Special Waiver and Acknowledgement required for study MEXICO ~ Spring/Winter 2019

As a condition of, and as consideration for, my studying abroad under the auspices of Wesleyan University’s Office of Study Abroad, either on a Wesleyan-administered program or another program, I agree to the following assumption of risk and release and waiver. I understand and agree that no oral representations can or will alter the contents of this document, and that if any portion of this document is deemed unenforceable, all other provisions remain in full force and effect.

I affirm that I am age 18 or older.

Assumption of Risk:
I understand that participation in a study abroad program involves risks not present on Wesleyan’s Middletown, CT campus. For initiatives abroad these include, but are not limited to, risks inherent in travel to and from, and within, a foreign country, and risks resulting from different:

• legal, economic, social, political, and law enforcement conditions;
• standards for the safety and maintenance of both private and public buildings and conveyances, including different standards for the accessibility and accommodations of persons with disabilities;
• standards for the availability and provision of medical care;
• weather conditions; and
• educational systems and expectations

I understand these risks and accept and assume them as a condition for my participating in such a program. I acknowledge that my participation in that program is voluntary.

General Release and Waiver:
I, for myself, and for my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, release and waive any and all claims arising out of my participation in a study abroad program led by a Wesleyan faculty or staff member that I may have, now or in the future, against Wesleyan University, its employees or agents, including, but not limited to, claims for damage to or loss of property, consequential damages, violation of civil rights, personal illness or injury, or death.

I understand that Wesleyan University, including the leader of the off-campus initiative, does not administer or control all aspects of such initiatives, and that other providers of goods or services in this connection are not agents of Wesleyan or under its control.

Medical Release and Authorization:
I assume all risk and responsibility for my medical needs while a participant in a Wesleyan approved or administered Study Abroad Program, and acknowledge that Wesleyan is not responsible for the provision and quality of medical treatment or hospital care that I receive while such a participant.
In the event of a medical emergency, however, I authorize Wesleyan to take any action deemed in good faith to be necessary for my health and safety. I assume full financial responsibility for, and release Wesleyan, including the leader of such initiative, from any and all liabilities resulting from the good faith exercise of this authority.

I understand that Wesleyan has the authority to contact my parent/guardian about my physical or mental health while I am abroad if it is deemed advisable to do so.

I authorize Wesleyan, including the leader of the program, to determine whether it is in my best interests or those of Wesleyan or the program that I return home.

I have read the U.S. Department of State Travel Country Information page concerning travel to Mexico by U.S. citizens.

I understand and acknowledge that:

- I am required to sign the Assumption of Risk and Release and Waiver form and other forms required for Wesleyan approved study abroad programs generally because I will be a registered Wesleyan student while studying in Mexico; and that references to Wesleyan’s permission to, and approval of, study abroad in those forms means only that Wesleyan has agreed to give me credit for approved courses I satisfactorily complete in Mexico;

- Wesleyan University is in no way responsible for my health, safety or security while in, and while traveling to and from, Mexico;

- In spite of my being encouraged to follow the advice of the on-site coordinator and regardless of any advice that is given, neither Wesleyan nor the on-site coordinator is responsible for my health, safety or security while in, or while traveling to and from, Mexico; and that

- Should I decide to leave Mexico before the end of a program because of health or safety concerns, or for any other reason, Wesleyan will not be obligated to give me credit for a partial semester of study or a refund of tuition or any other fees.

I am aware of the specific risks of travel to, and in, Mexico, as detailed below:

- Travel Advisory Level 2 – exercise increased caution due to crime.
  - Do not travel to Colima, Guerrero, Michoacan, Sinaloa, and Tamaulipas.
  - There are extra precautions for many other states in Mexico, so please visit the State Department website before traveling.

- Violence in Mexico occurs at a high rate and can be violent.
• opportunistic street and petty crimes, including pickpocketing, bag-snatching and mugging, with greater risks in urban areas, crowded squares, transport terminals, and the metro and buses

• sexual assault and rape, especially of females and especially in resorts and deserted beaches – these attacks are often perpetrated by taxi drivers and hotel employees (it is not recommended to travel alone after dark)

• whistling and cat-calls, and sometimes public groping, of women

• police violence against women, targeting independent, low-budget tourists, especially in isolated rural areas where laws and police are most corrupt

• ATM and credit card fraud

• travel by public transportation and the use of unlicensed taxis

• drink spiking

• substandard and tainted alcohol at bars and nightclubs, including at upscale resorts

• road banditry along highways, resulting in carjacking, robbery and kidnapping (including buses and taxis) – particular danger at night along rural, isolated roads

• overland travel, with criminals posing as police officers who impose fines, arrest motorists, or rob and/or physically assault them – it is recommended to avoid the following roads:
  • coastal road (Highway 200) between Acapulco and Puerto Escondido
  • Highway 37 from Uruapan to Playa Azul
  • Highway 40 connecting Reynosa with Monterrey
  • Highway 51 from Zitácuaro to Huétamo
  • Route 180 from Mérida to Campeche state
  • Highway 186 from Chetumal to Villahermosa
  • roads connecting Matamoros and Reynosa with Ciudad Victoria

• frequent, and often violent, clashes between rival drug cartels, or between armed criminal gangs and security forces, especially along the northern and north-eastern border region, and the central Pacific coastline

• kidnapping:
  • express kidnapping, especially in upmarket locations in Mexico City
  • kidnap-for-ransom
  • “virtual” kidnapping, leading to extortion

• frequent large-scale protests and demonstrations over a variety of grievances (including corruption, hiked fuel prices, and election results), especially in Mexico City, which
may result in clashes with police, localized violence, and disruption to road transportation

(TRAVELLERS ARE ADVISED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL RALLIES)

• celebratory gunfire during major holidays and public festivals

• non-potable tap water

• illnesses including:
  • Chagas disease
  • Chikungunya
  • cutaneous larva migrans
  • Dengue Fever
  • Hepatitis A
  • HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and STDs
  • Leishmaniasis
  • malaria
  • rabies
  • travelers’ diarrhea
  • Typhoid Fever
  • West Nile Virus
  • Zika virus
  • Tuberculosis

• air pollution

• altitude sickness

• susceptibility of the country to seismic activity

Student Signature: __________________________________________

Student Name Printed: _________________________________________

Date: ___________________________