



Because of the extreme diversity of conditions found in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania, our safety policies are, of necessity, highly specific and directly related to the local situation at any given period of time. In general, however, IHP relies on the following sources of information, assessing whether a particular program may be offered and operated as planned:

- We monitor U.S. Government advisories, considering both those issued by in-country embassies and consulates and by the State Department in Washington, D.C.
- We rely on the considerable in-situ knowledge and analysis of our Country Coordinators, other in-country staff, and cooperating institution colleagues with whom we generally have long and trusting relationships.
- World Learning/SIT through its unique broad-based range of academic and NGO activities and contacts around the world, offers another source of information about current events and safety issues in dozens of countries. We are also in contact with other study abroad programs through personal, professional, and online networks.
- Our senior staff, including our Program Directors, have collectively lived, traveled and worked in the regions where our programs operate. These staff members are available on call around the clock.

While the above points focus on risk assessment, informing our decisions about whether, where, and/or how to operate a particular program, the IHP program model has at least two characteristics which have proven important over the years in minimizing safety risks, street crimes, accidents, exposure to political violence, and so on, once students are in country:

- The pre-departure material sent to students post-acceptance, and the initial orientation period at the start of the program is a critical component of IHP, during which Program Directors, Country Coordinators, faculty and others are in a position to educate students about potential safety risks and minimize these risks. Our staff and local in-country leaders provide further orientation briefings and reminders at key junctures throughout the program, most notably at times of movement to different program locales.
- We rely on the homestay component of each of our programs for additional community perspectives on local issues.

Total safety cannot, of course, be guaranteed abroad just as it cannot be in the United States. IHP is committed to taking the reasonably necessary steps to maximize student safety at every program site.