



RELEASE, WAIVER, AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK STATEMENT DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, STUDY, AND WORK OFF-CAMPUS

Embarking on off-campus experiences, whether domestic or international, adds a dynamic dimension to your academic journey. As you prepare for exciting opportunities involving travel, study, and work beyond our campus borders, it's crucial to be well-informed and mindful of the potential risks involved. This guide serves as a comprehensive resource, providing you with a Release, Waiver, and Acknowledgement of Risk Statement designed to enhance your understanding of the responsibilities, challenges, and rewards associated with off-campus experiential learning.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

FIELD WORK TERM AT BENNINGTON COLLEGE

I acknowledge that engaging in a domestic Field Work Term experience or undertaking international travel for study or work outside the United States carries inherent risks that may differ from those encountered while residing and studying on the Bennington College campus. These risks encompass, but are not restricted to, potential occurrences such as illness, injuries extending to the extent of fatality, mental health challenges, emotional distress, or damage to personal property. These risks may arise from various circumstances or activities, including, but not limited to, the items listed below.

FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FIELD WORK TERM SITE EXPERIENCES:

- different levels of supervision, safety, or security;
- different physical surroundings, terrain, and weather conditions;
- different expectations with respect to conduct and performance;
- different social norms, including standards of dress and appearance;
- different laws and standards of law enforcement, including with respect to drug and alcohol laws.

FOR FIELD WORK TERM EXPERIENCES WHILE LIVING ABROAD:

- travel, vehicles, airplanes, boats, and other forms of transportation; and different:
- political, legal and social systems;
- economic conditions;
- laws and law enforcement means and methods;
- standards of design, accessibility, safety and maintenance of buildings, public places, infrastructure and vehicles;
- standards of food safety and inspection;
- standards as to the availability and provision of medical care; and
- weather conditions.

I also understand and acknowledge that while living abroad I may encounter risks related to, for example:

- political unrest or instability, including civil unrest, violence, terrorism, crime, illness, kidnapping and other threats;
- different dietary customs;
- different educational systems and academic expectations;
- different recognition of civil rights or accommodations for persons with disabilities;
- different laws and expectations with respect to alcohol and drug use; and
- different relationship with respect to gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity issues.

FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FIELD WORK TERM SITE EXPERIENCES:

I acknowledge that Bennington College neither employs, supervises, controls, nor holds authority over individuals with whom I will collaborate, study, or be affiliated. Consequently, Bennington College cannot be held responsible for the actions or behavior of any such individuals. Furthermore, I understand that Bennington College does not own, supervise, or oversee the facilities where I will reside, study, or work. Therefore, the college cannot be held responsible for the conditions or circumstances within these premises.

I acknowledge that Bennington College and its officers and employees do not undertake to manage or assume any risks associated with my participation in Field Work Term experiences. I understand that neither Bennington College nor its officers and employees are responsible for any illness, injury (including death), mental illness, emotional harm, or property damage that may arise from encountering such risks. By indicating my acceptance through the check-mark and initialing the Release, Waiver, and Assumption of Risk Agreement on the Field Work Term Registration Form, I willingly assume all such risks. I hereby waive any potential claims against Bennington College, its officers, and employees, releasing them from liability for any illness, injury (up to and including death), mental and emotional harm, and property damage that may occur during my participation in off-campus experiences, including living, studying, and/or working away from the Bennington campus, as well as traveling to or from any location for domestic or international Field Work Term experiences.

FOR FIELD WORK TERM EXPERIENCES WHILE LIVING ABROAD:

I understand that it is my responsibility to research the visa regulations related to the specific countries I will be visiting, to stay up-to-date on any changes to such regulations, and to ensure that I have met the required credentials and paperwork requirements before I travel. I have been informed how to locate the **U.S. State Department Travel Warnings and Consular Information Sheets**, and have read and understand the State Department's information specific to the countries I will be visiting, including any **travel advisories**. If I am not a U.S. citizen, I understand that I should also check my home country's embassy website for travel information. I have been informed how to locate the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Travel Health Notices** and have read and understand any travel health notices for the countries I will be visiting. I have made my own inquiries and investigation into risks and differences in those countries, and my decisions about where to travel are entirely my own. I understand and acknowledge that I am solely responsible for my own safety and welfare at all times.

FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FIELD WORK TERM SITE EXPERIENCES:

I understand and acknowledge that while away from Bennington College I am solely responsible for my own safety and welfare at all times.

FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FIELD WORK TERM SITE EXPERIENCES:

The choice to participate in a domestic Field Work activity or travel, study and/or work abroad I have selected is entirely my own, made after appropriate inquiries and investigation. I am participating in the activity voluntarily and of my own accord. While Bennington affiliated staff and faculty have provided advising in Field Work Term planning, my selection of this activity was not made in reliance upon advice or information given by Bennington College or its officers or agents to supervise or control my activities domestically or abroad, to warn me of specific dangers, or to guarantee my safety or security. I understand that I am solely responsible for assessing my ability to participate safely in the domestic or international off-campus activity I have selected.

FOR DOMESTIC FIELD WORK TERM SITE EXPERIENCES:

I acknowledge that I am required to have continuous medical insurance that is valid in the location I have selected, and I agree to comply with this requirement.

FOR FIELD WORK TERM SITE EXPERIENCES WHILE LIVING ABROAD:

I acknowledge that I am required to have medical insurance that is valid in the country where I plan to live, and that I must procure medevac and repatriation insurance coverage. I agree to comply with these requirements.