

Ramapo College of New Jersey

REASONABLE CARE GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL GROUP STUDENT TRAVEL

Excerpt from Kaplin, et al (2007). The Law of Higher Education, Fourth Edition, Student Version. John Wiley and Sons: San Francisco, CA. p. 98

“...the courts are imposing a duty of reasonable care on colleges that requires them to take steps to protect students, faculty and staff from reasonably foreseeable harm. Particularly if the program takes place in a country, that is deemed unsafe or prone to criminal activity, considerable precautions will need to be taken by the college...”

The following are Ramapo College’s Reasonable Care Recommendations for International Student Travel:

1. **Evaluations** - Subject programs to annual & periodic evaluation and assessments.
2. **Compliance** - Ensure compliance with all international, federal and state laws and regulations.
3. **Signed contract with local organization(s)** – Develop a signed contract and shared liability for the facilitation of this program.
4. **Health and security insurance** is required for all student travelers (faculty accompanying are required to have same insurance). For faculty/staff traveling independently, insurance is available and recommended.
5. **Resource dissemination** – For any international program sponsored by Ramapo College, all participants (leaders, students and other eligible participants) should be provided with a resource packet highlighting the associated risks of travel to the proposed destination(s). Provide the “Tips on How to avoid Becoming a Victim” document & the UK DOS “Risk Mitigation Tips” to each participant as well. Also provide a guide for travelers defining specific program expectations & policies for which the students will be held accountable. E.g. alcohol use, travel after dark, public transportation, health, etc. Provide health, immunization info on website.
6. **Orientation on Safety, Security, and Health** – required for all participants to review perceived and real risks, and discuss possible mitigation strategies and emergency responses. This should be conducted prior to departure AND upon arrival.
7. **Emergency Cards** - provide to all students that contains pertinent information for in country resources as well as communication information for group leaders.
8. **Cell phones** – provide each leader with in-country cell phone service to be accessible and to have the ability to contact someone in the case of an emergency.

9. **Register with the Department of State (DOS)** – Strongly recommend all U.S. students to register through S.T.E.P. during the pre-departure phase or the sponsoring unit completes the registration for all participants.
10. **Contingency Planning** – develop a variety of contingency plans for all aspects of the program.
11. **Health Mapping** – through the insurance provide research and have on hand recommended doctors, hospitals, pharmacy, emergency services, rape crisis center, safe blood supply, rabies center, etc.