

## Release, Waiver, and Acknowledgement of Risk Statement Domestic and International Travel, Study, and Work Off-Campus

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### May 2020 Update:

Given wide variances in levels of risk associated with exposure to the COVID-19 virus—depending upon such factors as geographic location, individual health and personal circumstances, and varying local preventative measures—Bennington’s approval or disapproval of a proposed Field Work Term experience will be based solely on the content of the work to be performed and its value to the student’s educational experience. Decisions relating to the location of the work, whether it is to be performed on-site or remotely, and the restrictions, if any, to be placed upon on-site work, are the responsibility of the student in conjunction with the employer. Bennington assumes no responsibility for those decisions.

Bennington College is not able to assess the risks of any particular internship, or the safety measures appropriate to particular employment settings. Further, Bennington College will not require any student to participate in an on-site internship, and will not penalize any student for choosing not to do so. The decision whether to participate in an on-site internship is entirely up to the individual student. Bennington College assumes no liability for the decisions students make when considering whether to participate in an on-site internship this summer.

It is each student’s full responsibility to research the health and safety risks and appropriate precautions when determining whether to participate in an on-site internship. Students considering an on-site internship should research the national and state-specific safety recommendations for their prospective location, such as: guidance from the state Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control’s [COVID-19 Information for Travelers](#), advice on [Coronavirus and Travel in the United States](#) if traveling domestically, any [Travel Health Notices](#) for the destination if traveling internationally, the U.S. State Department’s [Travel Warnings and Consular Information Sheets](#) and [Travel Advisories](#), and information from the student’s home country’s embassy website if they are not a U.S. Citizen. Students should also consult with their families, and discuss any site-specific safety issues with their employers.

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I understand that participating in a domestic Field Work Term experience or travel abroad and study or work outside the United States may involve risks that may not be present when living and studying on the Bennington College campus. These may include, but are not limited to, illness, injury up to and including death, mental illness or emotional harm, or loss of or damage to property, that may arise from or be associated with, for example,

*For domestic and international FWT 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 FWT 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 FWT site experiences:*

I understand and acknowledge that Bennington College does not employ, supervise, control or have authority over the people with whom I will be working, studying, or associated with, and therefore cannot be responsible for the conduct of any such person. I also understand that Bennington College does not own, supervise, or manage the premises on which I will be living, studying, or working, and therefore cannot be responsible for conditions on such premises.

*For domestic and international FWT site experiences*

I understand that Bennington College and its officers and employees cannot (and have not undertaken to) manage any risk associated with my participation, and are not responsible for any illness or injury, including death, mental illness, and emotional harm or property damage that I may experience as a consequence of encountering any such risk(s). **By check-marking and initialing the Acceptance of Release, Waiver, and Assumption of Risk Agreement on the FWT Registration Form, I am assuming any and all such risks, and waiving any and all potential claims against Bennington College and its officers and employees and releasing each of them and all of them from liability for illness, injury up to and including death, mental and emotional harm, and property damage that I may experience while living, studying and/or working away from the Bennington campus, or traveling to or from another location in domestic or international FWT experiences.**

*For FWT 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 [<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go.html>], and have read and understand the State Department's information specific to the countries I will be visiting, including any travel advisories [<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>]. 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 [<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/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 FWT 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 FWT 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 FWT 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 FWT sites:*

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 FWT 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.