Special Waiver and Acknowledgement required for study
SOUTH AFRICA ~ Summer/Fall 2018

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-administer 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 South Africa 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 South Africa; 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 South Africa;
- Wesleyan University is in no way responsible for my health, safety or security while in, and while traveling to and from, South Africa;
- 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, South Africa; and that
- Should I decide to leave South Africa 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, South Africa, as detailed below:

- high level of crimes, much of it violent, especially in business areas at night and during the weekends, on commuter and metro trains, outside transport hubs, in restaurants and stores, and after being followed to accommodation/lodgings from the airport – most of this crime is concentrated in and around Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban:
  - armed robbery and muggings
  - rape
  - carjacking
  - smash-and-grab
Increased levels of crime against women, including opportunistic crime and sexual assault (**DO NOT TRAVEL AFTER DARK OR ALONE ON FOOT**)

Higher risk of crime and violence in high-density, low-income neighborhoods and informal settlements (deprived urban areas), especially in Cape Town and Johannesburg (**HIGH TRAVEL RISK**)

Theft from unattended vehicles

carjacking and theft from slow-moving or stationary vehicles, especially at night – be particularly vigilant at petrol stations, shopping centres, ATMs, entrances to residences, traffic lights, and street junctions

Criminals posing as police officials and committing crimes including those listed above

Express kidnappings

Frequent strikes and demonstrations which may turn violent, can disrupt public services including transport and electricity, and which may result in blocked roads, arson, looting, and vandalism

Periodic bouts of social unrest, including protests and demonstrations, resulting from socioeconomic tensions due to high levels of inequality and perceived government inaction

Frequent localized unrest due to inadequate public services in lower-income areas of major cities

Xenophobic sentiments and violence between indigenous and migrant African communities in low-income areas on the outskirts of larger cities

Political unrest and localized clashes between rival parties, especially during the lead-up to elections, which may result in violent demonstrations (**HIGH RISK IN KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**)

Use of unregistered taxis

Drink spiking

Dangerous coastal waters:
- shark attacks
- rip tides

Rapidly changing weather conditions along hiking trails
• brush fires, especially in the Western Cape, which may result in road closures and evacuations

• wildlife safari injuries and death

• illnesses including:
  • Chikungunya
  • cholera
  • Crimean-Congo Fever
  • Filariasis
  • Hepatitis A
  • HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and STDs
  • malaria
  • rabies
  • Schistosomiasis
  • tick bite fever
  • travelers’ diarrhea
  • tuberculosis
  • Typhoid Fever
  • West Nile Virus

• altitude sickness

• air pollution

Student Signature: ________________________________

Student Name Printed: __________________________

Date: ________________________________