

SECTION E. UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MEDICAL STUDENTS

1. Professional Liability Insurance Coverage

- ◆ State liability coverage applies to students engaged in approved educational activities performed under the “direction and control” of the UW. Most health science international experiences such as clinical or research electives are undertaken at sites that are not under direct UW control. Alternative liability coverage options are under discussion and review by UW Legal Services and UW System Risk Management. At the present time UW Legal Services advises health sciences schools to presume coverage for students completing required clinical or research training, e.g. fourth year electives, in approved programs abroad. Elective clinical experiences for non-degree credit, e.g. summer programs, which are not under UW direction and control are not covered.

2. Approval Procedures and Requirements for Student International Electives

Policies and procedures for UW or externally sponsored student international experiences such as study tours, summer field experiences, and fourth year electives, will be administered through the Office of Academic Affairs to:

- a) Ensure that student participants enrolled in clinical, research, or service activities outside the U.S. are informed of the risks of study abroad and appropriately oriented;
 - b) Ensure that UW-sponsored programs are developed and conducted in compliance with UW System Guidelines for Study Abroad Programs (Section 7.1).
 - c) Maximize the educational value of international experiences.
- ◆ All students undertaking for-credit clinical, research, or public health electives outside the US must meet the requirements stated below.
 - a) Meet with an international health program staff and/or faculty advisor to discuss educational objectives, review elective guidelines and application process, verify academic eligibility, obtain site information, and identify faculty resources for advising and orientation. Students are expected to maintain contact with the appropriate office or faculty advisor periodically throughout the process of completing an international health elective.
 - b) Gather information concerning any in-country political problems, safety concerns, or health hazards by consulting current State Department announcements and publications, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) information, and the sponsoring site.
 - c) Submit a letter from the in-country faculty supervisor confirming the dates of elective, including a description of educational activities, on-site supervision,

financial obligations and housing arrangements. Obtain elective course approval from the Associate Dean for Curriculum and complete registration.

- d) Participate in a course, orientation workshop, or self-directed study in preparation for the elective.
- e) Submit UW medical assessment form for study abroad. Obtain medical travel advice and immunizations appropriate for host country.
- f) Investigate visa and other entrance requirements that may be enforced in the host country.
- g) Purchase the required UW System medical/evacuation insurance policy (CISI) for the duration of the elective and provide verification of purchase prior to departure.
- h) Designate emergency contact persons at the elective site and in the US.
- i) Register with the US Embassy in the host country prior to or upon arrival.
- j) Adhere to laws of the host country, standards of professional behavior, and standards of conduct set by the program site.
- k) Sign and submit the University of Wisconsin System Uniform Statement of Responsibility, Release, and Authorization to participate in study abroad and exchange programs prior to departure which establishes informed consent, assumption of risk, and understanding of the terms and conditions of the program abroad.
- l) Submit an official evaluation of student academic performance and grade completed by the site preceptor. Credit will not be granted for electives without such evaluation. Submit a student elective report and evaluation of the elective to the Office of Academic Affairs.
- m) Comply with additional academic requirements to satisfactorily complete an international elective specified by UW course descriptions, the host site, or the UW faculty advisor.

3. Health and Safety Requirements

The Medical School requires that all students on officially- approved study abroad programs adhere to the following health and safety requirements, in compliance with the UW System Policy Guidelines for the Conduct of International Study Abroad Programs:

- a) Assess health and safety risks particular to the host country or elective site.

Approval for electives in countries where the Department of State or CDC has issued travel warnings will be reviewed case-by-case by the Office of Academic Affairs in consultation with the Department of State, CDC, UW, and local site authorities. Approval may be denied. In the event a warning is issued while the student is abroad, determination of the appropriate action will be made on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the student, supervising preceptors, UW Office of International Studies and Programs and State Department officials.

Upon advice of UW infectious disease specialists, and taking into account warnings from the CDC, travel to countries experiencing serious outbreaks of infectious disease may be restricted.

- b) Review US Department of State country information and communicate with local site regarding known risks.
- c) Submit verification of appropriate faculty supervision at host site.
- d) Complete orientation for study abroad, through self-study or formal preparatory sessions offered by the school. Such orientation will emphasize knowledge of personal health and safety precautions, universal precautions, infectious disease risks, cultural conditions, personal and professional behavior standards, emergency contact procedures and preparation for medical work.
- e) Sign UW System Uniform Statement of Responsibility (liability waiver).
- f) Purchase required UW medical evacuation and health insurance offered by Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI). Coverage through the Student Health Insurance Program (SHIP), the International Student Identification Card, or any private insurance policy does not satisfy this requirement.
- g) Complete travel health consultation prior to departure.
- h) Provide emergency contact information to the Medical School.

Approval of international experiences will not be granted if it is determined that undue risk exists or if students fail to comply with the stated requirements.