



Earth Education International Participation Agreement: Policies & Protocols

Program Policies

Because study abroad involves unique risks and conditions, there is a need to clearly communicate expectations of all participants. Certain guidelines are for safety and others for program efficiency. A summary is below (see full details at <http://www.EarthEdIntl.org/Policies.htm>).

- 1. Academic responsibility.** When we are in the field we are fulfilling 'classroom' time. Thus, participants must behave as they would in the classroom. This means following instructions, attending and paying attention, and not being disruptive during such activities.
- 2. Required equipment and supplies.** In order to be prepared for field study, each participant is required to bring: a) A good *flashlight* with extra batteries; b) Basic *medical supplies* (e.g., anti-diarrhea, antiseptics/antibacterial ointments, sting/itch reliever, motion sickness medication, etc.); c) *Enclosed shoes*; d) *Travel bag(s)/backpack*; e) *Water bottle* (at least 1 liter size); f) *Rain gear* (umbrella, waterproof jacket/poncho); g) *Sun gear* (hat, sunscreen, long-sleeve shirt and/or sunburn medication); and h) Required *personal medications*, and i) at least *four (4) self-test rapid Covid test kits* (not available in Costa Rica), in addition to having face masks and hand sanitizer on-hand (see Health Protocols below).
- 3. Departure from the field site.** For safety reasons, participants may NOT leave the established 'field site' without authorization from the faculty in charge. The 'field site' is normally defined as the lodging facilities area but may also be defined as the town (e.g., San Ramón).
- 4. Alcohol use.** Legal consumption of alcoholic beverages is generally acceptable *in moderation*, providing participants conduct themselves in a mature manner and abide by all program policies. Violation of these policies may result in this privilege being revoked. Please note that alcohol consumption is permitted ONLY after the last course activity on any given day, and it may not be permitted at all at certain field sites.
- 5. Smoking.** Smoking is permitted in any open-air setting, provided it is done with respect for those in the vicinity. However, no smoking is allowed during any class session (indoors or outdoors), or any other enclosed facility.
- 6. Illegal drugs.** Possession, use and/or distribution of any illegal drug *as defined by Costa Rican law* will result in immediate dismissal from the course or program and may result in referral to civil authorities.
- 7. Damage/destruction of property/theft.** Damage, destruction, defacing, or theft is inappropriate and illegal. Any participant involved in such activities will be subject to disciplinary action and referred to the authorities as well as being responsible for any and all associated costs.
- 8. Respect for others.** Please make every attempt to be respectful of the host culture, other participants, faculty, and staff at all times. Harassment or similar disrespectful behavior including (but not limited to) gender, race, sexual preference or disabilities will not be tolerated.

Health Protocol

In order to protect the health of participants, staff, and community partners, the following guidelines relate to infectious diseases such as Covid. Please remember that beyond individual health, even one illness in the group has the potential of causing the course to cancel entirely.

- 9. Pre-departure & international travel.** Because program safety begins prior to arrival, participants will need to take extra precautions one week prior to departure and during international travel. At a minimum this consists of following standardized hygiene protocols such as frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer, avoiding socializing in close proximity to others indoors during this time, and wearing a face mask inside the airport and plane.
- 10. In-country precautions:** The following safety precautions are to be observed: a) Each participant must bring at least *two (2) Covid rapid self-test kits* (NOT available locally) and *two (2) face masks* to have on-hand for immediate use in case of an outbreak among the group; b) Perform a self-administered rapid Covid test upon arrival in Costa Rica (a positive test mean you will NOT be able to participate); and c) Follow standardized hygiene protocols at all times such as frequent hand-washing, use of hand sanitizer, mouth covering when coughing, and physical distancing to the extent possible. Please note that face masks *MAY* be required on short notice as directed by the faculty in charge.
- 11. Symptomatic response:** In case of illness the following guidelines must be observed: a) Symptoms must be reported to the faculty when they appear, and extra precautions must be taken as needed; b) Individuals with symptoms may be required to test for Covid; and c) A positive Covid result will necessitate a 7-day quarantine order in accordance with Costa Rica Health Ministry rules. Associated costs will be the responsibility of the participant.

v.2023-05

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Participant Agreement

I hereby choose to participate in this course or program, and as such agree to the following terms and conditions:

- I will abide by all program policies and protocols (summarized above & posted online at <http://www.EarthEdIntl.org/Policies.htm>).
- My participation in this course or program may be terminated for any of the following reasons: a) Inability to maintain an acceptable academic performance, b) Violation of program policies or protocols, or c) Violation of Costa Rican law.
- I will be responsible for costs associated with any health care treatment I receive, as well as any associated costs (e.g. mandatory quarantining due to Covid-19). This includes being prepared ahead of time for direct payment (e.g., credit/debit card), paying expenses not covered by my insurance and/or making arrangements for reimbursement from my insurance company.
- I recognize that travel and international study involves unique risks and conditions, and thus hereby release Earth Education International, Miguel (Michael) Karian, other staff, faculty and any cooperating partner institutions, agencies, or individuals from any and all claims or liability as a result of my participation. This includes, but is not limited to, damages, loss or destruction of property, personal injury, or death. This release shall bind me, my estate, personal representatives, heirs, and legal guardians. Any and all legal proceedings arising from or in connection with my participation on this program will be governed by the laws of Costa Rica. I thus expressly submit to the jurisdiction of the Costa Rican court system in the event of any such proceedings.

Name of course/program: _____ Program dates: _____

Print your name: _____ Home university: _____

Your signature: _____ Today's date: _____