

# STUDENT SAFETY ABROAD

Parent Webinar  
December 9, 2015



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## INTRODUCTIONS



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## ADMIN ITEMS...

- Presentation is being recorded; video and slides will be available on Notre Dame International website early next week;
- We are not taking questions “live” tonight but please continue to send to e-mail address provided in invite;
- We will respond to previously submitted questions individually within the week;
- Q&A webpage should be available before Christmas break.



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# Agenda



- Recent events
- Background on Study Abroad programs
- Focus on health and safety
- Other items for Parents to consider
- Review of submitted questions



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## RECENT EVENTS

- Terror attacks have heightened anxiety
- Subsequent alerts, warnings and news stories have added to concerns
- No one can *guarantee* safety here or abroad
- Effective preparation, diligence and informed choices are essential components
- Affirmation of the fundamental value and benefits of study abroad.



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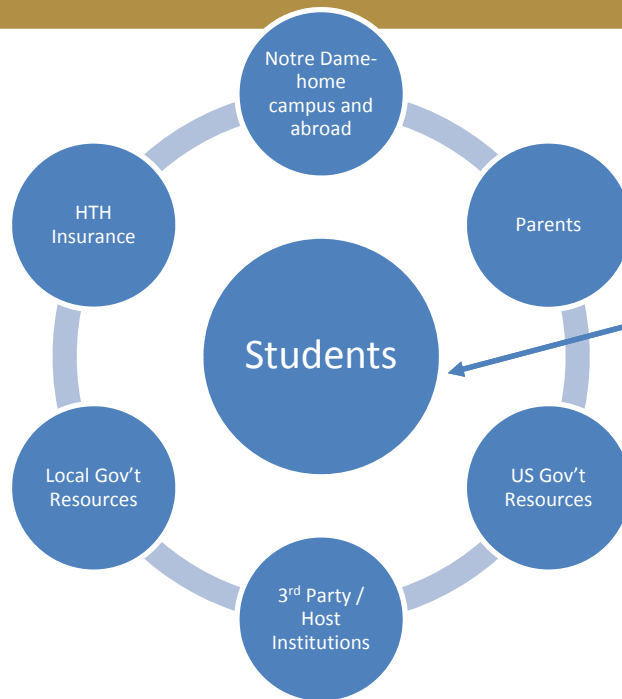
## BACKGROUND ON STUDY ABROAD

- 430 undergraduate students abroad in Spring 2016 on 45 different programs
- Each program is unique:
  - GLOBAL GATEWAY LOCATIONS (LONDON, DUBLIN, ROME, JERUSALEM, BEIJING)—275
  - OTHER ND-STAFFED LOCATIONS (SANTIAGO, PUEBLA, ANGERS, SAO PAULO)—36
  - HOST INSTITUTIONS / 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY FACILITATION—119
- Notre Dame does not monitor or approve personal travel and activities while students are abroad.
- Notre Dame supports student health and safety while abroad in coordination w/ other resources.



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## FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY



### Health and Safety Support Structure:

- *Students* most directly impact their own health and safety
- They *must* take ownership of health and safety even before departing for their program.

## FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY—STUDENT PREPARATION

Mandatory information sessions held Dec. 3 and 7; focused on managing most prevalent health and safety risks:

- MENTAL HEALTH AND ANXIETY
- THEFT / LOCAL CRIMES
- TRANSPORTATION RISKS
- **ALCOHOL AND DRUGS**
- SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT
- **COMMUNICATION PLANS**
- PERSONAL TRAVEL
- PHYSICAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE
- CULTURAL RESPECT AND AVOIDING CONFLICTS
- TERRORIST EVENTS / POLITICAL UPHEAVALS / NATURAL DISASTERS



## FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY—CRISIS SITUATIONS

### STUDENTS—PREPARE AND RESPOND:

- Will receive onsite orientations w/ specific health and safety protocols
- Plan ahead and be aware of local resources and current events
- Check reliable local and regional news sources
- Ensure cell phone is operational and able to receive SMS and e-mail
- Update contact information
- Register travel plans—NDI, STEP, Host institutions
- Respond to confirmation requests
- Stay calm and focused
- Keep in contact with family



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## FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY—CRISIS SITUATIONS

### NOTRE DAME—CONFIRM AND ASSIST

- Immediate response: confirm student location and well-being:
- Identify all students who may be impacted by a particular event
- Contact these students and confirm their location and well being
- Support those students who may need advice or assistance (as well as parents / relatives)
- Communicate student status w/ University officials and coordinate University response as needed with the campus Emergency Operations Committee.
- Leverage relationships w/ higher ed. and gov't sponsored groups (OSAC—US State Department Overseas Advisory Council) in developing specific crisis response.



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## FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY—CRISIS SITUATIONS

### NOTRE DAME INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM (IRT)

- J. Nicholas Entrikin— *VP and Assoc. Provost for Internationalization*
- Tom Guinan— *AVP for Administrative Operations (IRT Coordinator)*
- Robert Norton— *AVP for Academic Affairs and Research*
- Rosemary Max— *Director of International Programs*
- Kathleen Opel— *Director of Study Abroad*
- Amanda Skofstad— *Communications Program Director*
- Susan Soisson— *Risk Management and Safety Coordinator*
- Catherine Wilson— *NDI Executive Administrator*
- Dyann Mawhorr— *International Programs Systems Coordinator*

Global Gateway locations also have formalized incident response protocols.



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## FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY—CRISIS SITUATIONS

### PARENTS—SUPPORT AND SHARE

- Encourage and remind students about expectations of them—most importantly student should:
  - **ENSURE CONTACT INFORMATION IS CURRENT IN ND SYSTEM**
  - **REGISTER PERSONAL TRAVEL WITH NOTRE DAME**
  - **RESPOND TO NOTRE DAME CONFIRMATION REQUESTS**
  - **BE FAMILIAR WITH HTH INSURANCE—CARRY HTH INFO WITH THEM!**
- Register for STEP program yourselves for student locations;
- Support prudent decisions (cheapest travel options might not be advisable)
- Contact Notre Dame as soon as you learn of an issue; either number can be used
  - NDI Support line 24/7 1-574-339-6154
  - ND Security and Police: A 24/7 Emergency Line 574-631-5555 (channeled to NDI resources)



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## FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY—RECENT EXAMPLES

### PARIS ATTACKS—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

- FIRST COMMUNICATION CAME TO NOTRE DAME INTERNATIONAL VIA NEWS ALERT
- NDI: IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR STUDENT LOCATIONS
- NDI: INITIATED CONTACT WITH STUDENTS IN PARIS, OTHER REGIONS IN FRANCE AND THEN ACROSS EUROPE
- CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNICATION OF STUDENT WELL-BEING
- ISSUES ENCOUNTERED IN EARLY STAGES:
  - Incorrect cellphone number on file for student
  - Weekend timing; most students were away from program location; limited registration of personal travel extended confirmation process
  - Inconsistent response rates from students
- COMMUNICATION TO ALL ND STUDENTS ABROAD ON NOV. 14 REGARDING COMMUNICATIONS, TRAVELING AND SUPPORT RESOURCES



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## FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY—RECENT EXAMPLES

### PARIS ATTACKS—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015 (CONT.)

- SUBSEQUENT ISSUES ENCOUNTERED
  - Travel / lodging disruptions for students on weekend travel
  - Questions regarding program continuation, program outings, subsequent travel plans
  - Multiple warnings and alerts:
    - France—state of emergency-Nov. 13
    - Brussels—”imminent attack” threat-Nov. 21
    - World-wide Travel Alert—Nov. 23
- NOTRE DAME STATEMENT—NOV. 17 REAFFIRMING CONTINUATION OF SPRING 2016 STUDY ABROAD



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## FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY—RECENT EXAMPLES

### CHILEAN EARTHQUAKE—WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 (APPROX. 8:20PM)

- 8.3 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE OFF CHILEAN COAST; TSUNAMI WARNINGS ISSUED
- IMMEDIATE STEPS TO COORDINATE CONTACT W/ STUDENTS VIA LOCAL ND RESOURCES IN CHILE
- BY 10PM ALL STUDENTS ACCOUNTED FOR
- ISSUES ENCOUNTERED:
  - One of Chilean program directors was on home campus in South Bend;
  - Student thought to be in Chile was actually in Argentina; Notre Dame confirmed location w/ parent.
  - Students had planned trip to coastal town the following day; trip was canceled.



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## FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY—NON-CRISIS SITUATIONS

RESPONDING TO NON-CRISIS EVENTS, NOTIFICATIONS, WARNINGS, ALERTS, NEWS STORIES, ETC.

- Students: same guidance applies as in crisis situations;
- Notre Dame:
  - On site and home campus assessment on case-by-case basis
  - Contact students as deemed necessary
  - Coordinate w/ on-site resources to avoid redundant communications
- Parents:
  - students are your primary source of information
  - Contact Notre Dame if you have urgent and immediate concerns about student well-being



## FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY—ENHANCEMENTS

RECENT ENHANCEMENTS TO HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS INCLUDE:

- Online travel registration and contact database
- Exercises to confirm student contact information once they arrive on site and while abroad
- Regular updates to students abroad regarding world and local events that may affect them
- Refinement of incident response plans—both on campus and at Notre Dame's Global Gateways
- Regular Parent webinars focused on health and safety considerations



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## FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY—PROGRAM DISRUPTIONS

- VP AND ASSOC. PROV. CHAIRS CROSS FUNCTIONAL PROGRAM EVALUATION COMMITTEE; MEETS AS NEEDED TO EVALUATE PROGRAMS
- FORMAL ACADEMIC CONTINGENCY PLANNING EXERCISES ARE TAKING PLACE; PROTOCOLS TO BE FINALIZED SPRING 2016
  - Students scheduled to go abroad
  - Students already abroad
  - Timing w/in semester
  - Alternative placements
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> party considerations



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## OTHER ITEMS FOR PARENTS TO CONSIDER

- ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THEIR PROGRAM LOCATION
- PERSONAL / WEEKEND TRAVEL CAN BE **EXPENSIVE** AND POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE TO COURSEWORK.
- COORDINATE FAMILY VISITS AROUND CURRICULUM

## REVIEW OF SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

### RECURRING THEMES:

- PERSONAL STUDENT TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD—SHOULD IT BE ALLOWED; HOW DOES ND MONITOR PERSONAL TRAVEL?
- WHAT RISK MONITORING MECHANISMS ARE IN PLACE AT NOTRE DAME AND ABROAD?
- HOW CAN PARENTS FIND OUT MORE SPECIFICS ABOUT THEIR STUDENT'S PROGRAM?
- HOW DOES THIS PRESENTATION APPLY TO STUDENTS ABROAD ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE?

## INFORMATION



Website:

<http://international.nd.edu/>

E-mail questions:

[ndintl@nd.edu](mailto:ndintl@nd.edu)



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