

CRISIS MANAGEMENT for EDUCATION ABROAD

Edited by Patricia C. Martin

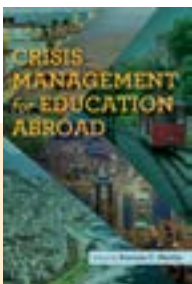


Health and Safety in Education Abroad Programs: Next Steps

Colleges and universities are increasingly being held responsible for lapses in the training of staff and faculty and the supervision of students in their care. This checklist provides an overview of critical elements and suggests an approach for mitigating an organization's liability when operating education abroad programs. For additional guidance and resources on mitigating organization liability abroad, and more checklists, read Chapter Seven in *Crisis Management for Education Abroad*, available for purchase online from the [NAFSA bookstore](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS Mitigating Organizational Liability

- ❑ Perform an internal and external "risk assessment audit" on all programs and/or locations.
- ❑ Develop a clear travel policy that addresses oversight related to travel in higher-risk locations, such as those under U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings or CDC Travel Notices: Warning Level Three.
- ❑ Create an independent risk and security assessment committee for international travel that is responsible for vetting new international experiences, especially those in high-threat locations. Include representatives from your institution's risk management, general counsel, campus police, health services, provost or president's office, the graduate school, education abroad/international programs, and academic experts from relevant area studies centers to regularly and objectively review programs/locations for health, safety, and security concerns.
- ❑ Fund a program leader mentoring program, whereby seasoned program leaders are paid to train new, potential leaders.
- ❑ Hire a travel health and safety specialist who can apply an institution-wide approach to international risk management, and also serve as a 24/7 first responder.



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