POLICY on TRAVEL by STUDENTS of the HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

October 21, 2013

This policy has been adopted by the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Harvard University is committed to the safety of our students, wherever their intellectual pursuits may lead them. Physical safety is a necessary premise to Harvard’s core values of “free expression, free inquiry, intellectual honesty, respect for the dignity of others, and openness to constructive change.” Harvard provides many resources to student travelers, some of which are described below. All of our students are expected to use those resources and others to make prudent, independent judgments about their safety and to take reasonable precautions, based on a thorough and honest assessment of the risks at their destination. When travel is Harvard-sponsored as defined below, the University has a special interest in overseeing student safety.

International Travel Safety Information

Before traveling abroad, students should visit www.traveltools.harvard.edu, maintained by Global Support Services (GSS), to:

- register the trip in the Harvard Travel Registry,
- review “Before You Go” guidelines and country-specific safety information, and
- consult GSS Travel Risk Ratings.

The Travel Risk Ratings list High-Risk, Elevated-Risk, and Watch-List countries and regions requiring particular attention or precautions. These ratings change from time to time depending on world events.

Some Schools have additional requirements or expectations for student travel.

Travel to High-Risk Countries and Regions with Harvard “Sponsorship”

The Harvard Graduate School of Design employs this policy (see below) and requires the following for their students traveling to High-Risk countries with Harvard “sponsorship” (i.e. the travel or related activities involve academic work that qualifies for Harvard credit, are funded in whole or in part by Harvard, or are organized or accompanied by a Harvard faculty or staff member acting in a Harvard capacity), and recommend the same for all travelers to High-Risk countries, whether or not the travel is “sponsored” by Harvard:

1. Typically one month prior to travel, the student submits a Travel Safety Questionnaire (http://globalsupport.harvard.edu/docs/questionnaire_graduate_travel.doc) to GSS’s International Safety and Security team with a copy to the designated School official, Jackie Piracini (Piracini@gsd.harvard.edu).
2. Depending on the travel, GSS may request a follow-up consultation, usually a brief phone call.

3. Based on GSS’s recommendations, and in consultation with the student and any involved faculty, the designated School official may require additional safety measures and/or trip adjustments as a condition of receiving Harvard funding, credit, or other sponsorship. In exceptional cases where appropriate risk mitigation is found too costly or impractical, this may have the effect of deferring or canceling the trip.

Decisions regarding student travel will ordinarily consider the student’s training and experience and the appropriate balance between safety concerns and the academic value of the project, consistent with the School’s risk tolerance, taking into account any alternative means to reach the academic objective.

Sometimes a country or region faces a significant safety deterioration while the student is in country. In those cases, the GSS International Safety and Security team will assess the risks of remaining in the country and the risks of departure, consulting with the student directly if appropriate, and will make a recommendation to the designated School official. The University and the School reserve the right to require students to leave a High-Risk country as a condition of maintaining Harvard sponsorship.

**Reporting Incidents Abroad**

Any Harvard traveler who experiences or witnesses a serious medical or safety incident while abroad should report the event, to help the University support the safety and security of the community.

- If urgent help is required: First call local police, fire or medical responders, if appropriate (local equivalent of “911”). Then call Harvard Travel Assist at +1 617 998 0000 (worldwide, 24/7) for additional assistance and to report the incident.
- If urgent help is not required: Report the incident within 72 hours by emailing globalsupport@harvard.edu

Reportable incidents include illnesses and injuries (needing a health care professional), accidents, crimes of all kinds, missing persons, harassment, property damage, and incidents that forced a significant itinerary change. For more on incident reporting, see:

http://www.globalsupport.harvard.edu/international_health_safety/incident_reporting.shtml

**Student Judgment**

Harvard recognizes and respects that students’ risk tolerances vary. Any student may decline to travel to a particular place, or to remain there, if the student has justifiable fears for his or her personal safety. Harvard and individual faculty and staff shall respect the decision and not pressure the student to decide otherwise. This provision may apply whether or not Harvard has classified the place as “High-Risk”.

Students should notify the designated School Official or the Vice Provost for International Affairs if they believe there has been a violation of this policy.