting up the
  participants into smaller groups and having them reconvene later in a different location,
  and resources available in the host country.
- Development of guidelines to be utilized when speaking to the media or other individuals about the crisis in order to prevent unnecessary concern and to promote consistency and accuracy in responses. University Communications will respond to media requests, and will set up a system to respond to public inquiries. Only University Communications staff or their designees are authorized to speak to the media on behalf of Appalachian during a crisis situation. This will insure that the information provided to the media and general public is accurate and consistent.
- Preparation of a list of people to be alerted once the crisis management plan is in place.

  This list will include the parents and families of participants abroad, the Appalachian

University community, Appalachian Board of Trustees, University of North Carolina Office of the President, state officials and legislators, and the media.

Development of a plan for daily communication with key people and organizations. The

	Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development will serve as the link with the program leader. The program leader and other designated key people will be contacted on a daily basis until the crisis is resolved.
	_ The Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development maintains a written log of all events, and he/she will write a final report after the crisis ends.
	The Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development or a designee briefs the program leader concerning the plan of action developed by the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team. The Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development or a designee and the program leader work together to determine an appropriate course of action and means of disseminating information to program participants. If the program leader believes that the plan of action needs to be modified, he/she informs the Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development, who in turn, makes recommendations to the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team.
	_ Utilize available resources to carry out the plan of action decided upon in conjunction with the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team.
	Once the crisis has ended, the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team works with the program leader to assess the impact of the event and provide any follow-up that may be needed.
E.	Death of a Program Participant or University Personnel
progra	Death of a program participant or university personnel may result from various causes such as a accident or illness, suicide, or homicide. In the event of the death of a program participant, the am leader or host institution representative should follow the checklist below, as appropriate in the instances:
	Verify the identity of the participant or university personnel and gather as much information about the circumstances surrounding the death as possible. The program leader or host institution representative should begin a written log and update the log as the crisis progresses.
	Contact the appropriate staff in the Office of International Education and Development and the U.S. Embassy or Consulate as soon as is appropriate and brief them on the death of a program participant (see "Emergency Contact Numbers" on page 18).
	The Office of International Education and Development staff immediately travels to the program site to take care of the other students and to address their needs. If necessary and appropriate, Appalachian may send a team of professionals to the host country to provide the necessary support to program participants.
	_ Appalachian's Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students notifies the participant's designated "Emergency Contact" responding to non-medical questions and referring medical questions to the host country medical authorities, and offers other appropriate support.

	host institution representatives in assisting the family with logistical arrangements (e,g., transportation arrangements, accommodations, and arranging for a meeting with the physicians).
	The Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development or Dean of Students activates the Appalachian International Crisis Response Team to coordinate a plan for dealing with the situation. The Team constructs a network to offer appropriate support to all involved parties, such as close friends, roommates or housemates, the host family, other Appalachian program participants, and the person directly involved in discovering the death.
	Once the network is in place, the program leader or host institution representative informs the participant's roommate(s) or housemates and close friends, as well as other Appalachian study abroad program participants.
	The Appalachian International Crisis Response Team, through the Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education and Development, notifies Appalachian leaders and all appropriate offices of the death. He/she makes sure that all the appropriate paperwork is completed. The Appalachian Dean of Students follows-up to ensure that all appropriate contacts have been made. University Communications will develop responses to media inquiries. The OIED Communications Liaison will apprise you of media responses as needed.
	In case the program leader or host institution representative is contacted by a representative of the media, <u>do not</u> give the name of the participant or speak on behalf of Appalachian without following the checklist below, as appropriate in the circumstances:
	Contact the staff person in the Office of International Education and Development before responding. The Office of International Education and Development staff, working with University Communications, will develop responses to media inquiries. The OIED Communications Liaison will apprise you of media responses as needed.
	Also, please see the section of the Appalachian-ICMP entitled "Communication: Information to the Media and Public" on page 11.
F.	Death of Program Participant's Family Member
	It is possible that death may occur in the participant's family while he or she is abroad. Should a pant's family member die, the program leader or host institution representative should follow the st below:
	Write down who is providing the information about the death in the participant's family (name, relationship to the participant, and where and how they can be reached).
	Write down information concerning what happened to the family member, such as where and when the death took place.
	Review the situation with the participant as appropriate.
	If appropriate, secure counseling services from the host site, assist the affected participant and all other program participants, and determine if any other support is required.

_ Assist the participant in returning nome for the funeral, and review any financial support issues
with the participant and the Office of International Education and Development staff. Does the
participant need immediate financial support? The staff in the Office of International Education
and Development will work with the program leader or host institution representative to book
flights for the affected participant to return to the U.S.
 _ Review the participant's status in the program prior to departure and following his or her return,
as well as contact the host university.
The Office of International Education and Development staff confirms that the participant
returned home and sends card and flowers/donation to family as appropriate.
The Office of International Education and Development and the program leader or host institution
representative coordinate the return of the participant to study abroad location, if he or she wishes
to return.
 The Office of International Education and Development will work with the Registrar's Office,
academic department, Office of Student Accounts, and Dean of Students to determine academic and fee details for the participant involved.
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# **APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY Office of International Education and Development**

# INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT REPORT FORM

(Intended for Program Leaders—Those Traveling with Participants Abroad)

This report is to be completed when an incident occurs with any international travel/study program participant. This report is to be forwarded immediately to the Office of International Education and Development (OIED). Also call the Appalachian Police Department 24-hour emergency contact number at (828) 262-8000 (collect calls accepted) to report this information to the university. Use additional sheets as needed.

Date:  Time:  Reported by (Appalachian employee's name):	Type of incident:  [ ] Emergency [ ] Non-emergency [ ] Other (please specify):			
Date/time of incident:  Contact person providing report:  Contact phone number(s):	Affected participant is a:  [ ] Student [ ] Faculty [ ] Staff [ ] Other (please specify):			
Name(s) of the participant(s) involved in the incident (Banner ID# or passport #, if available)				
Title of the education abroad program	Incident description  [ ] Serious injury or illness  [ ] Rape or assault  [ ] Missing participant or kidnapping			
Program location (city and country)	Arrest or incarceration     Hostage situation     Political unrest (situation)     Man-made or natural disaster			
Program's travel dates	<ul> <li>Death of a participant</li> <li>Violation of Appalachian policies</li> <li>Other (please specify):</li> </ul>			
Describe the incident				

Summarize condition of affected participant(s) (e.g., the physical and psychological condition of affected participants, imminent dangers or risks, proximity of event to affected participants, adequacy of food, housing,
medical attention).
Summarize any action taken (e.g., response taken by any local authorities, medical attention provided, plans for evacuation, plans in the event situation gets worse).
Provinced by Course of OVER 1450
Received by (name of OIED staff):
Date/time received:
Copies sent to: